

Thatched Cottage, Lowthorpe Road,

Southrey, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

And

ALLEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

For

Mr & Mrs Pache

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 7th and 13th of July 2005 on a development area to the rear of an existing listed building of timber-framed mud and stud construction called 'Thatched Cottage', off Lowthorpe Road in Southrey, Lincolnshire. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of foundation trenches for the erection of an extension to the cottage, measuring approximately 11.5m by 5m.

There has been no previous archaeological work done in the vicinity; however, the creation and development of the village indicated some potential for remains of the late Saxon period onwards. Also, chance discoveries of prehistoric artefacts in the Witham Valley show some limited activity in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

The foundation trenches revealed the remains of a pond of probable medieval date that was similar in date to the formation of a substantial layer that formed in marginal conditions. Pottery evidence and the dating of elements of 'Thatched Cottage' suggested that the site was sufficiently dry to allow habitation from the seventeenth century onwards. The foundation trenches also showed that the natural slope downwards towards the river to the south is now much more gradual due to the build-up of sediment prior to and during the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing listed building of timber-framed mud and stud construction (known as ‘Thatched Cottage’) fronting onto Lowthorpe Road in Southrey, Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

1.1 Commissioning Bodies

The project was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Pache. The archaeological contractor was Network Archaeology Ltd, a professional archaeological organisation which provides consultancy advice and undertakes field services.

1.2 The Development

Ground-disturbing development activities included the demolition of an extant nineteenth-century extension and the excavation of a series of foundation trenches for the new extension and a detached garage, using a 180° back-acting excavator. A comprehensive repair of the fabric of the Listed Building, including re-thatching and renewal of the mud work, also formed part of the development project.

The foundation trenches were excavated below the current ground surface, to approximately 1.0m deep and approximately 0.6m wide.

1.3 Legislation, Regulations and Guidance

A planning application (ref. M04/P/0374) and Listed Building Consent Application (ref. M/04/P/0380) were submitted, and permission for the development was granted by Lincolnshire County Council on 27th July 2004, subject to the condition that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during the groundworks.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Investigation

No previous archaeological investigations had been carried out prior to the development at Lowthorpe Road and the adjacent land to Lowthorpe Road, Southrey.

1.5 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric occupation of the Witham fens in this locality is attested by the chance discovery of flintwork and other artefacts from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Sutrieie*, indicating that its origins lie in the Anglo-Saxon period. The name is derived from the Old English elements *sūtherra* and *ēg*, meaning ‘Southerly island’ (Mills, 1996). At the time of the Domesday Survey there were three major landholders: the Bishops of both Bayeux and Lincoln, and Roger of Poitou. Domesday Southrey was not a manor in its own right, but a collection of minor landholdings attached to other manors, where a small population was engaged in agriculture and fishing (Morgan and Thorn, 1986).

Earth was widely used as a construction material in medieval and post-medieval vernacular buildings. Structures incorporating clay or daub (clay mixed with strengthening materials such as horsehair and manure) on a timber frame are known as 'mud and stud' in the East Midlands: the term dates from Elizabethan times, but this type of architecture remained in use for labourers' cottages in Lincolnshire until the mid-nineteenth century. Most houses of this type were built by the poorest members of the rural community for themselves, probably with the help of relatives and neighbours, on common or waste ground. The minimal use of timber cut down construction costs, but imposed structural limitations: a second storey was a challenge seldom attempted. Mud and stud buildings are mentioned specifically in the East Midlands Research Framework, where they are described as a category of building special to Lincolnshire, surviving chiefly in the district of East Lindsey: the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record lists 137 examples, of which only 45 are in other districts. About half of the known mud and stud buildings in the county have already been demolished, and others subjected to unsympathetic conversion, probably due to their small size, which is insufficient for modern domestic use (Savage, 2009).

No reference to a parliamentary enclosure act for Bardney parish (normally associated with extensive land drainage and reclamation programmes) could be located, but the draining, embanking and improvement of the fen lands and low grounds of the parish was enabled by an Act of Parliament of 1844 (Genuki).

