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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND ADJACENT TO  
HIGHGATE HOUSE,  
BACKGATE,  
COWBIT,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CBHH09)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Fenbank Builders**

September 2009

Report Compiled by  
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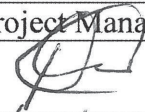
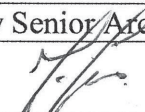
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control  
Highgate House, Backgate  
Cowbit, Lincolnshire  
(CBHH09)**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for two houses and a garage.*

*The investigation revealed a sequence of naturally-deposited silts, associated with a roddon. Small quantities of charcoal within the upper layers of this silt indicated activity in the vicinity during their deposition.*

*Evidence for domestic occupation and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD was identified. Pottery and animal bone of this date was retrieved and quantities of burnt material were recorded, including iron smithing slag and fired clay. Several undated features and deposits were identified which might also be contemporary with the Roman remains. Silt deposits indicated episodes of water inundation persisted during this period. These results reflect the previously known archaeology of the immediate area, an area of dense Roman settlement and industry.*

*Features of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century and later date were identified across the site, some of which were associated with a recently-demolished garage.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

*An archaeological watching brief is defined as “a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological*

*deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.” (IfA 1999).*

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Fenbank Builders to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.

A planning application (H01/1004/08) was submitted to South Holland District Council for the construction of two detached dwellings within separate plots, and a new detached double garage for the existing property at Highgate House. Permission was subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the development.

The watching brief was carried out between the 11<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Cowbit is located 5km south of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Figure 1). The site lies on Backgate, which extends from Stonegate in the North to meet with the A1073 on the south side of the village (Figure 2). The application area is located towards the south end of Backgate on the east side of the road, immediately north of the property known as Highgate House and comprises an approximately rectangular plot of land measuring 35m x 15m (Figure 3) located at National Grid Reference TF 2656 1724.

The site lies in the south Lincolnshire fenland at c. 3m O.D. Local soils are of the Stockwith and Agney Series, silty over

clayey calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 28).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Cowbit lies at the junction of the clay and peat fens, and the broad band of silts that fringe the coast. During the post-glacial period alternating phases of freshwater and marine inundation have deposited peats, clays and silts which would have deeply buried any early prehistoric remains.

These environments sufficiently stabilised towards the end of the first millennium BC for Cowbit to become the focus of dense Roman and Iron Age settlement and industry (Figure 2). Saltmaking was common in the area. An Iron Age saltern has been excavated to the west, in Cowbit Wash. This provided a radiocarbon date of 185-95 BC for the second phase of activity on the site (Lane 2001). Roman salterns and settlement sites are known to the north and to the southeast.

Fieldwalking undertaken as part of the Fenland survey recorded several domestic and saltern sites of Iron Age and Romano-British date clustered over an area lying immediately to the east of the site (Hayes and Lane, 1992) (Figure 2).

Excavations undertaken in advance of development to the west of Backgate approximately 300m north of the proposed development, revealed a nucleated Roman settlement of enclosures and structures interpreted as a farmstead engaged in mixed farming activities. However, possible imported continental pottery recovered at the site might hint of a higher status community (Rayner 2003).

More recently excavations undertaken along the route of the A1073 realignment also recovered evidence for domestic occupation and included the retrieval of a possibly imported Gallo-Belgic bowl (Precious, *pers comm*). It seems possible that the nearby River Welland was acting

as a trade route during late Iron Age/Romano-British periods.

Cowbit Village developed during the 13<sup>th</sup> century along the New Fendyke, now Stone Gate (Hallam 1965, 39) located approximately 800m to the north of the proposed development. The church of St Mary which dates from c. 1400 is likely to mark the centre of the historic village and is located approximately 800m to the northwest of the site at the junction of Stonegate and the A1073.

The remains of a grange attached to Spalding priory are known to be located to the south of Cowbit village and are thought to be located approximately 750m to the southwest of Highgate House. Two mounds in this area are thought to be associated with this institution, although recent excavations undertaken as part of the A1073 realignment indicate that the mounds post date ditches which might be contemporary with the grange (APS forthcoming).

The west part of the village lies in Cowbit Wash, created during the post-medieval period to take the overflow of the Welland during times of flooding. Barrier bank, which forms the eastern embankment of the wash area, takes the A1073 Spalding to Eye road and lies approximately 150m to the west of the area of the present investigation site.

## 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, 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

Footings trenches for the new buildings were excavated by machine to depths of up

to c.1.65m below the current ground level. Following excavation, where safe to do so, the sides and bases of the trenches were selectively cleaned. A sample of 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, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

## 5. RESULTS

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

### *Garage (Figures 8, 9 & 10, Plates 4 & 5)*

The earliest deposits identified in this area were layers of soft light brown to orange-brown laminated silts, over 0.75m thick (013) & (007) (Figure 9, Sections 1-5). These deposits are likely to be naturally-deposited, and associated with a roddon [A raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.] known to extend across the investigation area (Figure 2).

Several further silt layers were identified in this area (022, 012 & 025), which were light grey and contained occasional charcoal flecks, and were up to 0.15m thick. These overlay silts (007) and (013), and are also likely to be roddon deposits (Figure 9, Sections 2, 4 & 5). Although the charcoal inclusions noted in these deposits could be intrusive, these may reflect the deposition of small quantities of burnt material at the time these silts were laid down.

A possibly sub-rectangular feature recorded at the southwest corner of the plot [009] was cut into silt layer (012) and extended beyond limit of excavation (Figure 8, Figure 9, Section 2). This feature was not clearly seen in plan, but was at least 0.30m deep and 0.35m wide with steep sides. It contained a single fill (008) of firmish dark brown, light orange-brown and mid grey mottled clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. This feature might have been deliberately cut, although it may be a natural depression, possibly a watercourse.

To the east of [009] was pit [015], a possibly sub-circular feature, not fully exposed in plan, measuring 0.90m by over 1.20m in plan and 0.85m deep with very steep sides which were undercut in places, and flat base. (Figure 8, Figure 9 Section 3, Plate 4). The single fill of this feature was a softish mid to dark olive-brown silt (014) with frequent small snail shells. A single sherd of probable Roman pottery was retrieved from this fill, along with a sheep or goat molar and four fragments of industrial residue, including iron smithing slag and plano-convex hearth bottom (Appendix 3).

In the east side of the plot a sub-rectangular feature [018] was not fully exposed in plan but measured over 5.00m by over 1.30m in plan and 0.90m deep with very steep sides and flat base (Figure 8, Figure 9 Sections 3 & 4, Plate 4) The earliest fill of this feature was a firm



mixed and mottled mid grey and mid orange-brown clayey silt (017) with occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of fired clay, from which a single sherd of unidentifiable pottery was retrieved, along with a single fragment of fired clay (Appendix 3). No finds were retrieved from either of two further fills; (021), a 60mm thick firmish light brown silt, and (020), a 0.35m thick firmish mid to dark olive-greyish-brown clayey silt.

Feature [019=011] was recorded only in section, but was over 2.30m by over 2.80m in plan and 0.60m deep with gently sloping sides and gently concave to flattish base (Figure 9, Sections 3 & 4, Plate 4). This was filled by (016), a firmish mid to dark olive-greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of ceramic building material and occasional snail shells and (010), a softish mid to dark olive-brown silt. Although no dateable finds were retrieved from either feature [018] or [011=019] they were similar in appearance and the composition of fills to dated Roman features on the site, and may also be Roman.

At the northwest corner of the plot, a possibly sub-circular feature [006], extended beyond the limit of excavation, but was at least 0.90m long by 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 8, Figure 9 Section 1, Plate 5). This possible pit contained three fills, the earliest of which was a 80mm thick soft light olive silt, (005). The second fill of [006] was a 20mm thick firm to indurated dark reddish-brown probable fired silt (004) with occasional charcoal flecks, perhaps representing *in situ* burning. The upper fill comprised a 0.33m thick firmish light orange-brown clayey silt (003) with occasional charcoal, and a single fragment of fuel ash slag was retrieved from this deposit (Appendix 3). Again this feature was undated, but comparison with other dated features identified on the site indicates that it might perhaps be Roman.

To the south of feature [006] was an undated sub-circular feature [028] which was not fully exposed in plan as it extended beyond limit of excavation, but measured over 1.00m by 1.00m in plan and had steep sides and gently concave base (Figure 8). The primary fill (027) of this feature comprised a soft dark brown peaty material, 0.15m thick, and the upper fill (026) was a firmish mid to dark olive-grey-brown silt.

A possibly sub-rectangular feature [024], again not fully exposed in plan, measured over 3.55m by over 0.90m in plan and 0.85m deep and had steep sides and a flat base (Figure 8, Figure 9 Section 5). It was filled by (023), a 0.85m thick softish mid to dark olive-grey silt with occasional small limestone fragments and moderately frequent small snail shells. A single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved from this fill, in addition to cattle bones and fire residue, perhaps burnt peat (Appendix 3).

All of the features already described were sealed by a 0.35m thick deposit (002), of softish mid to dark olive-brown silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material (Figure 9 Section 1-5). This was apparently a subsoil layer, although it may have partly been the result of deliberate deposition to make up the ground level.

Sealing this was a 0.35m thick topsoil of softish dark greyish-brown silt with frequent roots (001), partially buried by a driveway.

Unstratified finds from the Garage plot (059) comprised animal bone, a single sherd of pottery of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date and two further sherds dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A single fragment of possible fired clay or ceramic building material was also unstratified (Appendix 3).

**Plot 2 (Figures 6, 7 & 10, Plates 3, 6, 7 & 8)**

The earliest deposit encountered in Plot 2 was (036), a soft light brown silt, over 0.50m thick (Figure 7 Sections 6-9). As in the Garage plot, this silt is likely to represent deposits associated with the roddon.

A northwest-southeast aligned linear feature [035], recorded at the south of the plot, was 0.85m wide in section, where it was truncated obliquely, and was 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 6, Figure 7 Section 6, Plate 7). It contained deposit (034), a 20mm thick softish very dark grey to black charcoal-rich deposit. Sealing this was a second fill (033), a 0.24m thick firmish mixed light orange-brown and mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. This linear feature was undated, but similarities to dated features on the site may indicate that this is Roman.

Feature [054], was not clearly visible in plan, but was 0.52m wide and 0.28m deep in section with gently sloping sides and gently concave base (Figure 7 Section 9). The earliest fill of this feature (053) was a 20mm thick soft very dark grey to black charcoal-rich deposit, sealed by fill (052), a 0.28m firmish mixed light grey and mid orange-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks. As with several features encountered on the site, this was undated but possibly Roman.

Feature [041=046=051] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east, but was possibly sub-rectangular (Figure 6, Figure 7 Sections 7-9, Plate 6). This feature was 6.40m long by over 2.20m wide, and 0.70m deep with gently sloping to steep sides and a flat base. Several soft silt fills were recorded within this feature, ranging from dark grey with mid orange mottles to light brown and slightly olive dark grey (040=045, 039=044=050 & 043). Primary fill (040=045) contained occasional

charcoal flecks and small fragments of fired clay. Fill (039=044=050) apparently comprised dumped material, whilst upper fill (043) contained moderately frequent small shells, and may have been dumped as levelling. This feature was undated, but the general impression gained during fieldwork was that this could be of some antiquity, and is potentially Roman.

In the northeast corner of the plot, possibly sub-circular feature [058], extended beyond the limit of excavation, was 1.75m wide and 0.90m deep and had moderately steep sides and a gently concave base (Figure 6). A single fill (057) was a softish dark olive-grey-brown silt with moderately frequent small snail shells and occasional fragments of ceramic building material. No artefacts were retrieved from (057), and this feature remains undated.

Layer (042) extended over a small area at the south end of the plot, this deposit being an 80mm thick firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks (Figure 7 Section 7). This may be an occupation layer of unknown but potentially early date.

Cut into layer (042) was an undated sub-circular feature [038] which was over 2.15m long by over 0.90m wide and 0.50m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base (Figure 6, Figure 7 Section 7). A single fill of softish silt (037) comprised a mid to dark olive-grey silt with some mid reddish-brown mottles with moderately frequent small snail shells.

Undated and possibly sub-circular feature [056] was 2.00m by over 1.25m and 0.90m deep with steep sides and a gently concave base (Figure 6) and contained a softish dark olive-grey-brown silt (055) with moderately frequent small snail shells.

Possibly sub-circular feature [049] extended beyond limit of excavation, and was 3.80m long by over 0.90m wide and 0.94m deep with moderately steep sides,

becoming steeper towards a flattish base (Figure 6, Figure 7 Section 9, Plate 8) Fill (048) was a soft dark olive-grey silt with orange-red mottles with moderately frequent small snail shells and occasional fragments of ceramic building material. A complete 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century brick was retrieved from this fill (Appendix 3).

A further complete 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century brick was retrieved from (031), fill of Sub-circular feature [032]. This feature was over 1.85m by 0.90m and 0.86m deep with very steep sides and concave base. Whilst fill (031) was a softish dark olive-grey-brown silt with frequent small snail shells (Figure 6, Figure 7 Section 6).

Overlying each of the features and deposits in this area was a 0.35m thick layer of softish mid to dark olive-brown silt subsoil with occasional fragments of ceramic building material (030). Topsoil (029) comprised a 0.35m thick softish dark greyish-brown silt, which was overlain by a 0.17m thick hardcore layer (047), underlying a driveway.

Unstratified finds from this plot (060) comprised cattle bones, possible industrial residue and a piece of sheet iron, possibly a blade, in addition to a fragment of possible fired clay or ceramic building material and pottery of 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century dates (Appendix 3).

***Plot 1 (Figures 4, 5 & 10, Plates 9-17)***

The earliest identified deposit in this plot was again silts probably associated with the roddon (070). Here, this was a soft light yellowish to pinkish brown silt, over 0.50m thick.

Much of a juvenile cattle skeleton was retrieved from a similar deposit of soft light to mid pinkish and slightly greyish yellowish brown silt (064). No cut was discernible, and this fill was very similar to silt (070), but these faunal remains were

assumed to be within a discrete feature [106] (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 12, Plate 14). However, it is possible that no such cut was present, and the animal bones were actually within roddon silt (070).

A northwest-southeast aligned curvilinear feature was recorded in several parts of the Plot 1 footings, and seemed to be a single continuous ditch or gully [071=144=120=124=093=109] (Figure 4, Figure 5 Sections 10-13, Plates 11-14 & 16). This was 0.85m wide and 0.34m deep with a concave profile and moderately steep sides, which were in places slightly 'staggered' in section, perhaps due to slumping of silts during the use or disuse of the feature (Figure 5 Section 11).

Several fills were recorded within this feature (062, 073, 079, 148, 061, 063, 121, 122, 065, 094, 095, 110, 111 & 112), the majority of which comprised soft silt, although some had a crunchy texture. These ranged in colour from light grey, pink, green, brown and yellow to mid grey and green and dark black to brown. In places laminations were evident, and reddish brown mottles were also noted. Some of these fills contained occasional charcoal, whilst others were charcoal-rich, and entirely comprised burnt material. Occasional fired clay flecks and fragments were noted in several of these deposits. Many of these fills appeared to be water-lain silting, and greenish colouration of some may indicate deposition occurred in anaerobic conditions (Plates 11, 13, 14 & 16). These fills are individually detailed in Appendix 2. Roman pottery was retrieved from two of these fills (062) and (061). A single sherd from fill (061) was of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date, with a possible industrial residue attached. Further artefacts retrieved from (061) comprised eighteen pieces of fired clay, much of this being possible lining for a hearth or furnace or industrial material. Iron smithing slag, plano-convex hearth bottom and hammerscale were also retrieved from (061), along with an unidentified bone

fragment (Appendix 3). Some of this material was retrieved through sieving of a sample of this deposit. Two pottery sherds retrieved from deposit (062) were of late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Sooting of one vessel from this gully and a white discolouration of another may indicate an industrial use (Appendix 3). Further iron smithing slag and a plano-convex hearth bottom was retrieved from deposit (063) and (065), deposit (065) also producing fired clay, possibly lining/industrial material.

