

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during a residential development on land off Bert's Way, Allington, Lincolnshire.
- Extensive cropmarks of settlement, enclosures and land divisions of later prehistoric and Romano-British date have been identified around the village. The current development area is in the medieval core of the village, to the south of Allington Hall. The formal gardens of Allington Hall possibly extended into the development area, which also housed tented accommodation for a World War Two American military hospital
- The watching brief failed to expose any evidence of archaeological activity.

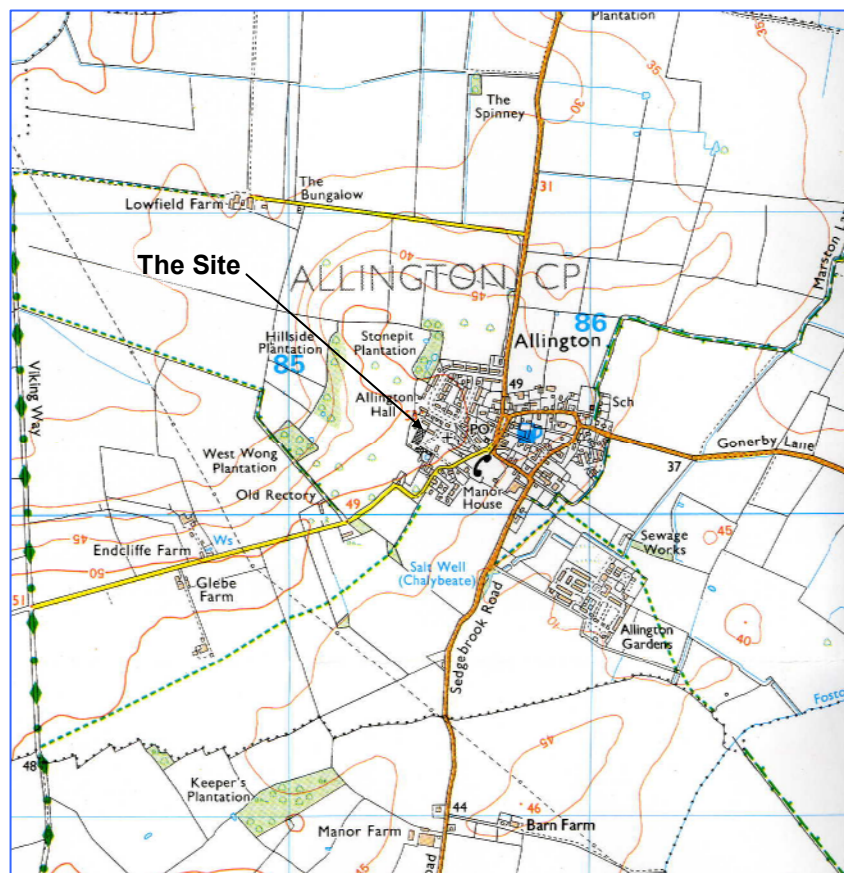


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Bernard The Architect Ltd., on behalf of their client, Mr. Jeff White, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a residential development on land off Bert's Way, Allington, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IFA 1999), as well as a brief prepared by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven, and a specification prepared by this company (Allen 2006).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln, within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Grantham is in the administrative district of South Kesteven, approximately 7km north-west of Grantham. The site is to the west of the village core, and to the south of Allington Hall. Bert's Way defines the southern and western edges of the development area, with a cottage and garden to the east.
- 2.2 The development area forms two plots (nos. 10 and 11) of a larger residential development on both sides of Bert's Way. The site slopes downwards slightly from north-west to south-east and lies at a height of c.52m above OD. It centres on NGR SK 8545 4025.
- 2.3 The local geology comprises Jurassic deposits of the Scunthorpe Mudstone formation, principally Stubton Limestone (British Geological Survey 1972).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the construction of two dwellings with garages. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all associated groundworks (planning ref. S06/1359).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 Extensive cropmarks, including linear features, enclosures and hut circles in Allington parish suggest later prehistoric or Romano-British field systems and settlement, located to the south and south-west of the village, around Salt Well (HER ref. 35180) and Glebe Farm (HER refs. 304040, 34259). Further cropmarks of probable later prehistoric date have been identified by aerial photography to the north-east of the village (HER ref. 35177).
- 4.2 The place name suggests a possible high status settlement in the Anglo-Saxon period. It is derived from the Old English elements *aetheling*- and *-tun*, meaning 'the village of the princes/noblemen' (Cameron 1998). In the Domesday Book, the landowners were Robert of Tosny and Berengar of Tosny, both of whom had a church within their estates in Allington. Robert Malet was also a landowner in the parish (Morgan & Thorne 1986).
- 4.3 Until 1872, when they were merged, Allington was divided between the two parishes of East and West Allington, each with its own church. This is a situation that is likely to have developed from the two Domesday estates which owned churches. The church of St. Andrew in East

Allington was demolished in 1953, while the church of Holy Trinity is located less than 100m to the east of the site (Pevsner & Harris 1989).