1.6 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were:

- to identify the location, extent and nature of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental remains exposed by the works
- to ensure that suitable measures were taken with regard to the preservation or recording of any such remains, as appropriate
- to inform on the likely nature and condition of archaeological evidence in the area for the reference of future development or research projects
- to produce a report on the archaeological findings and their impact on the surrounding environs

1.7 Terms of Reference

This report is intended for the clients, Mr and Mrs Pache. Copies will also be given to the Historic Environment and Countryside Adviser at Lincolnshire County Council, Mrs. Karen Waite, for her approval, and subsequently to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record for public access.

1.8 Resourcing

The development was carried out over two days (7th and 13th July 2005).

The project was overseen by a project manager, whilst the watching brief was undertaken by one project supervisor. Archaeological monitoring was not required during the initial

demolition stage. The post-excavation work was conducted during December 2005 and January 2006.

1.9 Limitations

Visibility of archaeological remains is always a significant factor during a watching brief. Visibility is dependent on many factors including machine type, depth and width of trenches, weather and geology. Although the excavations of the extension and garage were 10m apart, it was clear from the stratigraphy that relationships could be established. Also, the sections were cleaned sufficiently to allow the recognition of any archaeological deposits or features.

1.10 Report Structure

The report has been divided into four main parts.

Introductory section: explaining the background to the project and this stage of investigation.

Results and discussion: description of the archaeology revealed within the development area and how the remains relate to each other.

Conclusions: a synthesis of the extraction area and how it fits within the wider context of its surroundings.

Appendix: pottery and tile archive, context database, three figures and three plates.

1.11 Fieldwork Procedures

1.11.1 Standards

All works conform to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (1985, Revised September 2002), the IFA's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, Revised September 2002), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1994, Revised September 2001). The work was managed in accordance with the methods and practice described in *The Management of Archaeological Projects, second edition* (English Heritage, 1991). The guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' (1998) were also adhered to.

1.11.2 Foundation trenches

A permanent-presence watching brief was carried out by a suitably experienced archaeologist during all excavations of foundation trenches associated with the development. Spoil heaps were also visually inspected for archaeological remains.

1.11.3 Locating Archaeology

The foundation trenches were surveyed by off-setting from the existing standing buildings using 30m tapes.

1.12 Field Records

1.12.1 Project Code

The project code for the watching brief is TCS 05.

1.12.2 Written Records

A system of *pro forma* record sheets that has been developed by Network Archaeology Ltd in a format acceptable to the IFA was used for on-site recording. Multiple-context recording was used for all archaeological deposits and any significant natural deposits located during surface inspection.

1.12.3 Drawn Records

Each drawing produced as part of the scheme was allocated a number in sequence (beginning at 1). All sections and plans were listed together on an overall drawing register. Each sheet containing sections or plans was also allocated a sheet number from a sequence starting at 1.

The drawn records included:

- Excavation area plans at 1:100 scale, detailing the location of foundation trenches in relation to existing standing buildings (provided by client).
- Section drawings at 1:10 and 1:20 scale (as appropriate) of the relevant foundation trenches.

1.12.4 Photographic Records

Colour slide photographs were taken in 35mm format. These included shots of excavated foundation trenches and archaeological features with a full written record made of all photographs taken. The context number, appropriate scales, and a north arrow appeared in all photographs whenever possible. A selection of these photographs is reproduced in Appendix C.

1.13 Post-excavation Procedures

1.13.1 Consolidation of Archive

The archive has been consolidated in accordance with the standards set out in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2, Stage 2) and in the Lincolnshire County Council document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' (1998).

1.13.2 Finds Processing

A total of eleven sherds of pottery and two pieces of tile were recovered from the watching brief.

1.14 Client Report

1.14.1 Figures

Three figures are presented in Appendix B. These comprise one overall A4 location map (Figure 1), a plan showing the development area and archaeology (Figure 2) and section drawings (Figure 3).

1.14.2 Publication

Dissemination of the results will be the final stage of work. This will be in the form of a note in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

1.14.3 Archive and Archive Deposition

The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3) and in accordance with guidelines within the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 1997). The document archive and finds archive are currently housed at the Lincolnshire office of Network Archaeology Ltd, but will be deposited for long-term curation and storage at The Collection, Lincoln City and County Museum. Lincolnshire Historical Environment Record Office will receive a copy of the report. A digital copy of the complete report will be uploaded to OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations) for public reference via the Archaeology Data Service.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

2.1 Location and Topography

Southrey lies just within the south-eastern border of the district of West Lindsey, some 0.42km north-north-east of the modern route of the River Witham, approximately 3.3km south-east of the village of Bardney and c. 16.5km east-south-east of the centre of Lincoln. It was formerly within Bardney parish, and now forms part of Bardney Group Parish. The site, 'Thatched Cottage', is situated towards the south-west end of the village, on the north side of Lowthorpe Road at NGR TF 13615 66537 (Figure 1).