Possible re-cuts of this gully were identified [076] & [113] (Figure 5 Sections 10 & 12). These contained a similar mix of charcoal rich and water-lain silt layers to the fills of gully [120] etc, these being (074, 075, 147, 114, 128 & 115), indicating continuity of use and depositional environment, apparently comprising a sequence of silting and dumping episodes.

At its northern end, gully [120] etc was truncated by a large feature [066=?=067] extending beyond the limit of excavation and not visible in plan. This was over 2.75m long, over 4.00m wide and 0.90m deep with a concave to flattish base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 10, Plates 10 & 11). Fills of this feature comprised soft mid to dark grey silty clays (068 & 069), mottled with yellow clay and containing frequent tiny snail shells. These fills were apparently water-lain, feature [066=?=067] being of Roman or later date and possibly a pond.

Deposit (080) was 0.25m thick, and possibly a continuation of fill (068) (Figure 5 Section 10, Plate 11). Layer (080) was a 70mm thick soft dark brown silt with yellow mottles and occasional fragments of ceramic building material and black burnt flecks.

The nature of layer (116), a 0.26m thick soft mid to dark greyish-brown clayey silt, was unclear, although it may be a flood

deposit or have been laid in standing water (Figure 5 Section 12). Sealing this was (117), a 0.16m thick soft mid to dark slightly olive greyish-brown clayey silt, possibly a flood deposit or buried soil. Above this was (118), a 0.10m thick soft light yellowish-brown silt layer, apparently comprising redeposited silt. This was in turn sealed by (119), a 0.12m thick soft mid to dark grey clayey silt with occasional yellow mottles and containing moderately frequent mortar fragments, ceramic building material and charcoal fragments (Figure 5 Section 12). However, the manner in which layer (019) had been deposited was unclear. Twelve juvenile cattle bones were retrieved from deposit (119) (Appendix 3). Stratigraphically, deposits (116, 117, 118 & 119) were of Roman or later date, although no dateable artefacts were retrieved from them.

Recorded in the west side of the plot, possible pit [082] was not fully exposed, but was over 0.80m by 0.80m in plan and 0.17m deep with moderately steep to concave sides and a concave base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 10, Plate 12). The earliest fill of this pit (083) was a 40mm thick soft dark to mid grey silt with yellow mottles and lenses. The second fill, (084) was a 20mm thick soft light (pinkish) brown silt with frequent rusty red mottles and occasional red flecks. The uppermost fill (085) was a 0.20m thick soft dark to mid grey silt with yellow mottles and lenses. No dateable material was retrieved from any of these fills, but their character would tend to suggest a relatively early, possibly Roman, date. The relationship between this feature and layers (086) and (080) was unclear.

Fill (085) may have continued to the east as deposit (127) (Figure 4, Figure 5 Sections 10 & 11), although site conditions meant that it was not possible to confirm the relationship between these deposits. Layer (127) was a 0.18m thick soft mid grey silt with occasional light grey mottles and fired clay fragments.

Again no dateable artefacts were retrieved from this deposit, which post dated Roman deposits (061) etc (Figure 5 Section 11).

Feature [102], recorded just to the east of layer (127), was not seen in plan, but was more than 1.60m wide and 0.74m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base and contained a soft light to mid grey silt (103) (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 12, Plate 14).

Immediately to the south, a feature [123] over 1.00m wide and over 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides, may represent a continuation of feature [102] (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 11, Plate 13). The earliest fill (125) of this feature was a 70mm or more thick soft mid to light grey silt with yellowish flecks containing occasional shell and fired clay fragments. This was overlain by a 0.16m thick soft mid grey silty clay (126) with greenish flecks with occasional shell and fired clay fragments.

Possible ditch [096] was also potentially a continuation of features [102] and [123], and was over 0.90m wide and 0.34m deep with steep sides and a flattish base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 13, Plate 16). A single fill (097) comprised a soft light to mid pinkish-grey silt with occasional charcoal. Cutting this was a further feature [098], the extent and form of which was not seen in plan but was possibly linear, over 0.65m wide and over 0.30m deep with moderately steep to gently concave sides. The fill (099) of this feature was a soft mid greyish-brown clay and silt, over 0.30m thick. No dating evidence was retrieved from features [102], [096] or [123], but their character indicated a potentially early date.

At the south side of the plot, feature [131] was 1.50m wide and 0.65m deep with steep sides and a flattish to concave base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 14, Plate 17) and contained a single fill (132) of soft mid to darkish greyish-brown clayey silt with moderately frequent small snail

shells. The composition of this fill indicated it was water-lain.

Deposit (130) probably sealed fill (132), although this was rather unclear. This deposit was a 0.36m thick layer of soft mid to darkish greyish-brown silt with occasional ceramic building material fragments (Figure 5 Section 14). Layer (132) was probably the same as layer (092), a soft mid to darkish greyish-brown silt with an olive hue in places which was 0.30m thick and contained occasional fragments of ceramic building material. The nature of this deposit was unclear, but may have been a buried soil layer or flood deposit (Figure 5 Sections 10-14). Deposit (086) was also likely to be a continuation of this same layer (Figure 5 Section 10), and was a 0.16m thick soft dark brown silt with yellow mottles and with occasional ceramic building material fragments and black burnt flecks. These layers were undated but (092) post-dated Roman gully [120], and sealed the majority of Roman and undated but possibly Roman features and deposits on the site, whilst several post-medieval to recent features were cut into these layers. They might also continue as deposit (080), which has already been described, and which may be an additional fill of Roman pond or hollow [066=067] (Figure 5 Section 10). If so, this might indicate that in combination these deposits represent a period of flooding or standing water across the area, rather than a subsoil horizon.

At the southwest corner of the plot, feature [090] was not identified clearly in plan, but was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base, sloping down towards the south (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 10, Plate 15). This contained a single fill (091) of soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt with moderately frequent yellow silt mottles. Although this feature was undated, it was sealed by subsoil or flooding deposit (092), and might perhaps be of Roman date.

Only a single edge of cut [142] was observed, and it was not possible to further investigate its extent or size (Figure 4). This feature was extremely unclear but contained (143), a soft mid to dark greyish-brown silt and clay. There was no indication as to the possible dating of this feature.

Towards the southern end of the plot, feature [140] extended beyond the limit of excavation, but was possibly square or rectangular, with a single visible sharp corner, (Figure 4). The exposed corner of this feature was over 1.60m long by over 0.50m wide and over 1.00m deep with vertical sides and contained a soft mid to dark greyish-brown silt and clay within with occasional machine-made brick fragments and an iron object, possibly a plough share, were noted but not retained.

Approximately 3.0m to the north, feature [107] was only present in section, and was 0.56m deep and 0.20m wide with vertical to near-vertical sides and a flat base, and may have been a post hole (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 12). Fill (108) was a soft dark grey silt and clay with occasional ceramic building material fragments, which appeared to be of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and were not retained.

Close to the southeast corner of the plot, feature [133] was not seen clearly in plan, but was at least 1.30m by over 2.00m wide and 1.20m deep (Figure 4). This may have actually comprised multiple features, but watching brief conditions were very poor in this area, and so this could not be established. At least part of this feature appeared to be a soakaway, and was filled with (134), a soft mid to dark greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent brick fragments in places, dating this feature as post-medieval to recent.

Feature [104], near the centre of the footings, was only present in section and was 0.86m wide by 0.54m deep with steepish, but unclear, sides and an unclear,

but possibly concave, base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 12, Plate 14). Soft mottled dark grey and mid yellowish-brown silt and clay (105) filled this feature, and contained occasional post-medieval or modern brick fragments, which were not retained

Feature [088] was only seen in section, and was 0.21m wide and 0.20m deep with near-vertical sides and flat base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 10, Plate 15). It contained a soft to crumbly mid to dark greyish-brown silt (089) with occasional pebbles containing one modern or post-medieval nail which was not retained. This feature was cut into subsoil or flood deposits (086) and (092), also indicating a recent date.

A possibly linear feature [139] was not seen in plan, but was 0.75m wide (Figure 4). This probable feature was delineated only by a layer of post-medieval to modern bricks, which were not retained, but which probably formed a fill (145), although insufficient time was available to investigate this feature further.

A probable buried topsoil layer (081) sealed post-medieval to modern features [139, 088, 104 & 107]. This deposit was a soft dark brown silt with yellow mottles and occasional ceramic build material fragments and black burnt flecks and was 0.24m thick (Figure 5 Sections 10-14). This layer was probably the same as layer (129) recorded elsewhere in the plot.

A modern east-west drain crossed Plot 1 [077=135]. This was over 7.00m long, 0.58m wide and 1.12m deep (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 10, Plate 11). This was probably also the same as feature [137] (Figure 4).

Feature [100] was only seen in section and was 0.51m wide and 0.82m deep with near-vertical sides and flat base (Figure 4, Figure 5 Section 14, Plate 17). This contained fill (101), a soft dark greyish-

brown silt and clay with occasional mid yellowish-brown mottles, limestone blocks and voids. No dating evidence was retrieved from this feature but its character was clearly modern. Feature [100] and drain [077=135] were cut into buried topsoil layer (081).

Sealing all deposits on the plot was a 0.20m thick layer (087), a mixed deposit, of dark brown silt with brick, stone and concrete rubble, comprising topsoil and building rubble associated with the works in progress at the site.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits in each of the three monitored building footprints were layers of laminated silts probably associated with a roddon known to extend across the investigation area. In the garage plot small quantities of charcoal were noted within the upper layers of these silts, and this may indicate that burnt material was deposited in the area at the time these silts were laid down.

A possible feature or hollow was identified in the Garage plot, perhaps representing a watercourse or area of standing water.

Part of a juvenile cattle skeleton (064) was retrieved from Plot 1, and whilst this was assumed to be within a cut feature [106], this may have simply been naturally buried within the roddon silts. Due to the method of retrieval of these remains, during machine excavation of the footings, it was not possible to establish whether this might have been a complete articulated skeleton, although this seems highly likely and the remains were retrieved from a very localised area. The animal might have been dumped in this area or have died and been buried by natural deposition of silt.

A possible pit in the Garage Plot and a gully in Plot 1 were both of Roman date (Figure 10), and each contained evidence

for industrial activity. The pit [015] contained iron smithing slag, as did the gully [120 etc], from which a plano-convex hearth bottom, hammerscale and numerous fragments of fired clay were also retrieved (Appendix 3). Pottery dated the gully to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, and several fills were almost entirely composed of burnt material. Evidence of at least one re-cut of the gully was identified, suggesting that whatever activity is represented by the gully and iron smithing debris were carried out more than once at the site. Several of the gully fills were similar in composition to the underlying roddon silts, and this would seem to indicate that a similar depositional environment persisted during the use of the gully. It seems likely that the gully served to channel water, although it is not clear if this was directly associated with smithing activity, or whether industrial debris was simply dumped in this area. In either case, smithing was clearly occurring in the immediate vicinity in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. The occurrence of charcoal within the upper layers of roddon silts in the Garage Plot is a further indication that silts may have continued to be deposited at the same time as burnt material was discarded, and this might also relate to the Roman smithing activity.

A large possible pond [066-067], which might have been naturally-formed or deliberately cut, truncated gully [120] etc in Plot 1, and due to this stratigraphic relationship has been assigned to the Roman period (Figure 10).

One possible fill of this pond (080) may also be the same as a layer which was seen to extend across Plot 1 (092 etc). It is not clear whether this layer may have been water-lain or whether it represents a subsoil. On the whole however, features sealed by this layer in Plot 1 were either Roman or undated, whilst features and deposits which were later than this layer were of post-medieval to modern date. This sequence may tentatively be used to

distinguish between two broad phases of activity, pre-dating and post-dating this layer. Assigning undated deposits in the earlier phase as possibly contemporary with the dated 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman features must remain speculative.

Two pits of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date were recorded, one in each of Plot 2 [049] and the Garage Plot [024]. These were apparently sealed by subsoil deposits, (030) and (002) respectively, although it is not known how these subsoil layers relate to possible subsoil or flood deposits (092 etc) identified in Plot 1. In Plot 2 and the Garage Plot, these layers appeared to have been partly deliberately deposited, perhaps in an effort to raise the ground level.

Several undated features were identified in Plot 2 and the Garage Plot, some of which shared characteristics with dated Roman features on the site. Some of these contained fuel ash slag, charcoal and fired clay, and further evidence of burning, and it might tentatively be suggested that these could be contemporary with the dated Roman features and with their association with iron smithing activity.

The retrieval of Roman pottery and animal bone indicates domestic activity in the near vicinity contemporary with the industrial activity.

Cowbit is known to have had dense Roman and Iron Age settlement and industry. Roman salterns and settlement sites surround the investigation area (Figure 2). Excavations undertaken approximately 300m north of the development revealed a nucleated Roman settlement interpreted as a farmstead engaged in mixed farming activities, along with hints of a higher status community (Rayner 2003).

The evidence for further Roman industrial and domestic activity revealed in the present investigation seems to be consistent with the previously known

evidence for dense settlement and industry in the vicinity of the modern the village.

Post-medieval to modern features were recorded in each of the three monitored areas, several of those in Plot 1 probably relating to the recently-demolished garages in this area.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire, during which the excavation of foundation trenches for two houses and a garage was monitored.

The investigation revealed a sequence of naturally-deposited silts, associated with a roddon. Small quantities of charcoal within the upper layers of this silt indicate activity in the vicinity during their deposition, and a partial juvenile cattle skeleton may have been buried within the roddon silts, either deliberately or naturally.

Evidence for domestic occupation and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD was identified. Pottery and animal bone of this date was retrieved and quantities of burnt material were recorded, including iron smithing slag and fired clay. Several undated features and deposits were identified which might also be contemporary with the Roman remains. Silt deposits indicated episodes of water inundation persisted during this period. These results reflect the previously known archaeology of the immediate area, an area of dense Roman settlement and industry.

Features of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century and later date were identified across the site, some of which were associated with a recently-demolished garage.



## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Fenland Builders for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble 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: Dale Trimble  
 Site Supervisors: Vicky Mellor & Chris Moulis  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor  
 Illustration: Vicky Mellor  
 Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 IfA Institute of Field Archaeologists, (since renamed Institute for Archaeologists)

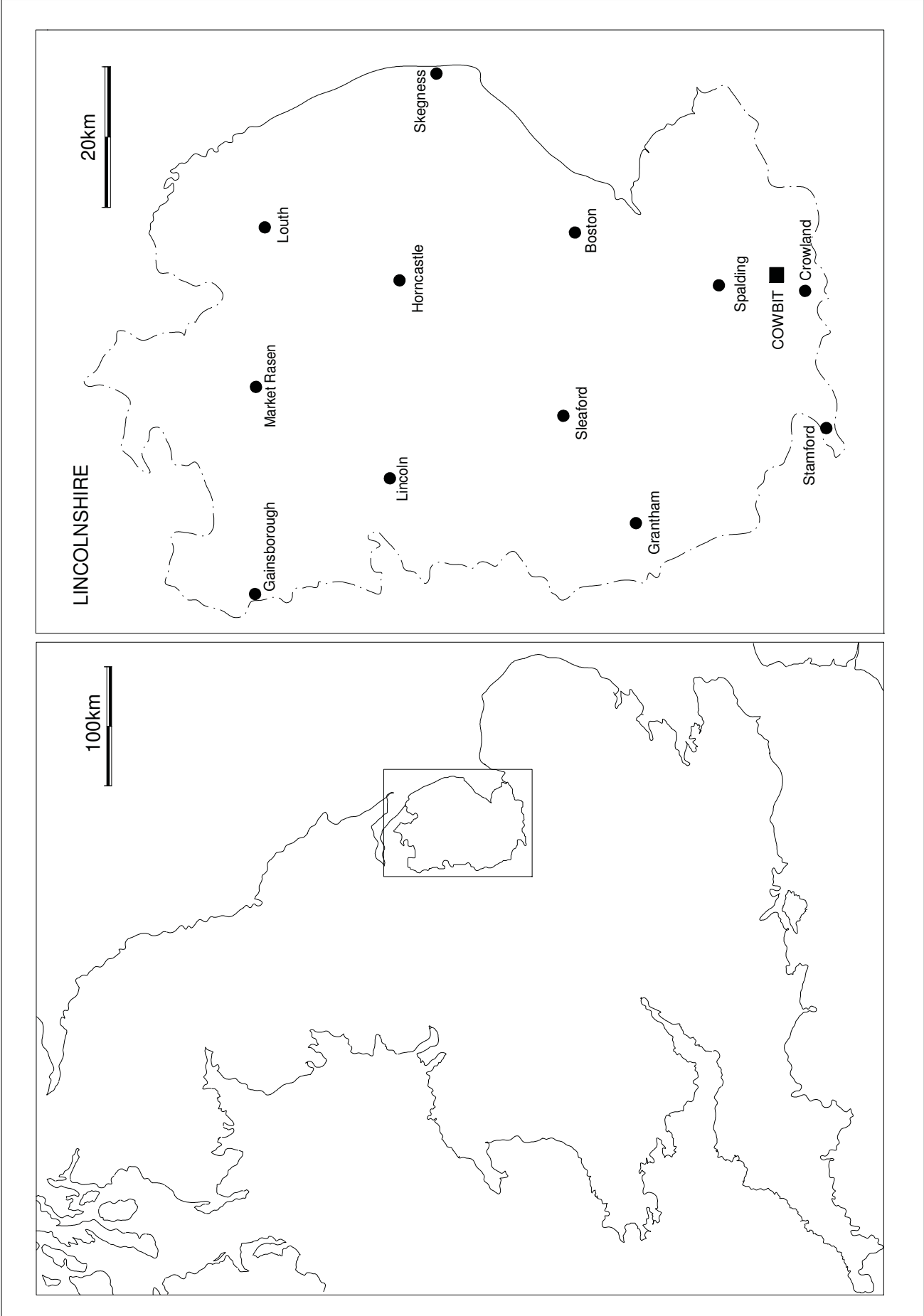


Figure 1 General location map

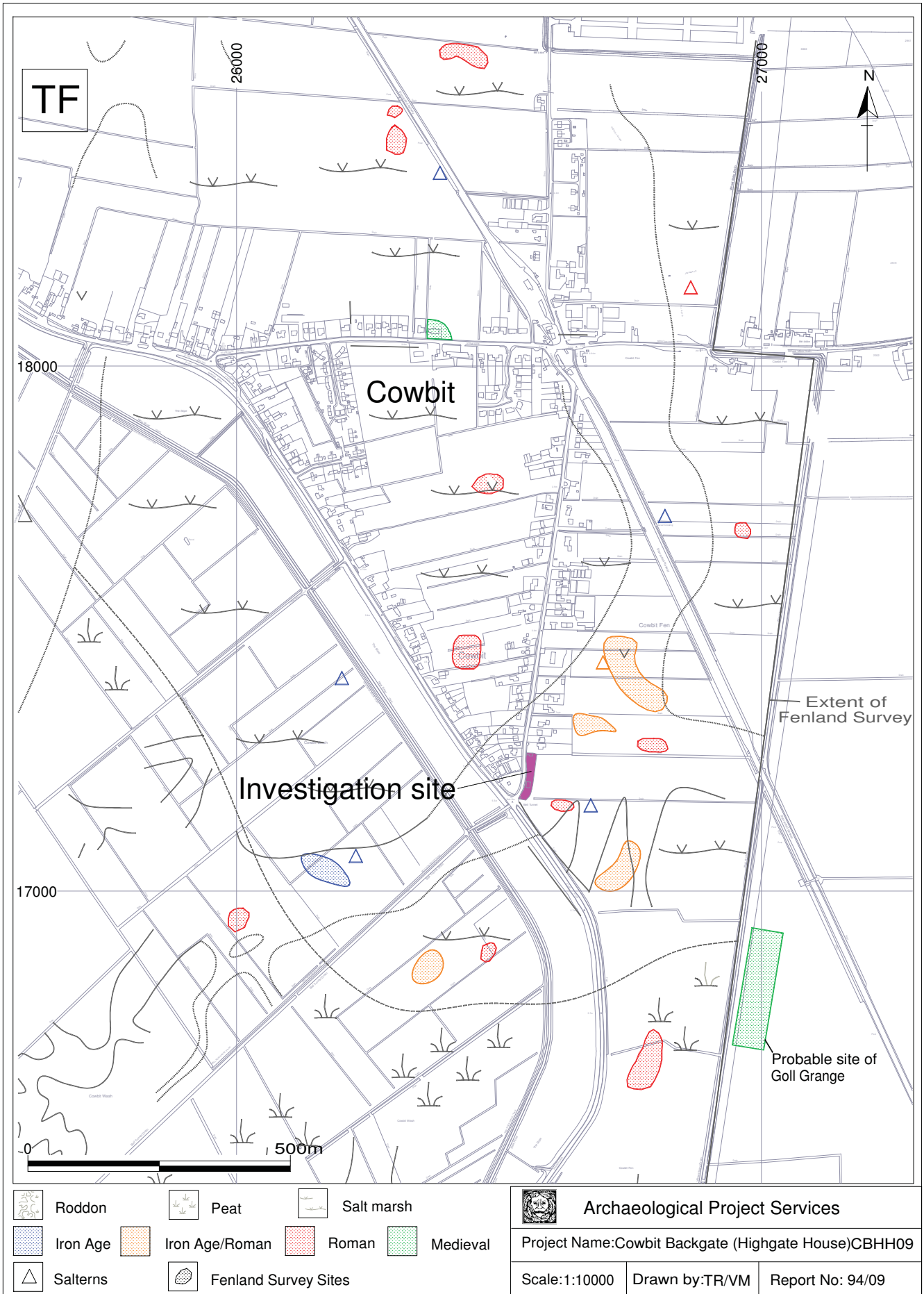


Figure 2 Site location and archaeological setting (after Hayes and Lane 1992, subsequently identified sites not shown)

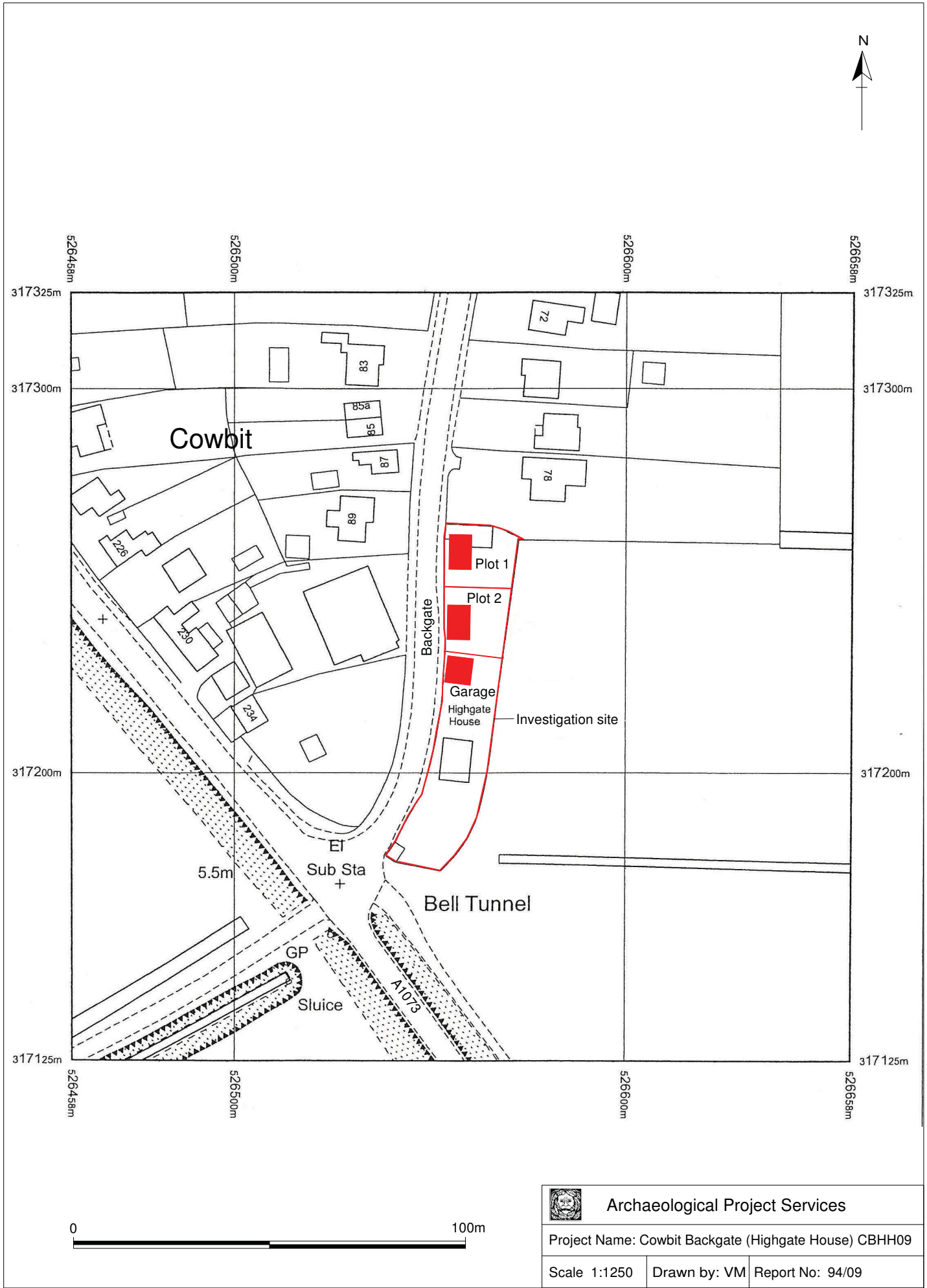
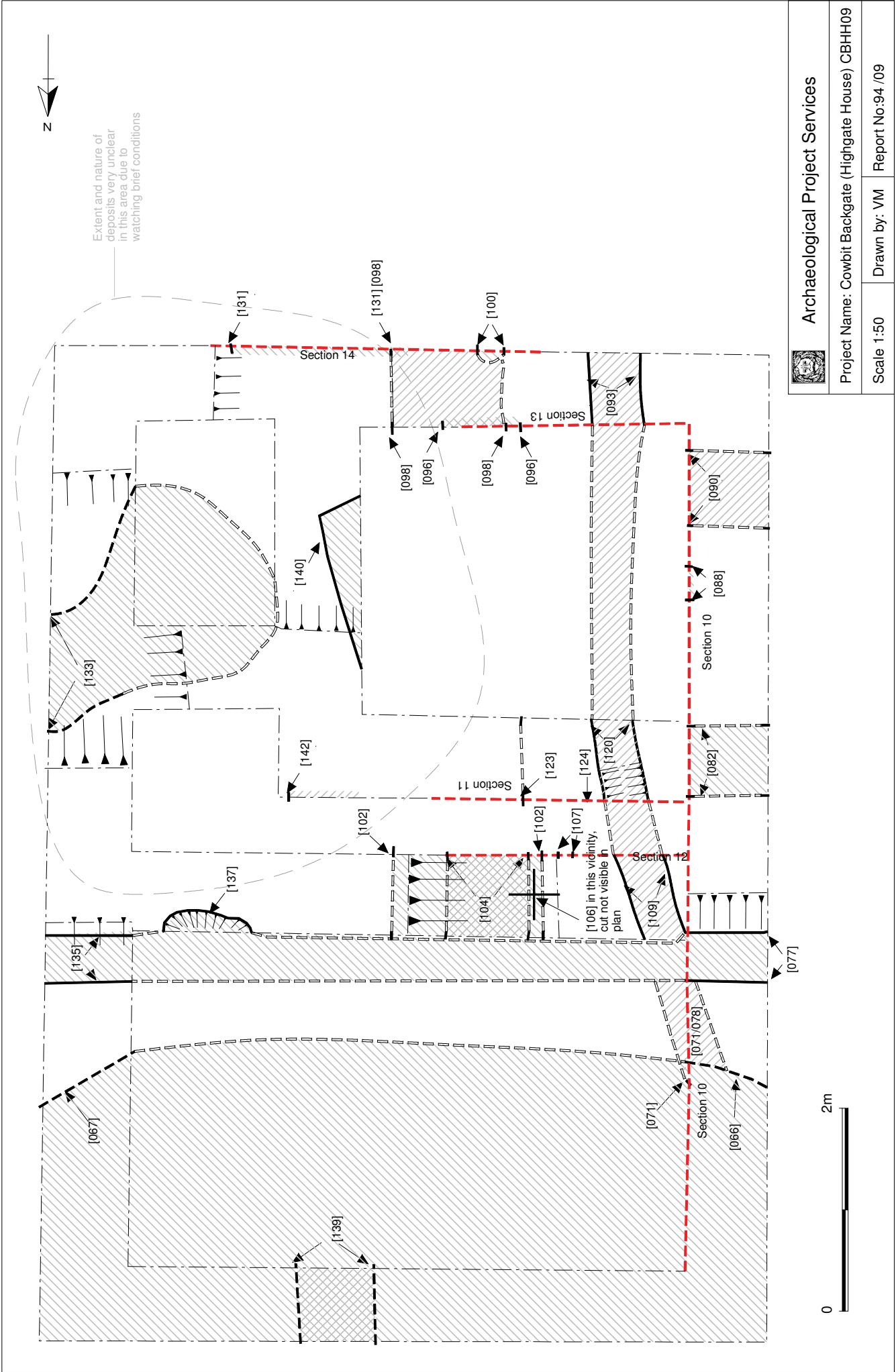


Figure 3 Detailed site and plot location map



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Figure 4 Plan of Plot 1 footings showing archaeological features

