Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mr G Biver

July 2019



LAND AT 61 BROADGATE, WHAPLODE DROVE, SOUTH HOLLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

D Trimble

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LAND AT 61 BROADGATE, WHAPLODE DROVE, SOUTH HOLLAND LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: WDBG19
Planning Reference: H23-0710-15
NGR: TF 31804 12923
OASIS ID:

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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LAND AT 61 BROADGATE, WHAPLODE DROVE, SOUTH HOLLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken on land at 61 Broadgate, Whaplode Drove, South Holland, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Mr G Biver to fulfil a condition attached to planning permission by South Holland District Council for the construction of a new dwelling.

The Planning Archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council advised that monitoring and recording was undertaken as the site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, in close proximity to cropmarks of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date. Artefactual evidence indicated that the area was heavily utilised for salt production, probably during the early Roman period.

A pit and a possible ditch were revealed beneath a 0.4m thick sequence of former subsoil\ploughsoil and topsoil. The former topsoil was sealed beneath redeposited silt and topsoil from recent construction activities on the adjacent plot to the south.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken on land at 61 Broadgate, Whaplode Drove, South Holland, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Mr G Biver in order to monitor groundworks associated with construction of a new dwelling. Fieldwork was carried out on the 30th April 2019, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Witham Archaeology and approved by South Holland District Council.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute For Field Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

Whaplode Drove is located 13.5km south-east of Spalding and 7km west of Crowland in the administrative distict of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is located *c.* 600m north of Holbeach Drove at 61 Broadgate and centred on TF TF 31804 12923.

The geology of the area is Jurassic period mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of quaternary clay and silt (British Geological Survey, Solid and Drift, 1:50 000).

3.0 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

For much of the prehistoric period this area of the Fenland was subject to repeated marine transgressions which deposited thick layers of clays and silts within a salt marsh environment. Not until the late Iron Age to Roman period did the area become accessible, first for saltmaking and then for settlement (Hayes and Lane, 1992)

During the Anglo-Saxon period, the coastline was marked by a series of villages running eastwards along a low ridge from Spalding, and including Moulton, Whaplode and Holbeach (British Geological Survey

1992). The low ridge would have provided slightly higher and drier ground more suitable to occupation, and the existence of these communities in the Anglo-Saxon period is confirmed by numerous land grants to Crowland Abbey, suggesting that the region was a relatively stable agricultural environment (Sawyer 1998).

Information contained in the county Historic Environment Record indicates that the site lies in close proximity to cropmarks of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date (HER 20236). The extensive survey of the Fenland undertaken by Philips (Philips, 1970) identified numerous sites cropmarks thought to of Romano-British date on the Fenland silts in this area.

Artefactual evidence indicated that the area was heavily utilised for salt production, probably during the early Roman period. Roman finds have been recovered from Elder House located within 500m of the proposed development (HER No.22178). Archaeological monitoring at Morningside Nurseries off Dog Drove located approximately 500m west of the proposed development recovered Roman pottery from the fill of a small ditch (Mellor, 2015). Archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during groundworks associated with construction at 91 Broadgate located approximately 250m to the south of the proposed development, was archaeologically negative (Jefferson, 2016)

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification were to:

- Ensure that an appropriate level of archaeological supervision and recording was implemented during groundworks associated with the installation of the cabling.
- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The groundworks consisted of excavations for footing trenches for a dwelling measuring c.12m x 8.50m. (Fig. 3).

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 and sections at 1:10, colour digital photographs and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets.

6.0 RESULTS

Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A. Fig. 4 contains an overall plan of the site.

The earliest deposit recorded comprised light brownish yellow silt natural (005), exposed in the base of the footing trenches over the whole plot. A soft, mixed yellowish brown and mid brown silt (005), 0.15m thick, was recorded overlying the natural (Fig 5, Sections 1-3). On the west side of the plot an oval feature [008] measuring 3.5m from south-east to north-west and 3.0m from south-west to north-east was recorded cutting through layer (005) (Fig 5, Section 2). It contained a fill (009)of soft mid brownish grey clayey silt (007) with occasional charcoal.

To the west of feature [008] and towards the centre of the plot, a 2.15m wide, north to south aligned feature [010] was tentatively identified cutting through layer (005) into the natural (Fig 5, Section 3). The feature was possibly identified further to the south, but was only 0.8m wide. It was filled with a soft mid brownish grey clayey silt (009) containing occasional charcoal and may have been a pit or a part of a ditch.