The site, which is relatively level throughout, is slightly raised above the level of the modern road (Lowthorpe Road). The Ordnance Datum for the development area is broadly 5.4m above sea level.

2.2 Composition of the Development Area

The site comprises a rectangular plot of land; with the development area consisting of an 'L' shaped extension to the existing cottage and a stand-alone garage 10m to the north of the new extension. The 'L' shaped extension is approximately 11.2m east to west, and 11.4m north to south. The north to south limb included the removal and rebuilding of an existing extension to the cottage. The garage was broadly square, measuring 6.5m along its longest axis (north to south) and 6.0m east to west (Figure 2).

The site had previously been used as a rear garden area for the property.

2.3 Geology (Solid and Drift)

The solid geology is Jurassic Clays, including Ampthill and Kimmeridge formations. The drift geology is defined as glaciofluvial drift (BGS, 1979).

2.4 Soils and Land Use

The local soil in the area of development is identified as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine and coarse loamy over clay soils (SSEW, 1983).

3 RESULTS

Prior to the commencement of the watching brief, approximately 0.3m of the topsoil horizon was removed by machine excavator in the area of the extension and garage footings. During the watching brief, a series of deposits were identified throughout the development; with archaeological horizons containing cultural material mainly being recorded in the southern half of the groundworks, adjacent to the cottage. A single cut feature, a pond, was exposed in the excavations for the new garage. All of the remains were of probable medieval to late medieval origin.

3.1 Extension footings

(Alluvial sequence)

Adjacent to the cottage, excavation of the footings to c.0.96m below the base of the stripped topsoil (01) revealed a substantial deposit (c.0.9m deep) of grey clayey silt with a moderate abundance of small and medium-sized rounded pebbles, 05 (Figure 3a). This layer, which has been identified as having formed in a wet environment over time, contained a number of pottery sherds that upon inspection were identified as being of medieval date. The earliest sherd proved to be a thirteenth-century Lincoln Glazed Ware, although the majority – Toynton, Bourne D and Late Humber types – were of fifteenth- to sixteenth-century date (see Appendix C). Layer 05 sealed 02, a light brown silty sand with moderate small gravels that was devoid of artefacts. 02 was likely to have been a ‘subsoil’ that had formed naturally. A naturally formed alluvial horizon 03, comprising soft yellowish-grey sand with some small gravels, was exposed at the base of the north end of the recorded section.

The sequence of deposits changed and became more complex further north, away from the cottage (Figure 3b). The topsoil was significantly deeper away from the cottage: at the north end of the extension excavations, although some 0.3m of topsoil 01 had been removed, a further 0.2m remained. Below this, layer 05 was found to be only 0.18m deep, with no artefactual material being uncovered during the excavations. This layer was in turn overlying alluvium 03, which was 0.13m deep. Directly below 03 was 04, a wet and loose deposit of orange sand with moderate gravels, identified as River Terrace Gravels drift geology.

3.1 Garage footings

(Pond 06)

Approximately one-third of the garage footings were found to truncate a former pond that had partially silted up before being backfilled (Figure 3c). The pond, 06, which had a steep, concave, northern side, was not fully excavated due to health and safety requirements, although the break of slope at the base of the trench suggested it was not much deeper than the 1.1m depth of the footings. The lowest exposed fill, 09, was saturated, dark brown coarse silty clay that was clearly distinguished from all other deposits exposed on the site. It is suggested that the layer was a ‘pond mud’ that had formed during the use of the pond. This ‘mud’ was sealed by an olive-grey slightly silty clay, 08, that had formed gradually under little or no energy conditions, and was identified as the gradual silting of the pond, perhaps after it had gone out of use. The pond was then backfilled with 07, grey clayey silt with occasional small and rounded stones. The presence of flecks and pieces of charcoal within the backfill indicates that some

burning was occurring nearby at the time. Two pieces of pottery and two fragments of tile were also found within the backfill. These mainly dated to the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, although one pottery sherd that was recovered from the top of 07 was found to date to the late seventeenth to eighteenth centuries. The pond was found to cut the river terrace gravels 04, which lay immediately below the topsoil 01 (approximately 0.3m below the existing ground level).