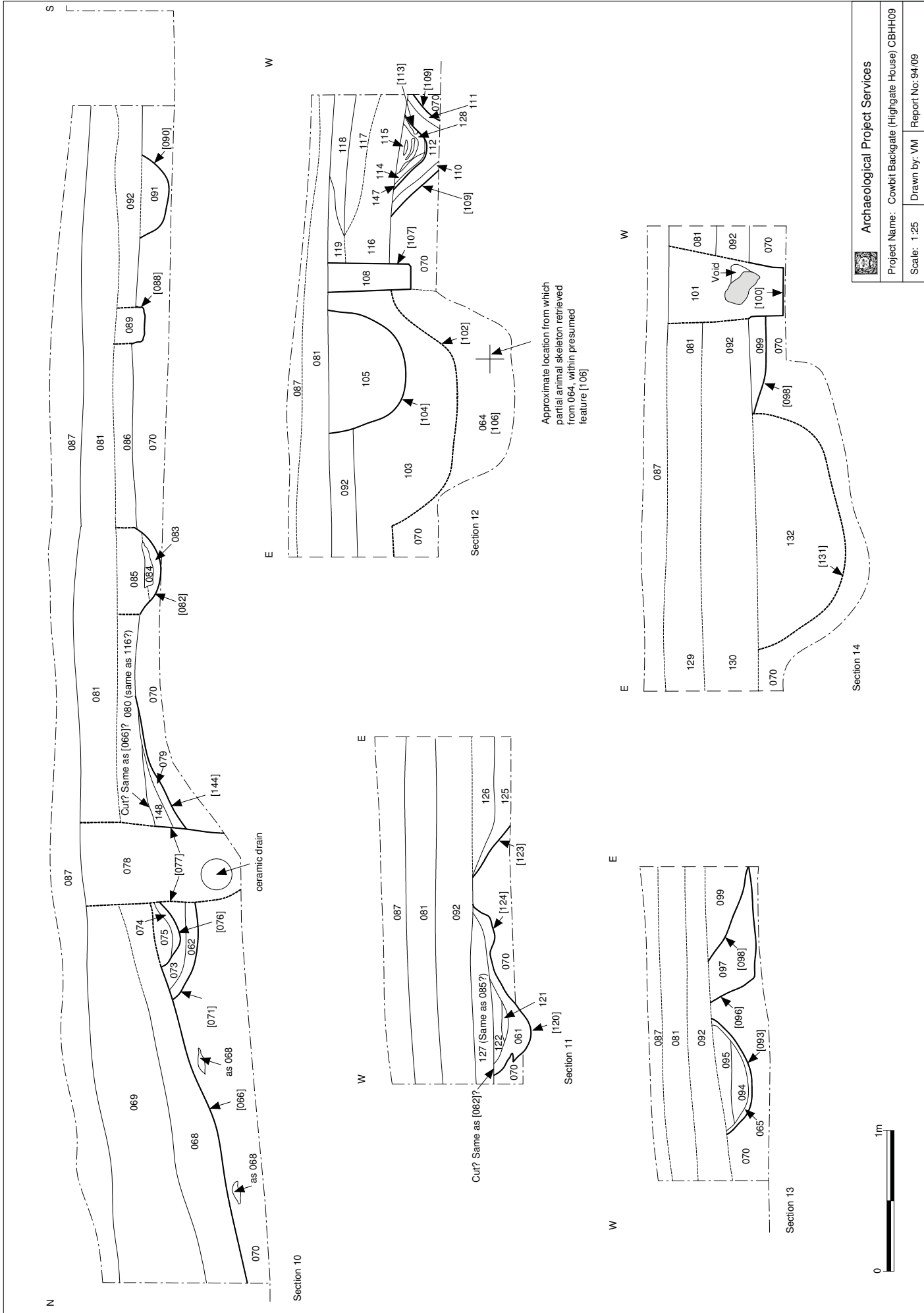
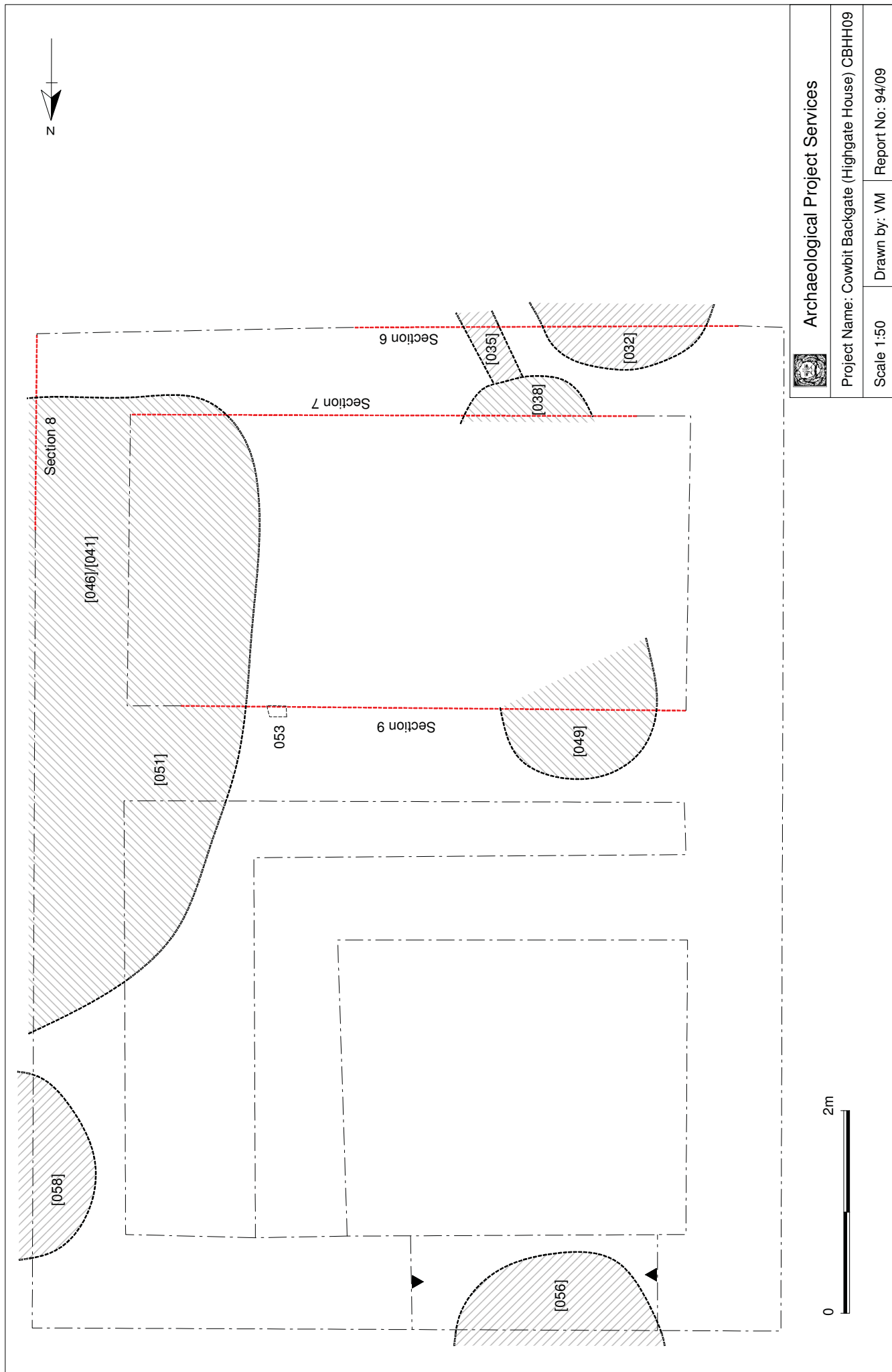


Figure 5 Plot 1 Sections 10-14



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Scale 1:50

Drawn by: VM

Report No: 94/09

Figure 6 Plan of Plot 2 footings showing archaeological features

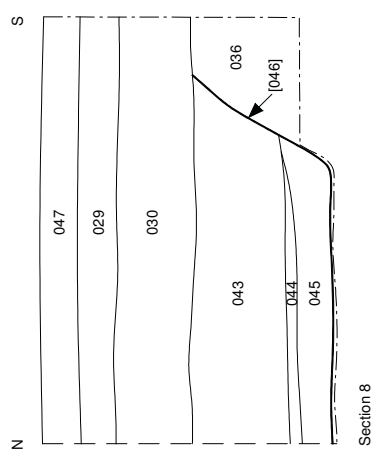
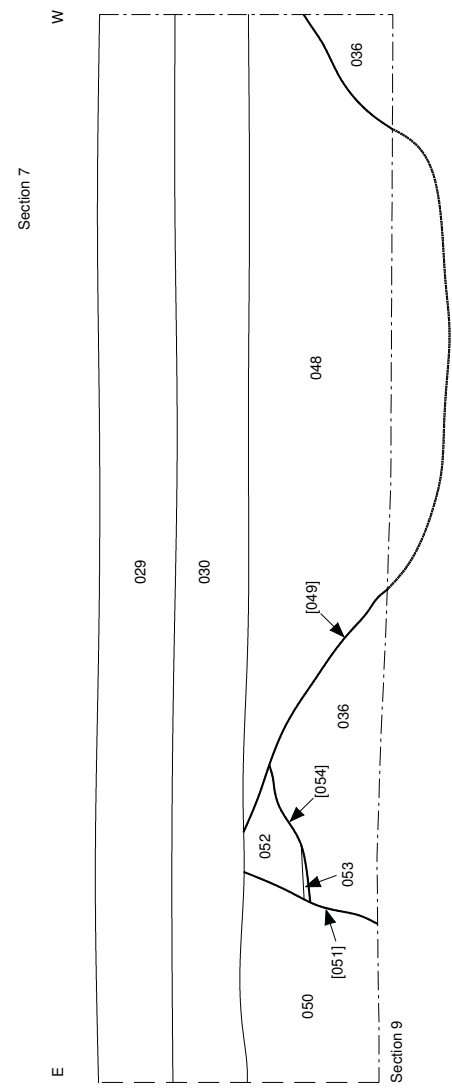
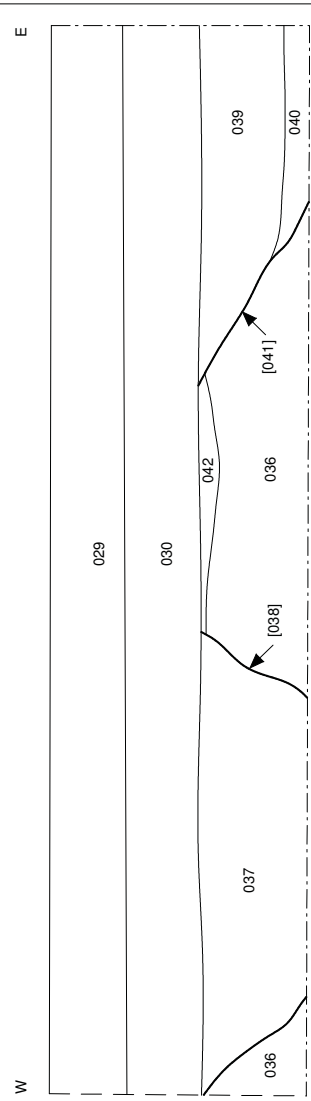
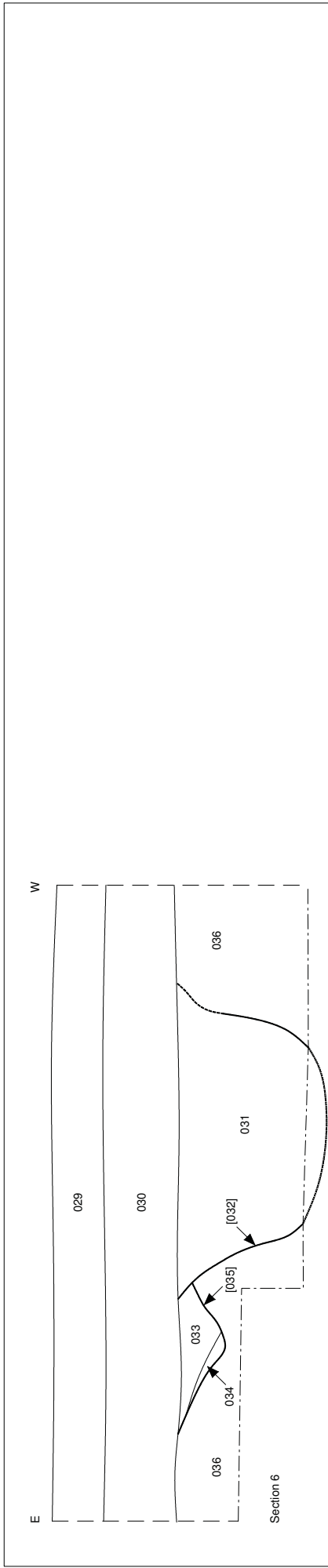