Both of the cut features were overlain by a soft, mid brown clayey silt (004) which had an average thickness of 0.25m and extended throughout the plot (Fig 5, Sections 1-3). In turn (004) was sealed by a soft, mid brownish clayey silt (003) which was 0.30m thick and contained occasional modern brick fragments and pieces of plastic. The latter deposit was topsoil recently buried by deposits introduced by adjacent construction activities.

Over much of the plot, deposit (003) was overlain by a soft, mid yellowish brown and mid brown silt (002) with an average thickness of 0.2m. The latest deposit was a mid brown silt (001), 0.25m thick, with occasional roots, cinders and flecks of charcoal (Fig 5, Sections 1-3). Both (002) and (001) were deposits spread over the site during construction of a dwelling in the adjacent plot to the south.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

A pit and a possible ditch or pit of unknown date, a possible ploughsoil\subsoil and a topsoil sealed beneath recently spread layers from construction activity were recorded during the investigation. As the pit and the pit or ditch were sealed beneath the possible ploughsoil and contained fills with inclusions of charcoal it is possible that they were of some antiquity.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr G Biver for support in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Phillips C.W. (ed.) 1970, *The Fenland in Roman times. Studies of a major area of peasant colonization with a Gazetteer covering all known sites and finds*. Royal Geographical Society Research Series no. 5, Royal Geographical Society, London

Sawyer P., 1998, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire III*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: WDBG19

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: H23-0264-17

FIELD OFFICER: D.Trimble

NGR: TF 31804 12923

CIVIL PARISH: Whaplode

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 30th April 2019

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr G Biver

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln, LN2 1LP

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC : 2019.80

ACCESSION DATE: September 2020

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	10
Plans at Scale 1:50	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1 Sheets
Digital Photographs	6 Shots
Set of Site Notes	2

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of site prior to excavation, looking south-west. Scale 2.0m