4 DISCUSSION

The sequence of deposits from both the extension and garage can be linked on morphological and stratigraphical grounds. Furthermore, the recovery of artefactual material has allowed a comprehensive investigation and interpretation of the deposits. The excavations have showed that the river terrace gravels (04) lie approximately 0.3m below the modern ground surface at the north end of the site (garage excavations), dropping c.0.55m by the time the layer reached the north end of the extension footings. Further south, towards the cottage, although a total depth of some 1.26m of material was excavated in the trench excavations, the gravels were not exposed, indicating that this horizon was dropping still further towards the river.

Overlying the gravels was a 'subsoil' horizon (03) that, due to the natural slope below, was only exposed in the north half of the extension footings. This layer, which may represent episodes of flooding of the Witham to the south, is likely to exist at depth below the cottage. When this deposit was formed cannot be determined, although it pre-dates the formation of 05 above.

Layer 05 shows that the southern half of the site was in a marginal zone at some point during the thirteenth to fifteenth century. Around this time pond 06 was in use, before being backfilled on the 'high ground' at the north end of the site. The recovery of a piece of a seventeenth- to eighteenth-century pottery vessel from the top of the backfilling may provide some clues to when the site was settled as part of the development of the village of Southrey. This would accord with suggested dates for structural elements of the cottage itself that have been identified as possibly originating in the seventeenth century (Richard Ley, historic buildings expert, *pers. comm.*).

5 CONCLUSIONS

A low potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeology was anticipated, and this was confirmed by the findings of the watching brief. The sequence of deposits exposed probably represent episodes of inundation and rising water levels associated with the River Witham before and during the medieval period. Beyond the northern extremity of this formation a single pond indicates some activity during the medieval period, perhaps representing the southern limit of development of the village at this time. Later consolidation of the wetland zone, possibly as late as the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries, allowed the expansion of the village further south towards the river. The earlier of the two dates is perhaps the most plausible as elements of the fabric of 'Thatched Cottage' appear to be of seventeenth century construction.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Network Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the following for their contribution to the project:

Client

Mr and Mrs Pache

Contractor

Mr John Bell Civil Engineering

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Dr Beryl Lott, Historic Environment Manager and County Archaeologist

Mrs. Karen Waite, Historic Environment and Countryside Officer

Network Archaeology Ltd

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Mark Allen Illustrations

7 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd and Allen Archaeological Associates cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unforeseen and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

8 REFERENCES

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<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LIN/Bardney/#History>

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SSEW, 1983, 1:250,000 Soil Survey of England and Wales.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Location	Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Contains	Fill Of	Date
All Site	01	Layer	Grey silty clay with some rounded pebbles. Depth 0.55m.	Topsoil	-	-	Modern
All Site	02	Layer	Brown silty sand with moderate small gravels. Depth 0.20m.	Alluvial subsoil	-	-	Pre-medieval
All Site	03	Layer	Light yellowish-grey sand with moderate small gravels. Depth 0.08m.	'Natural' alluvium	-	-	-
All Site	04	Layer	Loose orange sand with moderate small gravels. Recorded depth 0.27m.	River terrace gravels	-	-	-
All Site	05	Layer	Crumbly grey clayey silt with moderate small and medium sized rounded stones. Depth 0.90m	Urban 'build-up' deposit	-	-	Medieval to post-medieval
Garage	06	Cut	Steep concave-sided cut with flat base. Shape in plan unknown. Recorded depth 1.1m.	Pond	07-09	-	Medieval to post-medieval
Garage	07	Fill	Olive-grey clayey silt with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Depth 0.52m.	Backfill of pond	-	06	Post-medieval
Garage	08	Fill	Compact olive-grey slightly silty clay with no inclusions. Depth 0.44m.	Silting of pond	-	06	Medieval to post-medieval
Garage	09	Fill	Dark brownish-grey coarse silty clay with occasional small gravels. Recorded depth 0.07m	Silting of pond	-	06	Medieval to post-medieval