Figure 7 Plot 2 Sections 6-9



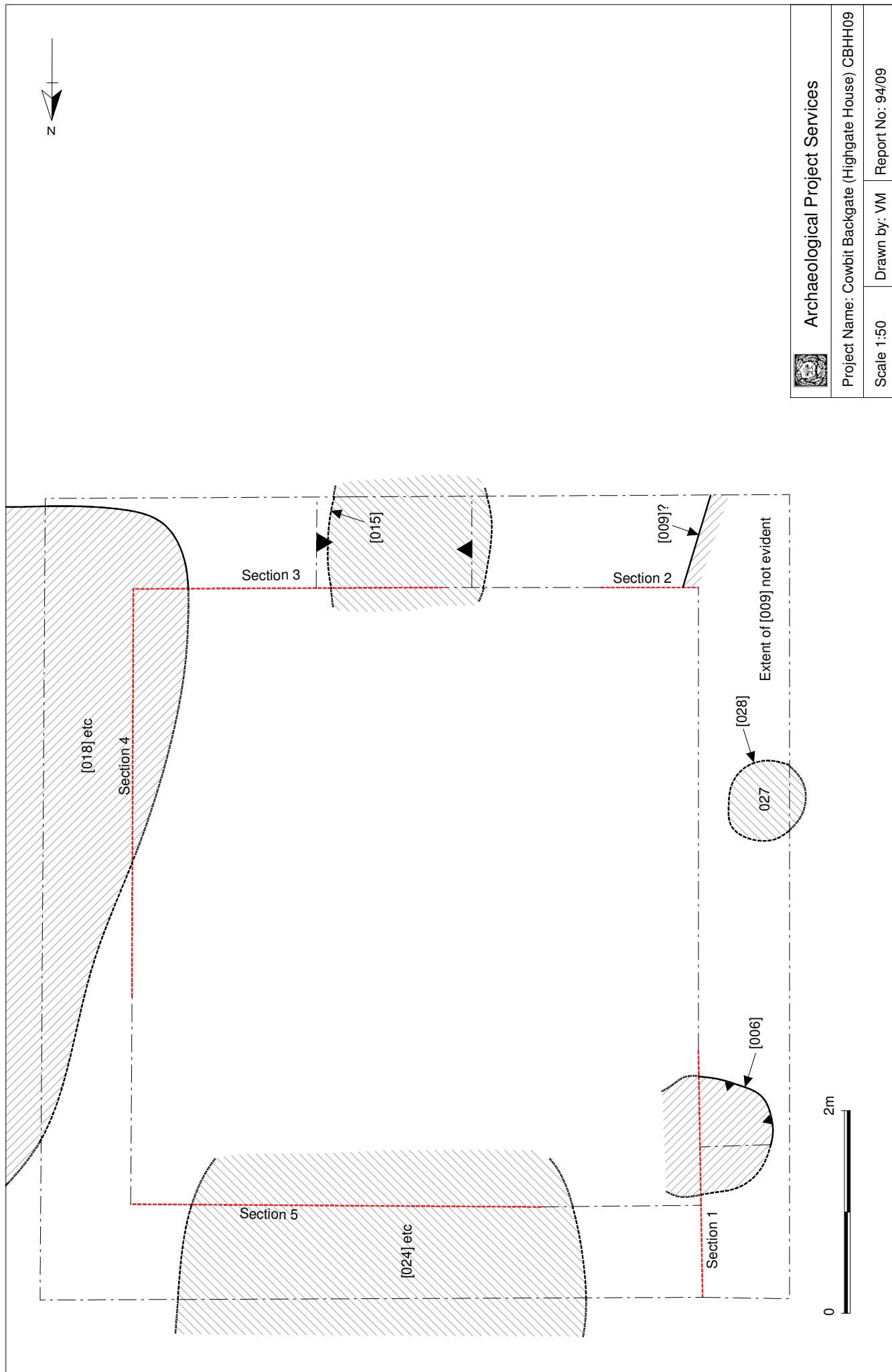


Figure 8 Plan of Garage footings showing archaeological features

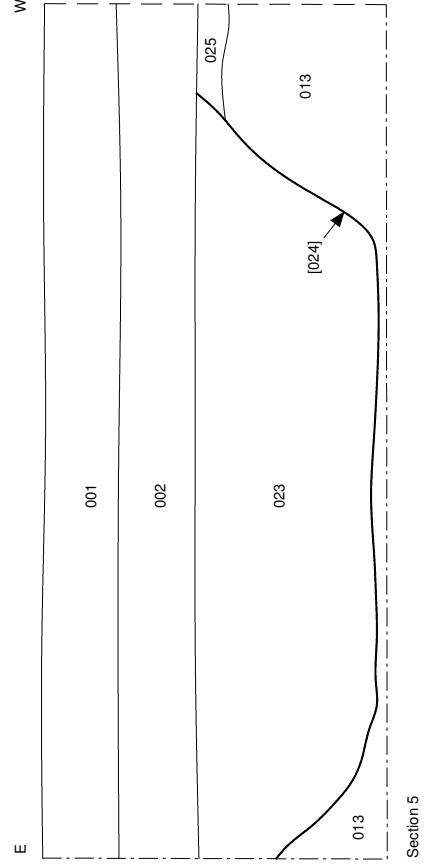
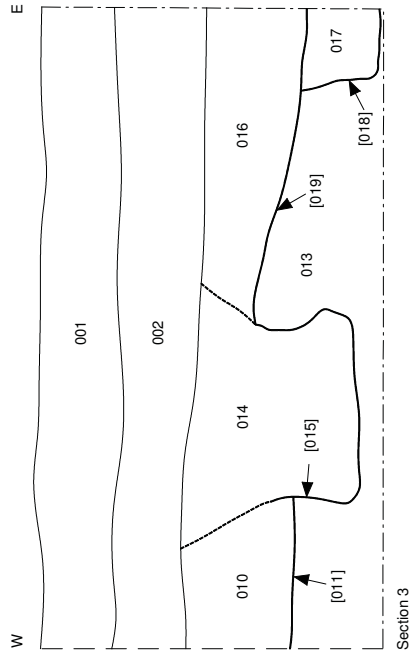
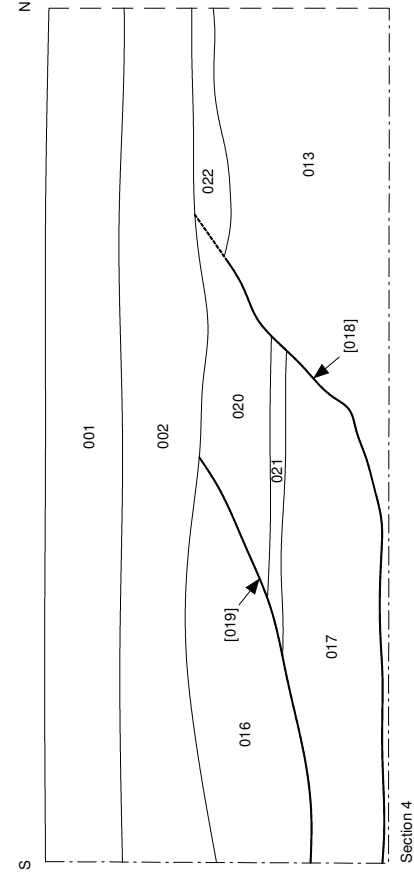
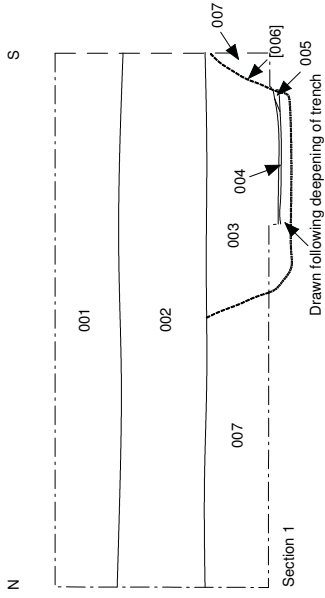
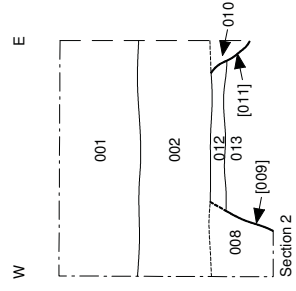
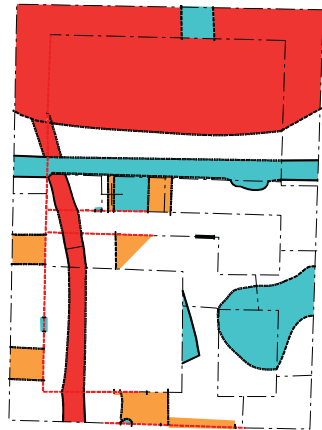
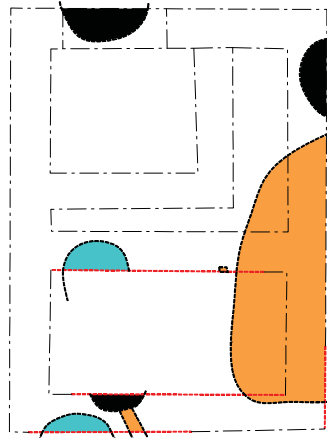
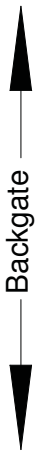


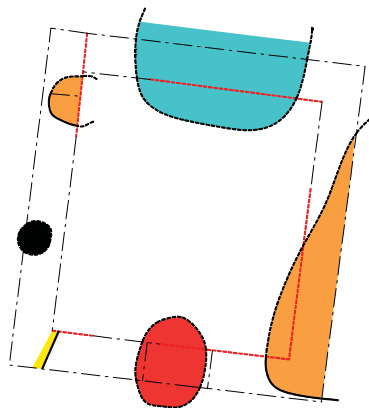
Figure 9 Garage Sections 1-5



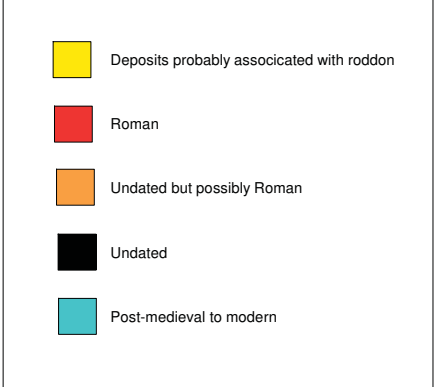
Plot 1



Plot 2



Garage



	Archaeological Project Services
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Scale 1:125	Drawn by: VM
Report No: 94/09	

Figure 10 Phased plan of features in Plots 1 & 2 and Garage footings



Plate 1  
General view of the site  
before excavation of  
footings, looking  
southwest



Plate 2  
General view of the site  
before excavation of  
footings, looking north



Plate 3  
General view of Plot 2  
footings, looking northeast

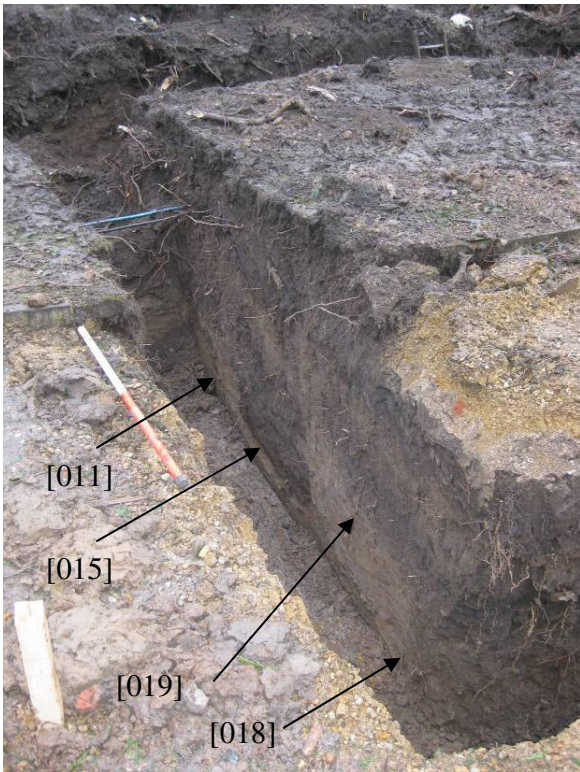


Plate 4 Garage, Roman feature [015] and possibly Roman features [018], [011] and [019], Section 3, looking northwest



Plate 6 Plot 2, possibly Roman feature [046], Section 8, looking southeast



Plate 5 Garage, possibly Roman feature [006], Section 1, looking east

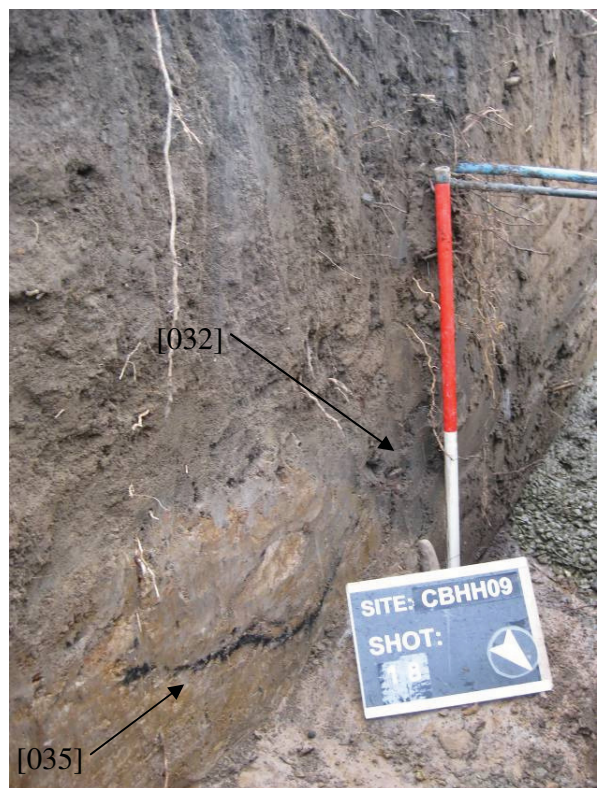


Plate 7 Plot 2, Possibly Roman feature [035] and post-medieval to modern feature [032], Section 6, looking southwest



Plate 8 Plot 2, post medieval to modern feature [049], Section 9, looking southeast



Plate 10 Plot 1, Roman feature [066], possibly a pond, Section 10, looking southeast



Plate 9 General view of Plot 1 footings, looking southwest

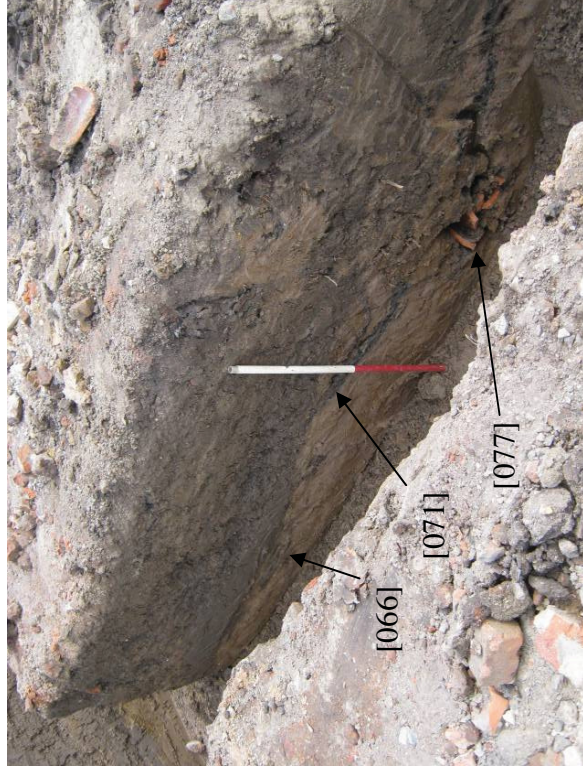


Plate 11 Plot 1, Roman feature [066], possibly a pond, Roman gully [071] etc and modern drain [077], Section 10, looking northeast

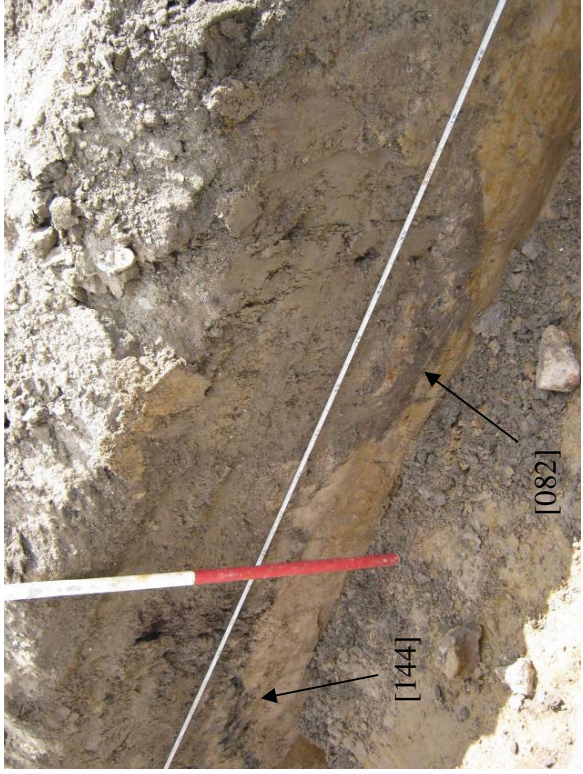


Plate 12 Plot 1, feature [082], possibly Roman, with Roman gully [1144] visible at left of shot, Section 10, looking northeast

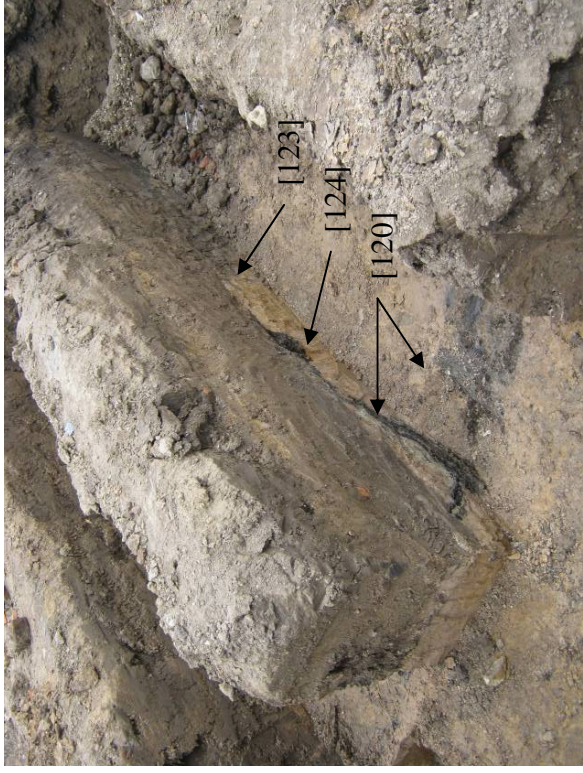


Plate 13 Plot 1, Roman gully [120] and possibly Roman feature [123], Section 11, looking northeast