Plate 2: Section 1, looking west. Scale 1.0m

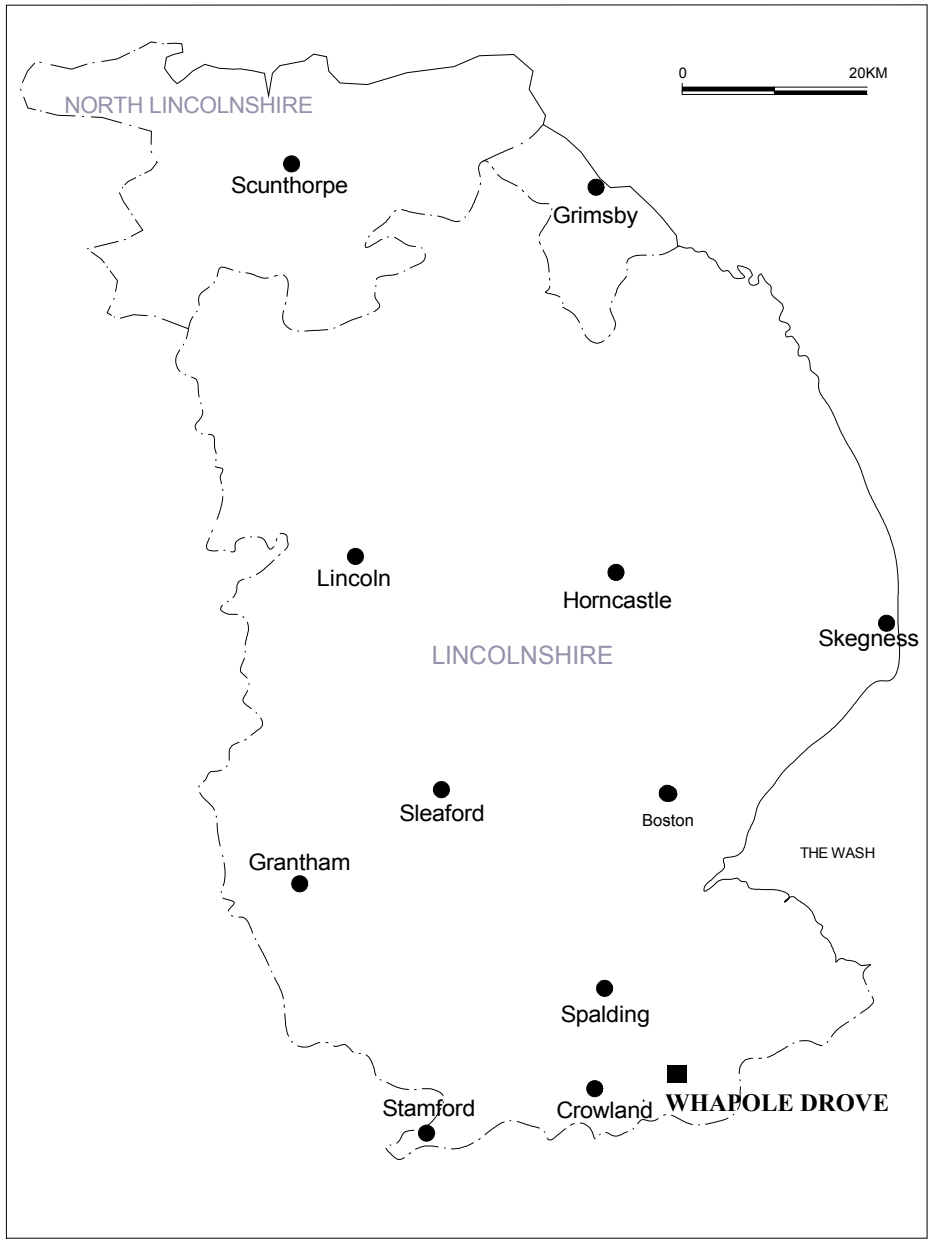


Plate 3: Section 2, looking north-east



Plate 4: General view of site following excavation of footings, looking south-east. Scale 2.0m