APPENDIX B: FIGURES 1-3

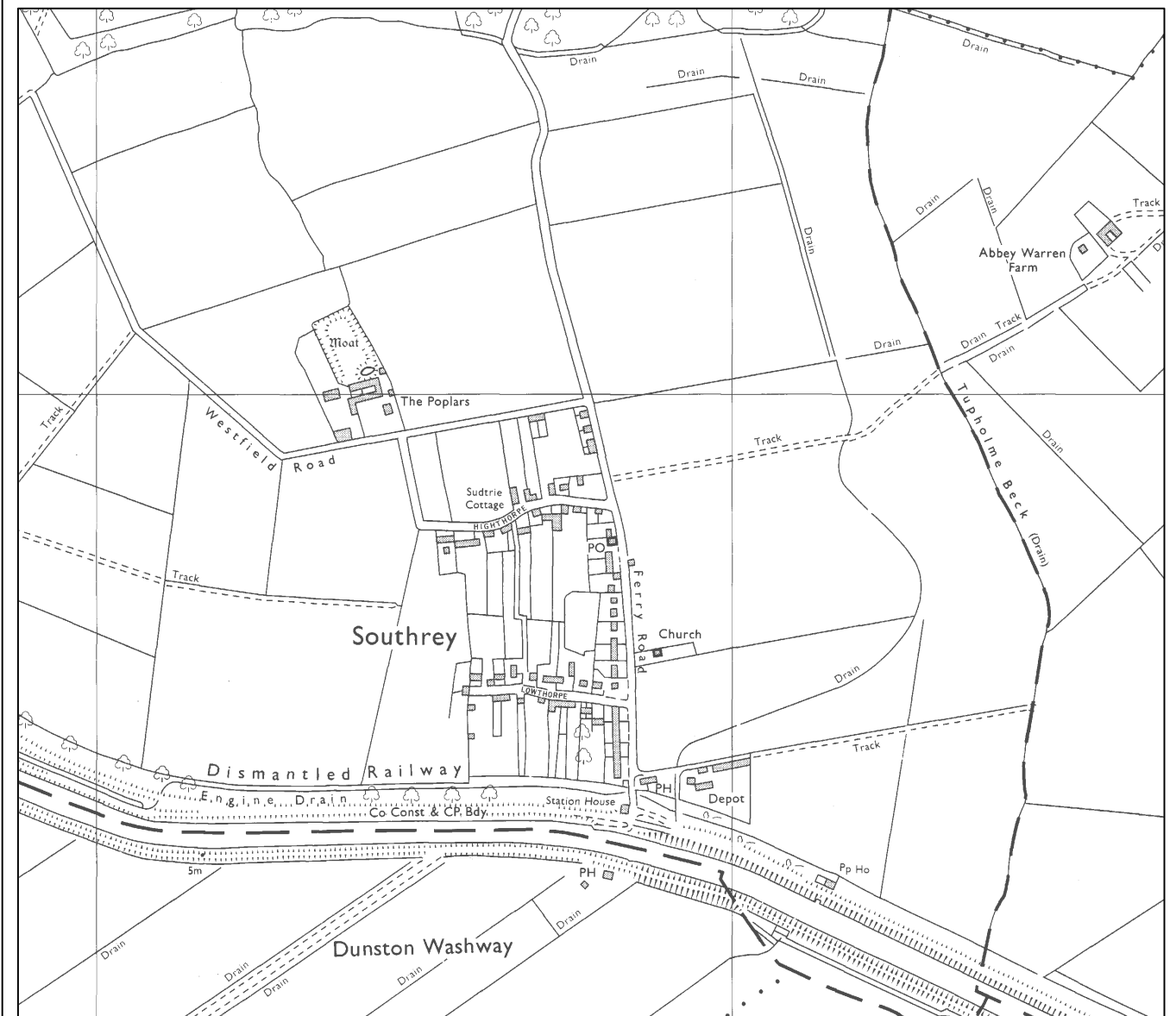