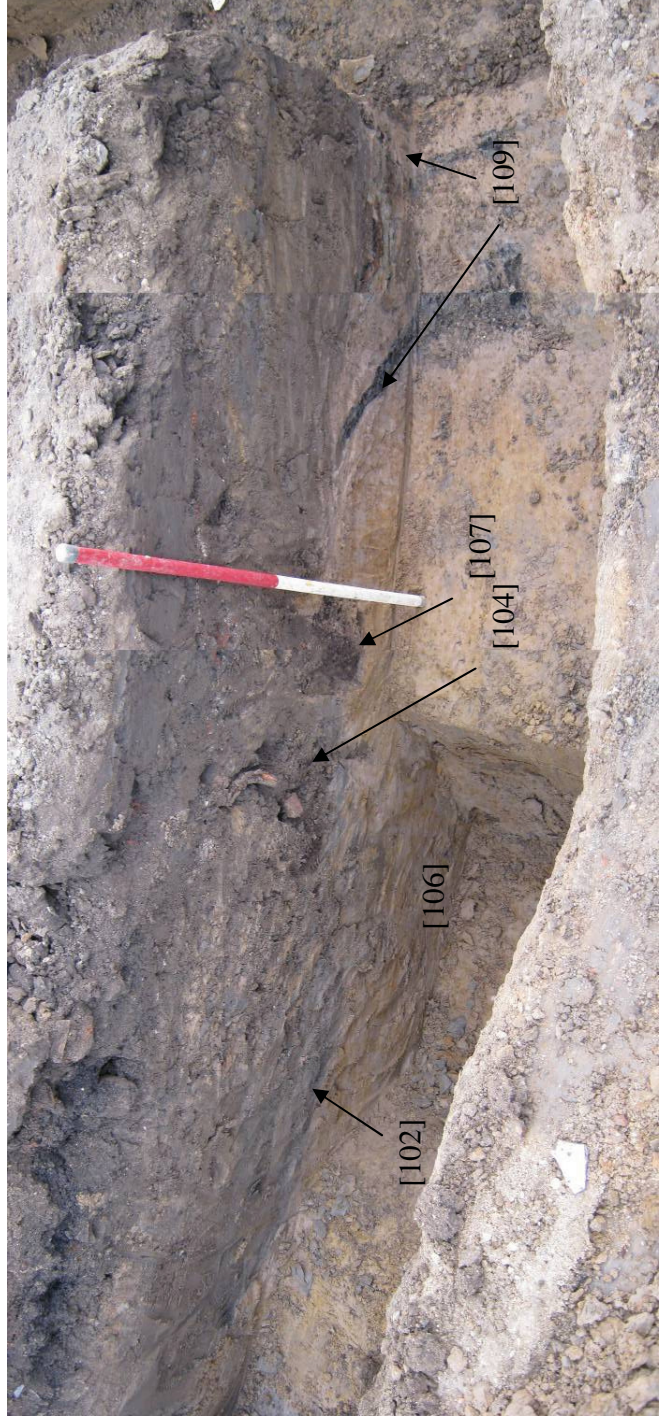


Plate 14 Plot 1, Roman gully [109] etc, possibly Roman features [102] and [106] and post medieval to modern features [104] and [107], Section 12, looking south

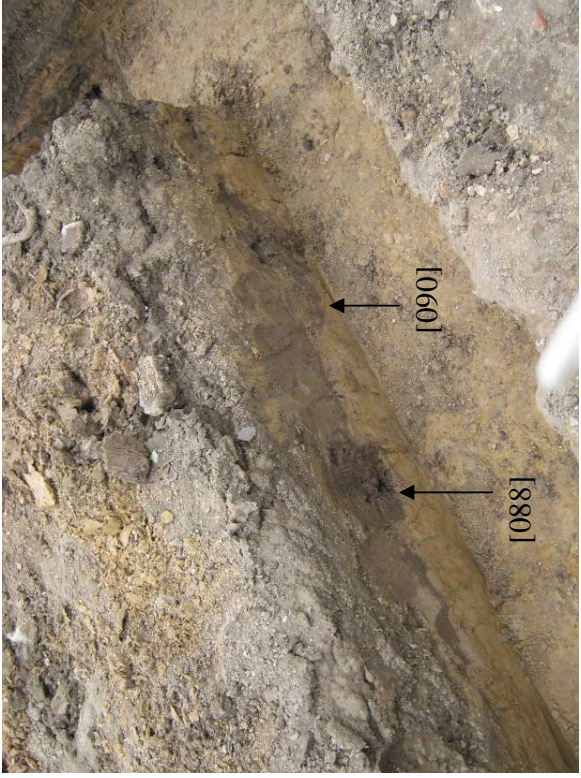


Plate 15 Plot 1, Post medieval to modern feature [088] and possibly Roman feature [090], Section 10, looking southeast

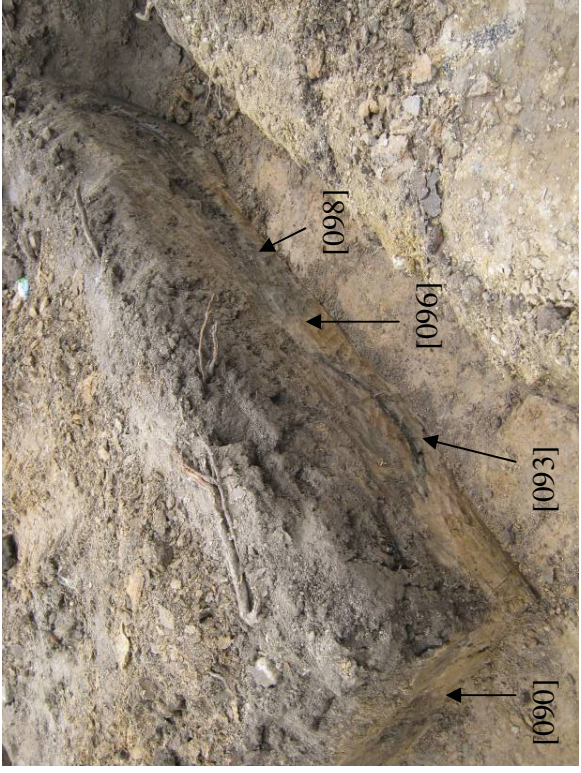


Plate 16 Plot 1, Roman gully [093] and possibly Roman features [096] and [098], Section 13, looking northeast

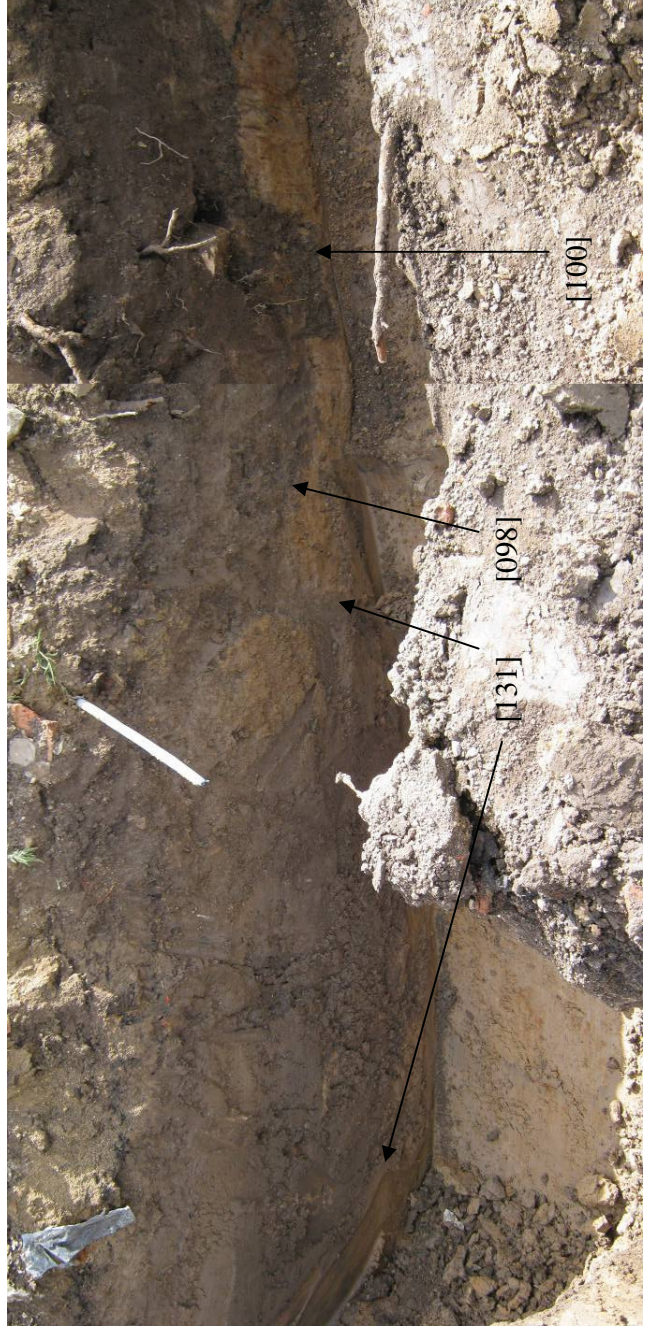


Plate 17 Plot 1, possibly Roman features [131] and [098] and post medieval to modern feature [100], Section 14, looking south



## Appendix 1

### SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required during residential development on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate, Cowbit.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, close to the historic core of Cowbit and in an area where archaeological remains of late Iron Age and Roman date have been identified. The site of a Grange attached to Spalding priory is also located nearby.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks associated with the development.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the monitoring and recording. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during groundworks associated with residential development on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate, Cowbit.
- 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 Cowbit is located 5km south of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies on Backgate, which extends from Stonegate in the North to meet with the A1073 on the south side of the village (Fig 1). The application area is located towards the south end of Backgate on the east side of the road, immediately north of the property known as Highgate House and comprises an approximately rectangular plot of land measuring 35m x 15m (Fig 2) located at National Grid Reference TF 2656 1724.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H01/1004/08) was submitted to South Holland District Council for the construction of two detached dwellings, including a new detached double garage to existing property. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies in the south Lincolnshire fenland at c. 3m O.D. Local soils are of the Stockwith and Agney Series, silty over clayey calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 28). (Hodge et al. 1984, 229).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Cowbit lies at the junction of the clay and peat fens, and the broad band of silts that fringe the coast. During the post-glacial period alternating phases of freshwater and marine inundation have deposited

peats, clays and silts which would have deeply buried any early prehistoric remains.

- 6.2 These environments sufficiently stabilised towards the end of the first millennium BC for Cowbit to become the focus of dense Roman and Iron Age settlement and industry (Fig 1). Saltmaking was common in the area. An Iron Age saltern has been excavated to the west, in Cowbit Wash. This provided a radiocarbon date of 185-95 BC for the second phase of activity on the site (Lane 2001a). Roman salterns and settlement sites are known to the north and to the southeast.
- 6.3 Fieldwalking undertaken as part of the Fenland survey recorded several domestic and saltern sites of Iron Age and Romano-British date clustered over an area lying immediately to the east of the application area (Hayes and Lane, 1992) (Fig 1).
- 6.4 Excavations undertaken in advance of development to the west of Backgate approximately 300m north of the proposed development, revealed a nucleated Roman settlement of enclosures and structures interpreted as a farmstead engaged in mixed farming activities. However, possible imported continental pottery recovered at the site might hint of a higher status community (Rayner, 2003).
- 6.5 More recently excavations undertaken along the route of the A1073 realignment also recovered evidence for domestic occupation and included the retrieval of a possibly imported Gallo-Belgic bowl (Precious, *pers comm*). It seems possible that the nearby River Welland was acting as a trade route during late Iron Age/Romano-British periods.
- 6.6 Cowbit Village developed during the 13<sup>th</sup> century along the New Fendyke, now Stone Gate (Hallam, H.E. 1965, 39) located approximately 800m to the north of the proposed development. The church of St Mary which dates from c. 1400 is likely to mark the centre of the historic village and is located approximately 800m to the northwest of the application area at the junction of Stonegate and the A1073.
- 6.7 The remains of a grange attached to Spalding priory are known to be located to the south of Cowbit village and are thought to be located approximately 750 m to the southwest of Highgate House. Two mounds in this area are thought to be associated with this institution, although recent excavations undertaken as part of the A1073 realignment indicate that the mounds post date ditches which might be contemporary with the grange (APS, forthcoming).
- 6.8 The west part of the village lies in Cowbit Wash, created during the post-medieval period to take the overflow of the Welland during times of flooding. Barrier bank, which forms the eastern embankment of the wash area, takes the A1073 Spalding to Eye road and lies approximately 150m to the west of the area of proposed development.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
  - 7.1.2 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 monitoring will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 A smooth ditching bucket will be requested for all excavations undertaken as part of the monitoring.
- 8.2.3 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly 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.
- 8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.5 Throughout the monitoring a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.2.6 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and police will be informed.

## 9 POST-EXCAVATION

### 9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced 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 investigations will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigations.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigations.
- A text describing the findings of the investigations.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation results.
- Location plans of the site and recorded building.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced. The building plan will be correlated to the photographic plates.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

## 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client and to the County Council Archaeological 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 City and County Museum, 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. It is anticipated that preparation and deposition of the archive will be complete within the six month period commencing from the start of fieldwork.

## 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 the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given notice in writing 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 (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 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 monitoring and recording will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of similar investigations will undertake that aspect of 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. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

## 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	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Rackham, Independent Specialist, or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	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

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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Area	Description	Interpretation	Dating
001	Garage	Softish dark greyish-brown silt with frequent roots, 0.35m thick	Topsoil, partially buried by driveway	Modern
002	Garage	Softish mid to dark olive-brown silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.35m thick	Subsoil layer, possibly partly 'make-up'	Post-medieval to modern
003	Garage	Firmish light orange-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal, 0.33m thick	Fill of pit [006]	Undated but possibly Roman
004	Garage	Firm to indurated dark reddish-brown probable fired silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 20mm thick	Fill of pit [006], perhaps <i>in situ</i> burning	Undated but possibly Roman
005	Garage	Soft light olive silt, 80mm thick	Fill of pit [006]	Undated but possibly Roman
006	Garage	Possibly sub-circular feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, >0.90m by 0.75m and 0.40m deep with steep sides and flat base	Pit	Undated but possibly Roman
007	Garage	Firmish light orange-brown clayey silt, >0.30m thick	Probable roddon sediment	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
008	Garage	Firmish dark brown, light orange-brown and mid grey mottled clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, >0.30m thick	Fill of feature [009]	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
009	Garage	Possibly sub-rectangular feature, extending beyond limit of excavation and not clearly seen in plan, >0.30m deep and >0.35m wide with steep sides	Feature, possibly a cut feature or natural water course	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
010	Garage	Softish mid to dark olive-brown silt, 0.50m thick	Fill of feature [011]	Undated but possibly Roman
011	Garage	Feature, shape and full extent not seen in plan, >2.80m wide and 0.50m deep with gently sloping sides and a flattish base	Substantial cut or depression	Undated but possibly Roman
012	Garage	Firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 70mm thick	Probable roddon sediment containing charcoal	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
013	Garage	Soft light brown laminated silt >0.75m thick	Probable roddon deposit	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
014	Garage	Softish mid to dark olive-brown silt with frequent small snail shells, 0.85m thick	Fill of [015]	Roman
015	Garage	Possibly sub-circular feature, not fully exposed in plan, 0.90m by >1.20m and 0.85m deep with very steep sides, undercut in places, and flat base	Pit cut	Roman
016	Garage	Firmish mid to dark olive-greyish-brown silt with occasional flecks of ceramic building material and occasional snail shells, 0.40m thick	Fill of feature [019]	Undated but possibly Roman
017	Garage	Firm mixed and mottled mid grey and mid orange-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of fired clay, 0.48m thick	Fill of feature [018]	Undated but possibly Roman
018	Garage	Sub-rectangular feature, not fully exposed in plan, >5.00m by >1.30m and 0.90m deep with very steep sides and flat base	Substantial cut feature	Undated but possibly Roman
019	Garage	Feature, shape and full extent not seen in plan, >2.30m by >2.80m and 0.60m deep with gently sloping sides and gently concave base	Substantial cut or perhaps depression due to underlying fills of feature [018]	Undated but possibly Roman
020	Garage	Firmish mid to dark olive-greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Fill of feature [018]	Undated but possibly Roman
021	Garage	Firmish light brown silt, 60mm thick	Fill of feature [018]	Undated but possibly Roman
022	Garage	Firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 80mm thick	Probable roddon sediment containing charcoal	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
023	Garage	Softish mid to dark olive-grey silt with occasional small limestone fragments and moderately frequent small snail shells, 0.85m thick	Fill of pit [024]	16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> century
024	Garage	Possibly sub-rectangular feature, not fully exposed in plan, >3.55m by >0.90m and 0.85m deep with steep sides and a flat base	Substantial pit cut	16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> century
025	Garage	Firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.15m thick	Probable roddon sediment containing charcoal	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
026	Garage	Firmish mid to dark olive-grey-brown silt	Fill of pit [028]	Undated
027	Garage	Soft dark brown peaty material, 0.15m thick	Fill of pit [028]	Undated
028	Garage	Sub-circular feature, not fully exposed in plan due to extending beyond limit of excavation, >1.00m by 1.00m with steep sides and gently concave base	Pit cut	Undated
029	Plot 2	Softish dark greyish-brown silt with frequent roots, 0.35m thick	Topsoil, same as 001	Modern