- 4.4 Allington Hall, to the immediate north of the site, is of 17th century date, although has been considerably altered since (*ibid.*). It is believed that the formal gardens of the Hall originally extended into the area of the site. Allington Hall also served as a military hospital in World War Two for the American army and Bomber Command, and had tented accommodation constructed, which extended into the development area (www.granthamtoday.co.uk)

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks were carried out using a 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a 0.8m wide toothless bucket. The depth of the footings varied between 0.6m and 1.5m. The groundworks for Plot 11 were monitored on February 22nd and 23rd, and Plot 10 was monitored on March 16th 2007.
- 5.2 During excavation, all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on standard watching brief record sheets, and sample sections of the stratigraphic sequence were completed at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.3 A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The stratigraphy was uniform throughout the two plots. The uppermost deposit across the development area was a topsoil layer upto 0.55m deep, 01. Levelling of the area of Plot 11 prior to the excavation of the footings had completely removed this deposit in the north-west corner of the plot. The topsoil directly overlay the natural geology, 02. This material appeared in alternating bands of (02)a, an orange/brown sandy clay, and (02)b, a deposit of brownish grey compact clayey sand laminated with bands of grey mudstone.
- 6.2 The only variation to this natural sequence was a large dump of modern scrap metal and building material, exposed in the north-east corner of Plot 11.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 No archaeologically significant features, deposits or artefacts were identified during the fieldwork. The watching exposed a modern topsoil deposit, which directly overlay the natural geology. The greater than usual depth of the topsoil was probably due to the use of the site as a nursery occupied by greenhouses prior to its construction. There was no evidence relating to the use of the site as a military hospital in World War Two, or earlier garden features relating to the adjacent Allington Hall.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It demonstrated that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Bernard the Architect Ltd. for this commission, and for the co-operation of Mr. Jeff White and his staff throughout the project

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1972. *Grantham. England and Wales Sheet 127. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Cameron K., 1998, *A dictionary of Lincolnshire place-names*, English Place-Name Society, University of Nottingham, Nottingham

Morgan P., & Thorn C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester

Pevsner N., & Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, second edition*, Penguin, London

11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months, where it will be stored under the unique archive code 2007.1.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the development area, looking north from the south-east corner of Plot 11.



Plate 2: Representative section, north-west corner of Plot 10 (figure 4). Looking north-north-east.

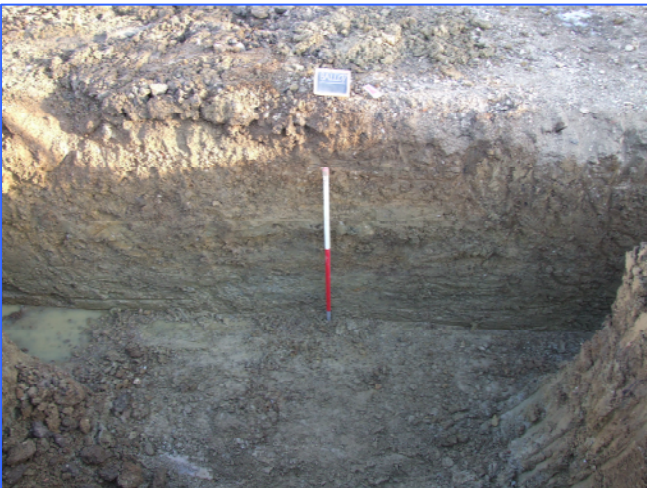


Plate 3: Representative section, south side of Plot 11 (figure 5). Looking north-north-east.



Plate 4: Stripped area at the north-west corner of Plot 11. Looking north-north-west.

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	Layer	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, occasional gravel. Topsoil
02a	Layer	Orange/brown sandy clay, occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Natural deposit
02b	Layer	Brownish/grey sandy clay, compacted laminated banding. Natural deposit