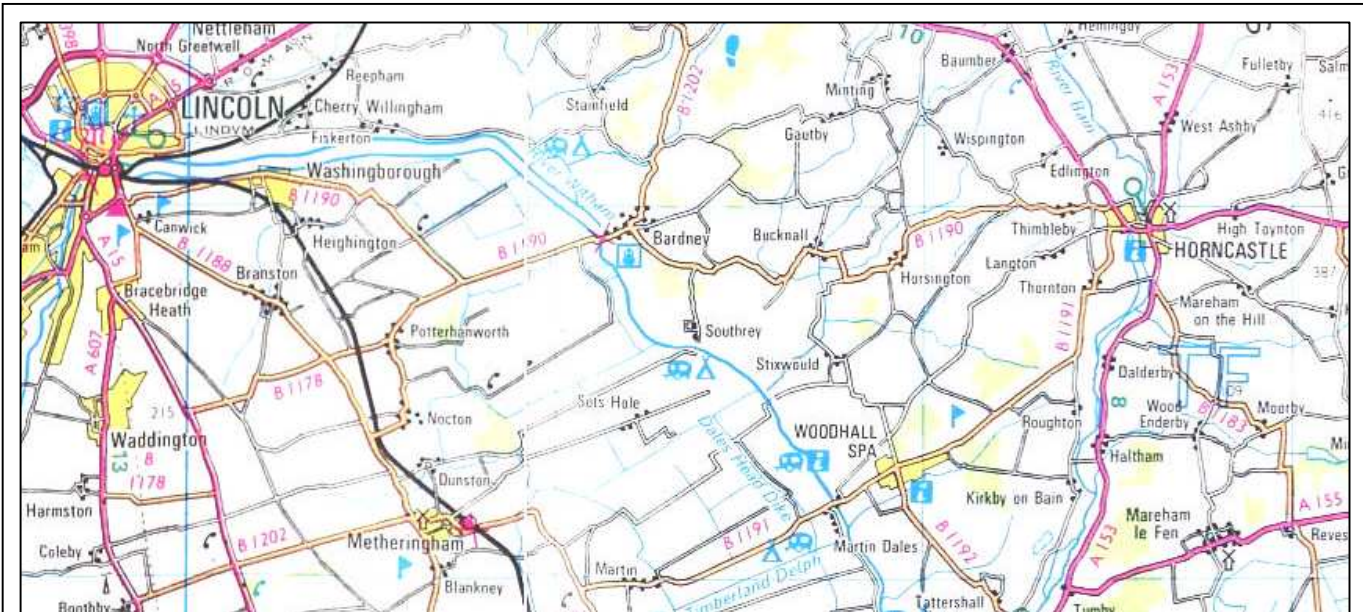