<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
030	Plot 2	Softish mid to dark olive-brown silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.35m thick	Subsoil layer, possibly partly 'make-up', same as 002	Post-medieval to modern
031	Plot 2	Softish dark olive-grey-brown silt with frequent small snail shells, 0.75m thick	Fill of pit [032]	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
032	Plot 2	Sub-circular feature, >1.85m by 0.90m and 0.86m deep with very steep sides and concave base	Substantial pit cut	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
033	Plot 2	Firmish mixed light orange-brown and mid to light grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.24m thick	Fill of linear feature [035]	Undated but possibly Roman
034	Plot 2	Softish very dark grey to black charcoal-rich deposit, 20mm thick	Fill of linear feature [035]	Undated but possibly Roman
035	Plot 2	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, 0.85m wide in section (oblique) and 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base	Undated linear feature	Undated but possibly Roman
036	Plot 2	Soft light brown silt >0.50m thick	Probable roddon sediment	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
037	Plot 2	Softish mid to dark olive-grey with some mid reddish-brown mottles silt with moderately frequent small snail shells, 0.50m thick	Fill of pit [038]	Undated, possibly 16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
038	Plot 2	Sub-circular feature, >2.15m by >0.90m and 0.50m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Pit cut, possibly same as [049]	Undated, possibly 16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
039	Plot 2	Soft light brown silt, 0.40m thick	Fill of pit [041], same as 044 and 050	Undated but possibly Roman
040	Plot 2	Softish dark grey with mid orange-brown mottles silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of fired clay, >0.15m thick	Fill of pit [041], same as 045	Undated but possibly Roman
041	Plot 2	Sub-rectangular feature, not fully exposed in plan, with rounded corners >7.50m by >2.60m and >0.70m deep with very steep to gently sloping sides and flattish base	Substantial pit cut, same as [046] and [051]	Undated but possibly Roman
042	Plot 2	Firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 80mm thick	Layer, possibly indicative of occupation	Undated
043	Plot 2	Softish slightly olive dark grey silt with moderately frequent small shells, 0.46m thick	Fill of pit [043], deposit possibly dumped as levelling	Undated but possibly Roman
044	Plot 2	Softish light brown silt, 60mm thick	Fill of pit [043], deposit possibly representing dumping, same as 039 and 050	Undated but possibly Roman

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
045	Plot 2	Softish dark grey with mid orange-brown mottles silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small fragment of mid red fired clay, 0.16m thick	Fill of pit [046], same as 040	Undated but possibly Roman
046	Plot 2	Possibly sub-rectangular feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, >2.60m by >7.50m and 0.50m deep with very steep side at south, more variable at west, with a flat base	Substantial pit cut, same as [041] and [051]	Undated but possibly Roman
047	Plot 2	Hardcore layer, 0.17m thick underlying driveway	Hardcore under modern driveway	Modern
048	Plot 2	Soft dark olive-grey with orange-red mottles silt with moderately frequent small snail shells and occasional fragments ceramic building material	Fill of pit [049]	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
049	Plot 2	Possibly sub-circular feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, 3.80m by > 0.90m and 0.94m deep with moderately steep sides, steeper towards base with flattish base	Pit cut, possibly post-medieval	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century
050	Plot 2	Softish light brown silt, 0.60m thick	Fill of [051], possibly dumped silt, same as 039 and 044	Undated but possibly Roman
051	Plot 2	Large feature, not fully exposed in plan, >2.50m wide and 0.60m deep with steep sides and flat base	Substantial pit cut, same as [041] and [046]	Undated but possibly Roman
052	Plot 2	Firmish mixed light grey and mid orange-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.28m thick	Fill of feature [054]	Undated but possibly Roman
053	Plot 2	Soft very dark grey to black charcoal-rich deposit, 20mm thick	Charcoal-rich fill of feature [054]	Undated but possibly Roman
054	Plot 2	Feature, not clearly visible in plan, 0.52m wide in section and 0.28m deep with gently sloping sides and gently concave base	Undated cut feature	Undated but possibly Roman
055	Plot 2	Softish dark olive-grey-brown silt with moderately frequent small snail shells, 0.90m thick	Fill of pit [056]	Undated
056	Plot 2	Possibly sub-circular feature 2.00m by >1.25m and 0.90m deep with steep sides and a gently concave base	Pit cut	Undated
057	Plot 2	Softish dark olive-grey-brown silt with moderately frequent small snail shells and occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.90m thick	Fill of pit [058]	Undated
058	Plot 2	Possibly sub-circular feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, 1.75m wide and 0.90m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base	Pit cut	Undated
059	Garage	Unstratified finds from Garage plot		
060	Plot 2	Unstratified finds from Plot 2		

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
061	Plot 1	Soft to crunchy in places dark black with mid grey to greenish laminations silt and charcoal, 0.18m thick	Fill of gully [120], possibly same as 111	Roman
062	Plot 1	Soft mid grey, dark black and light grey layers silt and clay with light greenish mottles and occasional charcoal, 90mm thick	Fill of probable gully [071]	Roman
063	Plot 1	Soft dark black to brown and light to mid greenish-grey laminations silt and charcoal, 80mm thick	Fill of probable gully [124], possibly same as 061	Roman
064	Plot 1	Soft light to mid pinkish and slightly greyish yellowish brown silt > 0.50m thick. Appeared more grey than surrounding deposit 070 in plan, but not visible in section.	Fill of feature [106]	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
065	Plot 1	Soft dark black charcoal and mid grey-green silt, 50mm thick	Fill of gully [093]	Roman
066	Plot 1	Large feature, extending beyond limit of excavation and not visible in plan, >2.75m by >4.00m and 0.90m deep with concave to flattish base	Substantial feature, possibly a pond or hollow, probably same as [067]	Roman
067	Plot 1	Cut of large feature, probably easterly continuation of feature [066]	Substantial feature, possibly a pond or hollow, probably same as [067]	Roman
068	Plot 1	Soft mid grey clay with occasional white flecks, 0.30m thick	Fill of [066], probably water-lain	Roman
069	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark grey silty clay mottled with yellow clay with frequent tiny snail shells, 0.60m thick	Fill of [066], probably water-lain	Roman
070	Plot 1	Soft light yellowish to pinkish-brown silt, >0.50m thick	Probable roddon sediment	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
071	Plot 1	Probable northwest-southeast aligned linear feature 0.70m wide in section (oblique) and 0.30m deep with moderately steep to concave sides and gently concave base	Probable gully, probably same as [144], [109], [120] and [093]	Roman
072	Plot 1	Void		
073	Plot 1	Soft light to mid yellowish-pink silt, 0.16m thick	Fill of gully [071] probably silting from water inundation, probably same as 148	Roman
074	Plot 1	Soft mid grey clay with occasional charcoal, 50mm thick	Fill of gully [076]	Roman
075	Plot 1	Soft mid grey and yellow mottled clayey silt and silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of gully [076]	Roman

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
076	Plot 1	Probable northwest-southeast aligned linear feature 0.46m wide in section (oblique) and 0.18m deep with moderately steep to concave sides and concave base	Gully, apparently a re-cut of [071] following silting 073	Roman
077	Plot 1	East-west aligned linear feature >7.00m long, 0.58m wide and 1.12m deep with near-vertical sides	Drain cut	Modern
078	Plot 1	Loose mixed light yellow to mid grey silt and silty clay with occasional pebbles, 1.12m thick containing ceramic pipe	Fill of drain [077]	Modern
079	Plot 1	Soft dark black and mid grey silt and charcoal, 40mm thick	Fill of probable gully [144] comprising burnt material and silt	Roman
080	Plot 1	Soft dark brown mixed with yellow mottles silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material and black burnt flecks, 70mm thick	Layer, nature unclear, possibly same as 086 and a fill of feature [066]	Roman
081	Plot 1	Soft dark brown mixed with yellow mottles silt with occasional ceramic build material fragments and black burnt flecks, 0.24m thick	Layer, probably buried topsoil, possibly same as 129	Post-medieval to modern
082	Plot 1	Feature, not fully exposed in plan, >0.80m by 0.80m and 0.17m deep with moderately steep to concave sides and concave base	Cut feature, possibly a pit	Undated but possibly Roman
083	Plot 1	Soft dark to mid grey silt with yellow mottles and lenses, 40mm thick	Fill of feature [082]	Undated but possibly Roman
084	Plot 1	Soft light (pinkish) brown silt with frequent rusty red mottles and occasional red flecks, 20mm thick	Fill of feature [082]	Undated but possibly Roman
085	Plot 1	Soft dark to mid grey with yellow mottles and lenses silt, 0.20m thick	Fill of feature [082], same as 127?	Undated but possibly Roman
086	Plot 1	Soft dark brown mixed with yellow mottles silt with occasional ceramic building material fragments and black burnt flecks, 0.16m thick	Layer, possibly continuation of deposit 080 across wider area	Undated but possibly Roman
087	Plot 1	Loose mixed deposit, overall dark brown and silty with brick, stone and concrete rubble, 0.20m thick	Mixed topsoil and building rubble associated with present works	Modern
088	Plot 1	Feature not seen in plan, 0.21m wide and 0.20m deep with near-vertical sides and flat base	Probably a post hole or similar	Undated feature, but probably fairly recent
089	Plot 1	Soft to crumbly mid to dark greyish-brown silt with occasional pebbles, 0.20m thick, containing one modern or post-medieval nail (not retained)	Fill of feature [088]	Undated feature, but probably fairly recent

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
090	Plot 1	Feature, not seen clearly in plan, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base, sloping down towards south	Feature	Undated but possibly Roman
091	Plot 1	Soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt with moderately frequent yellow silt mottles, 0.20m thick	Fill of feature [090]	Undated but possibly Roman
092	Plot 1	Soft mid to darkish greyish-brown with olive hue in places silt with occasional ceramic building material fragments, 0.30m thick	Deposit, possibly a buried soil layer or flood deposit, perhaps same as 086, 080 and 130	Undated but possibly Roman
093	Plot 1	North-south aligned linear feature, 0.80m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep to concave sides and concave base	Gully, probably same as [120], [109], [071] and [144]	Roman
094	Plot 1	Soft light to mid pinkish-brown with rusty mottles silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of gully [093]	Roman
095	Plot 1	Soft mid grey clayey silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of gully [093], probably silting from water inundation	Roman
096	Plot 1	Feature, not seen in plan, >0.90m wide and 0.34m deep with steep sides and flattish base	Feature, possibly a pit	Undated but possibly Roman
097	Plot 1	Soft light to mid pinkish-grey silt with occasional charcoal, 0.34m thick	Fill of feature [096]	Undated but possibly Roman
098	Plot 1	Feature, extent and form not seen in plan but possibly linear, >0.65m wide and >0.30m deep with moderately steep to gently concave sides	Feature, possibly a ditch	Undated but possibly Roman
099	Plot 1	Soft mid greyish-brown clay and silt, >0.30m thick	Fill of feature [098]	Undated but possibly Roman
100	Plot 1	Feature, not seen in plan, 0.51m wide and 0.82m deep with near-vertical sides and flat base	Cut feature, undated but likely to be modern and related to demolished garage building	Post-medieval to modern
101	Plot 1	Soft dark greyish-brown silt and clay with occasional mid yellowish-brown mottles, occasional limestone blocks and voids, 0.82m thick	Fill of feature [100]	Post-medieval to modern
102	Plot 1	Feature, not seen in plan, >1.60m wide and 0.74m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base	Cut feature, possibly a ditch	Undated but possibly Roman
103	Plot 1	Soft light to mid grey silt, 0.70m thick	Fill of feature [102]	Undated but possibly Roman
104	Plot 1	Feature not seen in plan, 0.86m wide and 0.54m deep with steepish (but unclear) sides and unclear, possibly concave, base	Cut feature	Post-medieval to modern

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
105	Plot 1	Soft mottled dark grey and mid yellowish-brown silt and clay with occasional post-medieval or modern brick fragments (not retained), 0.54m thick	Fill of feature [104]	Post-medieval to modern
106	Plot 1	Presumed feature, not visible in section and not clearly seen in plan. Context number allocated to denote presumed feature containing deposit 064 including partial cattle skeleton. Possibly this was not a cut, but rather the remains of an animal within the roddon silts.	Presumed cut feature	Roman or earlier roddon and related deposits
107	Plot 1	Feature not seen in plan, 0.56m deep and 0.20m wide with vertical to near-vertical sides and flat base	Feature probably related to demolished garage building, possible post hole or similar	Probably 20 <sup>th</sup> century
108	Plot 1	Soft dark grey silt and clay with occasional ceramic building material fragments (appear 20 <sup>th</sup> century, not retained), 0.34m thick	Fill of feature [107]	Probably 20 <sup>th</sup> century
109	Plot 1	North-south aligned linear feature, 0.85m wide and >0.34m deep with moderately steep sides	Gully, probably same as [120], [071], [144] and [093]	Roman
110	Plot 1	Soft to crunchy dark black with mid grey mottles charcoal-rich silt with occasional burnt silt, fired clay flecks and fired clay fragments, 70mm thick	Fill of gully [109]	Roman
111	Plot 1	Soft to crunchy dark black to mid grey charcoal-rich silt, 40mm thick	Fill of gully [109], possibly same as 061	Roman
112	Plot 1	Soft light pinkish-brown with grey mottles and small rusty mottles silt, >0.12m thick	Fill of gully [109]	Roman
113	Plot 1	Feature not seen in plan, but possibly north-south aligned linear feature, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Possible re-cut of gully [109], although may be that succession of water-lain and dumped fills of [109] create appearance of re-cut [113]	Roman
114	Plot 1	Soft light to mid pinkish-brown silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of gully [113], possibly water-lain following disuse of gully	Roman
115	Plot 1	Soft dark black, light to mid pink and mid reddish-brown bands of burnt silt, charcoal-rich silt and clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Fill of gully [113]	Roman

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
116	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.26m thick	Layer, nature unclear, although possibly a flood deposit or laid in standing water	Roman
117	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark slightly olive greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.16m thick	Layer, nature unclear, although possibly a flood deposit or buried soil	Roman
118	Plot 1	Soft light yellowish-brown silt, 0.10m thick	Layer, apparently redeposited silt (as 070)	Roman
119	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark grey with occasional yellow mottles clayey silt with moderately frequent mortar fragments, ceramic building material and charcoal fragments, 0.12m thick	Layer, nature unclear	Roman
120	Plot 1	North-south aligned linear feature >0.80m long, 0.60m wide and 0.26m deep with concave profile, slightly 'staggered' at west in section, perhaps due to slumping of silts during use/disuse of gully	Gully, probably same as [109], [071], [144] and [093]	Roman
121	Plot 1	Soft light grey to green silt with occasional rusty mottles, 40mm thick	Fill of gully [120], water-lain deposit from silting of gully, colour perhaps indicating anaerobic conditions	Roman
122	Plot 1	Soft light pink silt with occasional rusty mottles, 60mm thick	Fill of gully [120], water-lain deposit from silting of gully	Roman
123	Plot 1	Feature, full extent and shape not seen, >1.00m wide and >0.30m deep with moderately steep sides	Cut feature, possibly pit or ditch, possibly same as [102] and [096]	Undated but possibly Roman
124	Plot 1	Feature, full extent and shape not seen, 0.36m wide and 0.50m deep with steep sides and gently concave base	Cut feature evident in section, may well be same as gully [120]	Roman
125	Plot 1	Soft mid to light grey with yellowish flecks silt with occasional shell fragments and fired clay fragments, >70mm thick	Fill of feature [123]	Undated but possibly Roman
126	Plot 1	Soft mid grey with greenish flecks silty clay with occasional shell and fired clay fragments, 0.16m thick	Fill of feature [123]	Undated but possibly Roman