Figure 1: Location of the watching brief site. Main map at scale 1:10,000; upper map at scale 1:200,000. Ordnance Survey copyright licence no. AL100021059.

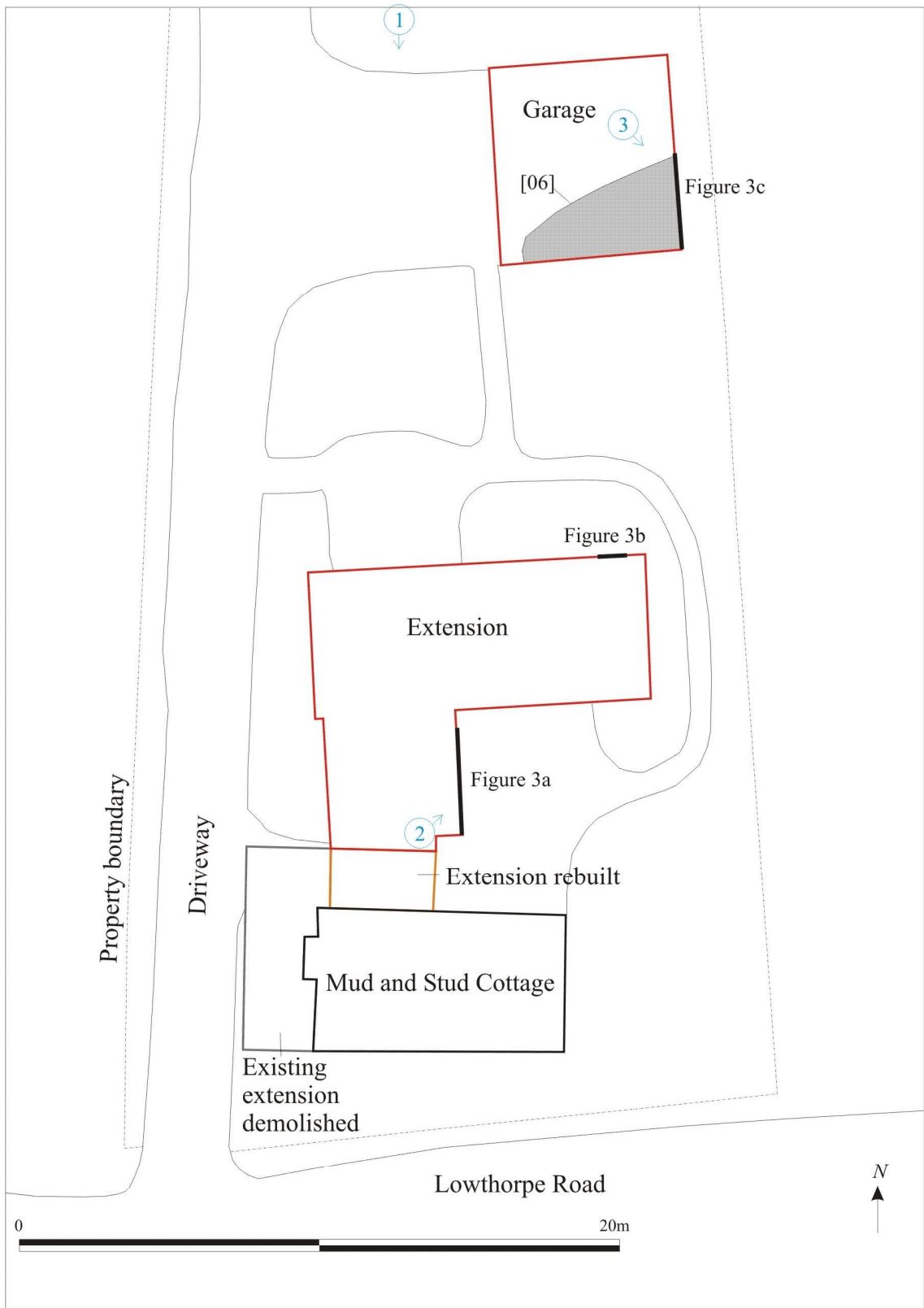


Figure 2: Site plan showing extent of building works and location of sections and plates. Shaded grey area denotes archaeological features. Blue circled numbers represent colour plates (see Appendix C) with arrows indicating direction taken. At scale 1:200

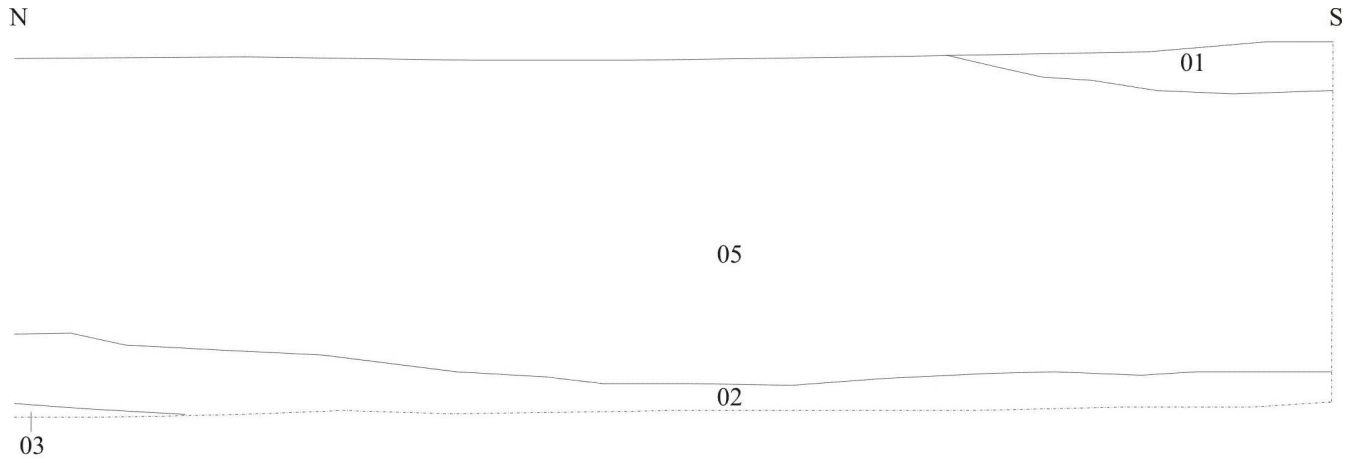


Figure 3a: West facing section through deposits

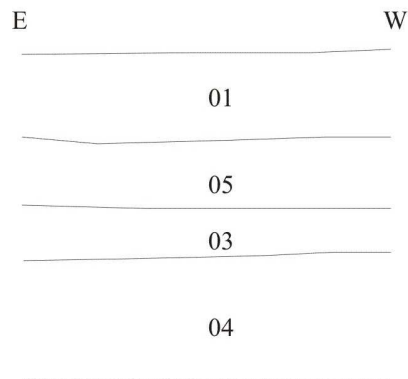


Figure 3b: North facing section through deposits

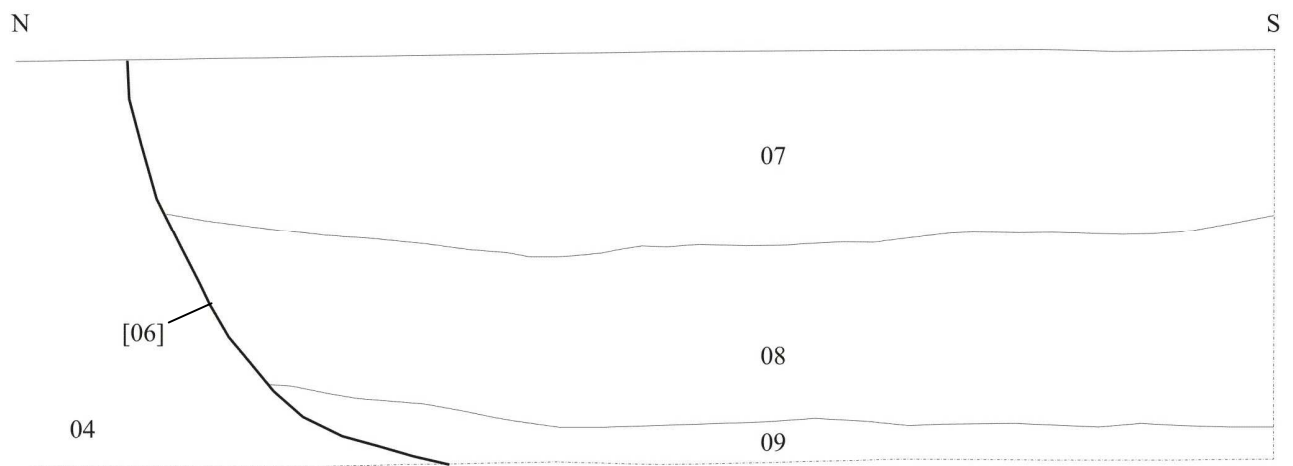


Figure 3c: West facing section through feature [06]



Figure 3: Sections at scale 1:20 (See figure 2 for locations).

APPENDIX C: COLOUR PLATES

Plate 1: Site location shot taken from the northern site boundary looking south, with 'Thatched Cottage' in the background.



Plate 2: Extension footings. West-facing section through deposit 05, looking south-east. Vertical scale is 1m.



Plate 3: Garage footings. West-facing section through pond 06, looking south-west. Vertical scale is 1m.



**APPENDIX D: POTTERY AND TILE
ARCHIVE**

Pottery Archive

site code	context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
TCS 05	05	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	large vessel	1	53	BS	has scar of applied part & incised lines for keying	13th to 15th
TCS 05	05	BOU	Bourne D ware	small jug/jar	1	13	BS	smooth fabric	mid 15th to 16th
TCS 05	05	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	bowl	1	54	rim	everted rim	mid 15th to mid 16th
TCS 05	05	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	jug	1	111	base		mid 15th to mid 16th
TCS 05	05	CMW	Coal Measures whiteware	large jug/jar	1	89	base	stacking scar of jug ? Rim	15th to 16th
TCS 05	05	LHUM	Late Humber-type ware	jug ?	1	34	rim		mid 16th to 17th
TCS 05	05	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	pipkin	1	75	handle	raised central rib;curved end	13th
TCS 05	07	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	jar ?	1	5	BS	external surface leached	13th to 15th
TCS 05	07	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	?	1	3	base		late 17th to 18th

Tile Archive

site code	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
TCS 05	07	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	sandy OX/R/OX	1	92	flat roofer;sanded underside;possibly Lincoln Fabric 7	13th ?
TCS 05	07	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	LSWA	1	18	flat roofer	13th to 15th