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
127	Plot 1	Soft mid grey silt with occasional light grey mottles and fired clay fragments, 0.18m thick	Probably fill of feature [082] and same as 085 but unclear due to site conditions, same as 085?	Roman
128	Plot 1	Soft light bluish-green silt, 60mm thick	Fill of gully [109], probably water-lain with colour possibly indicating anaerobic conditions	Roman
129	Plot 1	Soft dark brown mixed with yellow mottles silt with occasional ceramic building material and black flecks, 0.30m thick	Layer, probably same as 081	Post-medieval to modern
130	Plot 1	Soft mid to darkish greyish-brown silt with occasional ceramic building material fragments, 0.36m thick	Layer, probably same as 092	Undated but possibly Roman
131	Plot 1	Feature, not seen in plan, 1.50m wide and 0.65m deep with steep sides and flattish to concave base	Cut feature, extent and form not clear due to poor conditions on site, likely to have contained standing water	Undated but possibly Roman
132	Plot 1	Soft mid to darkish greyish-brown clayey silt with moderately frequent small snail shells (as those in deposit 069), 0.65m thick	Fill of feature [131], possibly water-lain	Undated but possibly Roman
133	Plot 1	Feature not seen clearly in plan, >1.30m by >2.00m and 1.20m deep, possibly in reality several features, but watching brief conditions very poor in this area	Large cut feature, possibly a soakaway, but may in reality be several features	Post-medieval to modern
134	Plot 1	Soft to mixed mid to dark greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent brick fragments in places, possibly indicating use as a soakaway, 1.20m thick	Fill of feature [133]	Post-medieval to modern
135	Plot 1	Same as [077], modern drain cut		Modern
136	Plot 1	Same as 078, modern drain fill		Modern
137	Plot 1	Feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, visible part sub-circular to sub-square, 0.90m by >0.20m and >0.80m deep with near-vertical sides	Cut feature, probably same as drain [077] and [135]	Modern
138	Plot 1	Mixed deposit, overall a mid to dark grey clay and silt with modern brick fragments (not retained)	Fill of feature [137]	Modern
139	Plot 1	Possibly linear feature not seen in plan, 0.75m wide, depth not established, probable feature delineated only by layer of post-medieval to modern bricks probably forming a fill. Insufficient time available to investigate further.	Probable linear feature or pit, perhaps associated with former garage building	Post-medieval to modern



<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Dating</b>
140	Plot 1	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation, possibly square or rectangular, with sharp corner, >1.60m by >0.50m and >1.00m deep with vertical sides	Pit	Post-medieval to modern
141	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark greyish-brown silt and clay with occasional machine-made brick fragments and iron object (possible plough share) (not retained), >1.00m thick	Fill of pit [140]	Post-medieval to modern
142	Plot 1	Single edge of cut feature seen in section, not possible to further investigate extent or size of this feature	Cut of possible pit or linear, extremely unclear	Undated
143	Plot 1	Soft mid to dark greyish-brown silt and clay	Fill of possible pit or linear [142]	Undated
144	Plot 1	Cut, probably linear to curvilinear and northwest-southeast aligned but only seen obliquely in section, where >1.00m wide and 0.20m deep	Probable gully same as [071] and probably same as [109], [120] and [093]	Roman
145	Plot 1	Post-medieval to modern bricks	Fill of probable feature [139]	Post-medieval to modern
146	Plot 1	Void – same as 148		
147	Plot 1	Soft dark black charcoal-rich silt, 20mm thick	Fill of gully [113]	Roman
148	Plot 1	Soft light to mid pinkish yellow silt, 0.14m thick	Fill of gully [144], probably same as 073	Roman

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Barbara Precious

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 4 sherds from 3 vessels, weighing 135 grams was recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

#### Condition

Three of the sherds, from contexts (061) and (062) are fairly fresh, whilst the sherd from (014) is fragmentary and abraded. One vessel has a thick soot or burnt fat deposit on the exterior wall and along the rim suggesting use over a hearth or fire. One vessel has a thin white exterior deposit or discoloration as well as small specks of black residue. These may indicate industrial use. All of the material has a reddish-brown ferric concretion attached. Two of these vessels have this deposit over the broken edges, suggesting this is perhaps caused by soil conditions.

#### Results

Table 1, Roman Pottery Archive

Area	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	Alter	Comments	NoS	NoV	W (g)
Garage	14	SLSH			ABR; FE CONC + O BREAK	BS; PB	1	1	3
Garage	14	ZDATE				RO?			
1	61	SLSH	JS	H/M	WH DEP; BLACK DEP POSS INDUST?; FE CONC	BS; PB	1	1	109
1	61	ZDATE				1-2C+			
1	62	SLSH	JNN		FE CONC + O BREAK; SOOT EX AND RIM	RIM; BS; PB	2	1	23
1	62	ZDATE				L1-2C			
<b>Total</b>							<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>135</b>

#### Provenance

Pottery was recovered from fill (061) within gully feature [071], fill (062) within gully feature [120] and fill (014) within possible pit [015].

#### Range

All three of the vessels represented are a utilitarian shell-tempered courseware fabric; south Lincolnshire shell tempered ware (SLSH). This is characterised by the presence of sparse to medium amounts of Punctate Brachiopod fossils. None of the vessels are decorated. The pottery is probably locally produced, though a production site in the South Midlands could also be a possibility.

The presence of a large storage jar within the assemblage, suggests food was being stored on or in the vicinity of the site.

#### Potential

The assemblage poses no problems for long term storage and should be retained.

### Summary

A small amount of Roman pottery was recovered during the watching brief. All of the material is domestic in nature, and suggests domestic activity in the area during the 1st and /or 2nd centuries AD.

### POST ROMAN POTTERY

*By Anne Boyle*

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of nine sherds from eight vessels, weighing 334 grams was recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary in Table 2. The pottery ranges in date from the post medieval to the early modern period.

#### Condition

Sherds are in variable condition and comprise large, fresh fragments and smaller abraded pieces.

#### Results

*Table 2, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery*

Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2	235
BOU	Bourne D ware	1350	1650	1	1	1
CIST	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	1	1	42
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	3	2	42
MISC	Unidentified types	-	-	1	1	7
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>334</b>

#### Provenance

Contexts (059) and (060) were assigned to unstratified sherds from the garage and plot 2. A non-dateable sherd was retrieved from the fill of feature [018] and a single post medieval sherd coming from the fill of Pit [023].

#### Range

All the types present in the assemblage are common in assemblages of this date in the county.

#### Potential

The pottery poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

#### Summary

A small group of late pottery was recovered from the site, indicating activity of this date occurring on or close to the site.

### CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

*By Anne Boyle and Ross Kendall*

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 4241 grams, was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 3.

### Condition

A total of four brick pieces were recovered. Three pieces constitute one nearly complete brick, while the fourth is complete. Both bricks are over-fired and partially vitrified, perhaps a result of misfiring or due to their use in a manufacturing process.

### Results

Table 3, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
031	BRK	Brick	OX/R/OX; fine sandy + frequent ca + occasional shale	3	1505	168 x 110 x 56 mm; 3/4 complete; deep organic bedding impressions; struck edges and topside; salt surfacing; partially clinkered; handmade; no frog; slop moulded; overhang from mould	16th to 18th
048	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine sandy + frequent ca	1	2736	240 x 128 x 80 mm; complete; organic bedding impressions; partially clinkered; handmade; frequent voids; no frog; salt surfacing; struck topside; slop moulded; kiss mark	16th to 18th

### Provenance

The bricks were recovered from context (031) the fill of a large pit [032], (048) fill of pit [049].

### Range

The bricks are Fenland-type, probably locally made. Manufacturing techniques are evident: the bricks handmade using slop moulding and surface striations indicate where surplus clay was struck off using a wooden bat or wired bow. Organic impressions are also present on both bricks, suggesting the use of grass or straw as a bedding material. There is no evidence that either of the bricks is frogged.

Fenland bricks are notoriously difficult to date as they are produced between the 14th and 18th centuries in places such as Spalding, Boston and King's Lynn. Due to a lack of associated pottery, the exact date of this assemblage is unknown. However, manufacturing techniques and the size of brick suggest a 16th to 18th century date.

### Potential

The assemblage of building material presents no problem for long-term curation. The assemblage may benefit from comparison to local brick production sites in the surrounding area, such as Low Road in Spalding or the A1073 realignment. This may highlight diagnostic features and differences in manufacturing technique of bricks produced in different periods.

### Summary

Two partially vitrified bricks may be linked to manufacture or an industrial process taking place nearby.

## FIRED CLAY

*By Anne Boyle and Ross Kendall*

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Archive

Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 4.

### Condition

All of the fragments are flaked and abraded. Several have patchy soot, fuel ash and signs of being affected by heat.

### Results

Table 4, Summary of the Fired Clay

Classification	NoF	W (g)
Flat surfaces	11	308
Misc	11	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>321</b>

### Provenance

Contexts (059) and (060) were assigned to unstratified sherds from the garage and Plot 2. Fired clay came from the fills of feature [018], linear [120] and gully [093].

### Range

Although lacking any diagnostic shape, most fragments have surfaces and a combination of features that indicate their use as lining for a hearth/furnace or in some industrial process such as iron smithing or brick manufacture, of which evidence for both industries was recovered from the site.

### Potential

The fired clay poses no problems for long-term storage and should be retained. No further work is required on the assemblage.

### Summary

A small collection of fired clay was collected from the site. This provides evidence of possible industrial activity on the site.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

### Introduction

A total of 44 (7221g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

### Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from (014), a fill of [015], (023), a fill of [024] and (031) a fill of [032], all pits in the Garage Plot. Unstratified material was retrieved from both the Garage Plot (059) and Plot 2 (060). Further remains were retrieved from Plot 1, from layer (119), a fill of gully [120] - (061), and (064) a fill of feature [106].

### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

### Results

Table 5, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
014	sheep/goat	molar	1	1	
023	cattle	pelvis	1	361	
	cattle	humerus	1	374	
031	cattle	mandible	1	433	
059	pig	humerus	1	64	
	sheep/goat	vertebra	1	3	
	large mammal	?pelvis	1	35	
060	cattle	femur	1	65	

	cattle	metacarpus	1	140	
061<1>	unidentified	unknown	1	<1	Calcined
064	cattle	humerus	3	444	Juvenile, all from the same beast
	cattle	vertebra	8	132	
	cattle	metatarsal	1	136	
	cattle	astragalus	1	55	
	cattle	ribs	4	25	
	cattle	?pelvis	2	43	
	cattle	femur	2	36	
	cattle	metacarpal	1	12	
119	cattle	pelvis	4	331	Juvenile, all from the same beast
	cattle	vertebra	5	91	
	cattle	ribs	2	17	
	cattle	metacarpal	1	11	

### Summary

The assemblage is dominated by the burial of two juvenile calves. Cattle still account for the larger proportion of the animal remains with sheep/goat and pig also represented. The bone should be retained as part of the site archive.

### OTHER FINDS

*By Gary Taylor*

### Introduction

An assemblage of other finds, together weighing 1614g, was recovered. A total of 18 items were collected during manual excavation, while numerous (>100) small items were retrieved by sampling.

### Condition

All of the other finds are in good condition, though some of the industrial residues are a little crumbly.

### Results

*Table 6, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
003	Industrial residue	Fuel ash slag	1	23	
014	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag, plano-convex hearth bottom	1	246	
	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag	1	3	
	Ferrous concretion	Ferrous concretion/ironstone	2	2	
023	stone	Natural limestone	1	153	
	Fire residue	Fire residue (peat?)	1	50	
060	stone	Natural limestone with area of localised wear on 1 surface	1	222	
	stone	Natural limestone	1	111	
	Iron	Sheet iron, possible blade, extremely encrusted	1	63	
	Stone?/Industrial residue	Vitrified stone or tile with ferrous encrustation	1	40	
061	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag, plano-convex hearth bottom	3	294	
	Industrial residue	Comminuted iron smithing slag and hammerscale	-	101	
063	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag, plano-convex hearth bottom	2(link)	189	
065	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag, plano-convex hearth bottom	2(link)	117	

### Provenance

The industrial residues were recovered from the Garage Plot - silt layer (003), a probably a roddon deposit, (014) a fill of pit [015] and (023) a fill of pit [024]. Only unstratified industrial residues were retrieved from Plot 1 (060). In Plot 1 three contexts produced industrial residues, (061), (063) and (065), fills of gullies and probable gullies [120], [124] and [093] respectively. Deposit (063) was probably the same as (061).

**Range**

Industrial residues, almost all of it from iron smithing, dominate the assemblage. A little unusually, most of this iron smithing debris is provided by plano-convex hearth bottoms and there is little of the light and vesicular slag that normally dominates smithing assemblages, though small fragments of this material were recovered by sampling. This may suggest some variation in the dumping of the different residue types.

There is also a piece of fuel ash slag. This material can be produced in any high temperature process where silicates in clay come into contact with alkali fluxing compounds, such as those found in plant ashes. As a result, they are not necessarily indicative of metallurgical processes (Jones 2001, 21). However, in this instance, given the association with iron smithing residues, this fuel ash slag is probably also a residue of metallurgical activity.

**Potential**

The assemblage has moderate potential and indicates iron smithing at the site.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 7 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 7, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
017	Undatable	Single sherd
023	16th to 17th	Date on a single sherd
031	16th to 18th	Date on CBM
048	16th to 18th	Date on CBM
059	Unstratified	
060	Unstratified	

**ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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## ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

*Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery*

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
017	MISC	Reduced fine sandy	?	1	1	7		BS	Reduced with oxidised surfaces; frequent fine background quartz up to 0.1mm + occasional fe up to 0.2mm + fine calc with occasional larger + common carb veg + possible erratic?	?
023	GRE	Oxidised; medium sandy	Jar/ pipkin	1	1	6		BS	Internal glaze	16th to 17th
059	BL	Oxidised; fine sandy	Bowl	1	1	195		Rim	Square rim	17th to 18th
059	BOU	Smooth + ca	Jar/ bowl	1	1	1		BS		15th to 16th
059	GRE	Oxidised; medium sandy	Bowl	2	1	36	Horizontal rilling	Rim + BS	Complex rim; abraded	17th
060	BL	MP type	Jar/ bowl	1	1	40		BS		17th to 18th
060	CIST		Jug	1	1	42		BS		16th
060	WHITE		Dish/ bowl	1	1	7		BS	Abraded	19th to 20th

*Archive catalogue 2, Fired Clay*

Cxt	Sample	Classification	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Comment
017		Misc	Oxidised; fine sandy + fe	1	3	Abraded
059		Flat surfaces	Oxidised; fine sandy + mica	1	6	Flake; soot; ?ID or CBM
059		Misc	Oxidised; calcareous	1	5	Abraded
060		Flat surfaces	Oxidised; fine sandy + mica + ca	1	27	Abraded; ?ID or CBM
061	1	Misc	Various	9	5	Tiny frags; some soot/fuel ash; some heat affected
061		Flat surfaces	OX/R; fine sandy + mica + fe	1	14	Patchy soot; heat affected?; lining/industrial material?
061		Flat surfaces	OX/R; fine sandy + mica + fe	4	122	Some surfaces; heavily burnt with fuel ash accumulation; lining/industrial material?; some residue/salt surfaces
065		Flat surfaces	OX/R; fine sandy + mica + carb veg	4	139	One piece possible rounded corner; possibly slightly burnt/re-oxidised; patchy soot; fuel ash; lining/industrial material



## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<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>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<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>Post hole</b>	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
<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>Roddon</b>	Raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Daily record sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
7	Context register sheets
148	Context record sheets
1	Environmental sample sheet
1	Environmental sample record sheet
14	Sheets containing scale drawings
2	Boxes of finds

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  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

The Collection Accession Number: 2009.17

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CBHH09

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-65340

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.

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