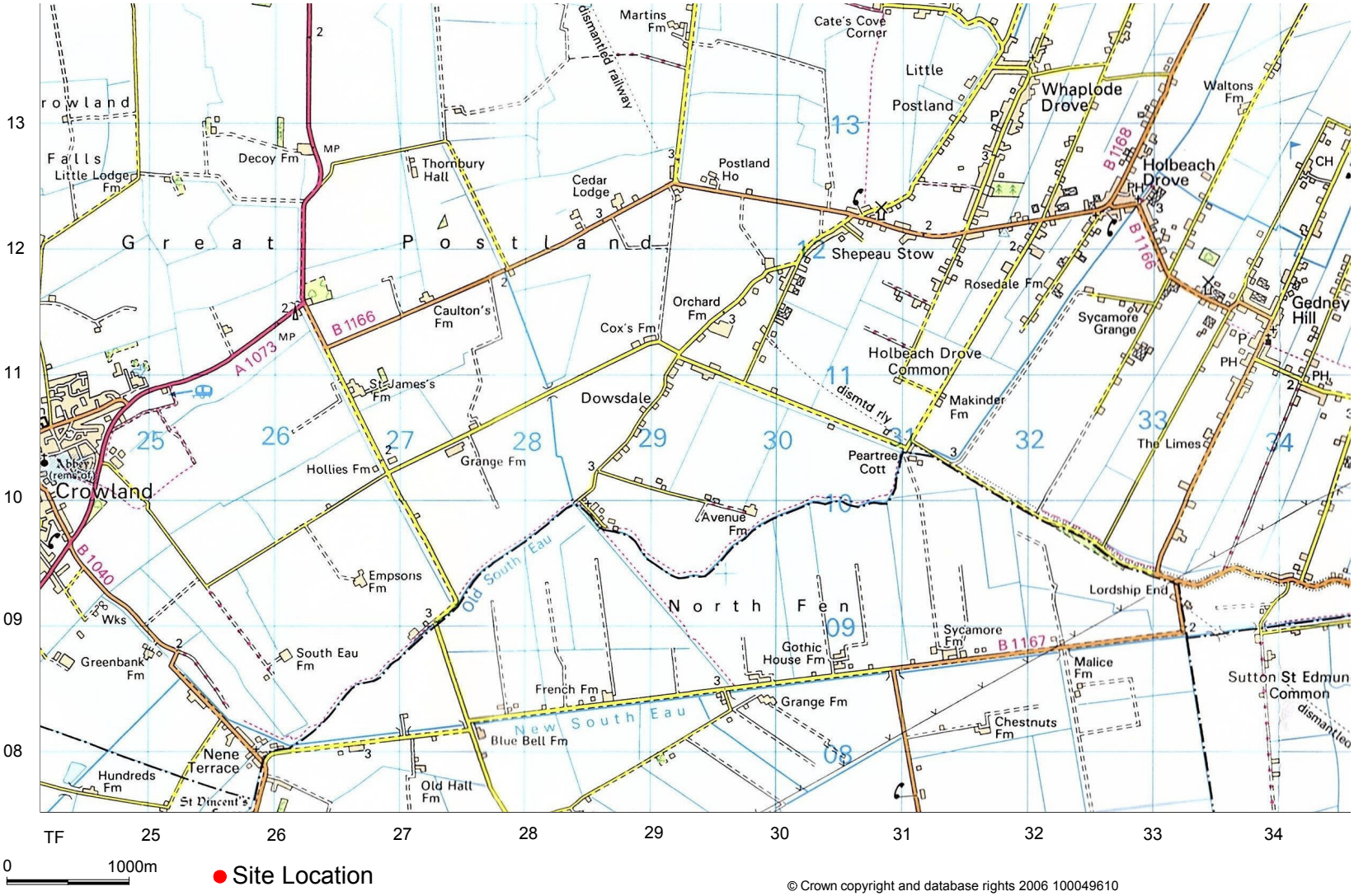




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General location map

Fig. 1

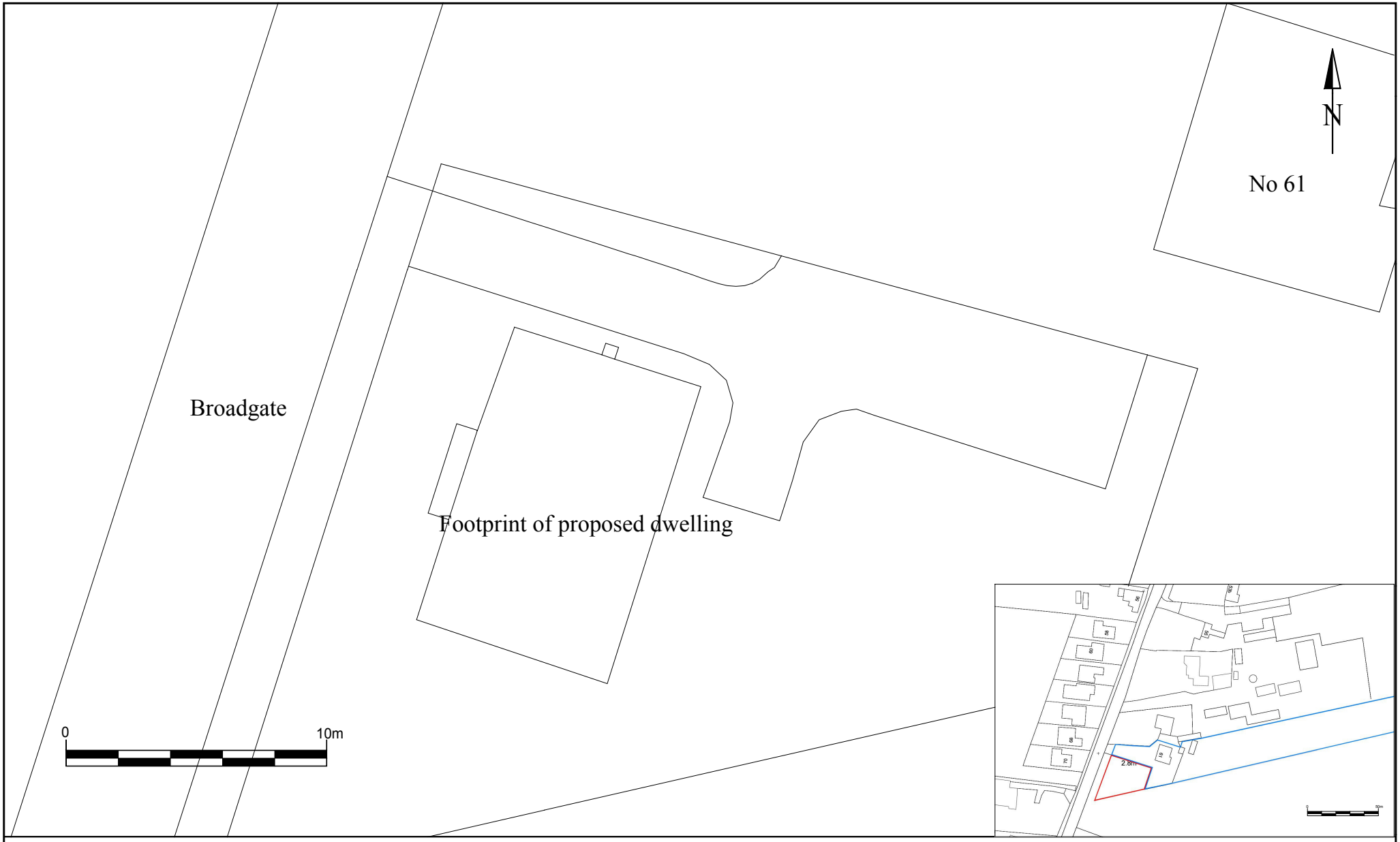


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Site location map Scale 1:50000

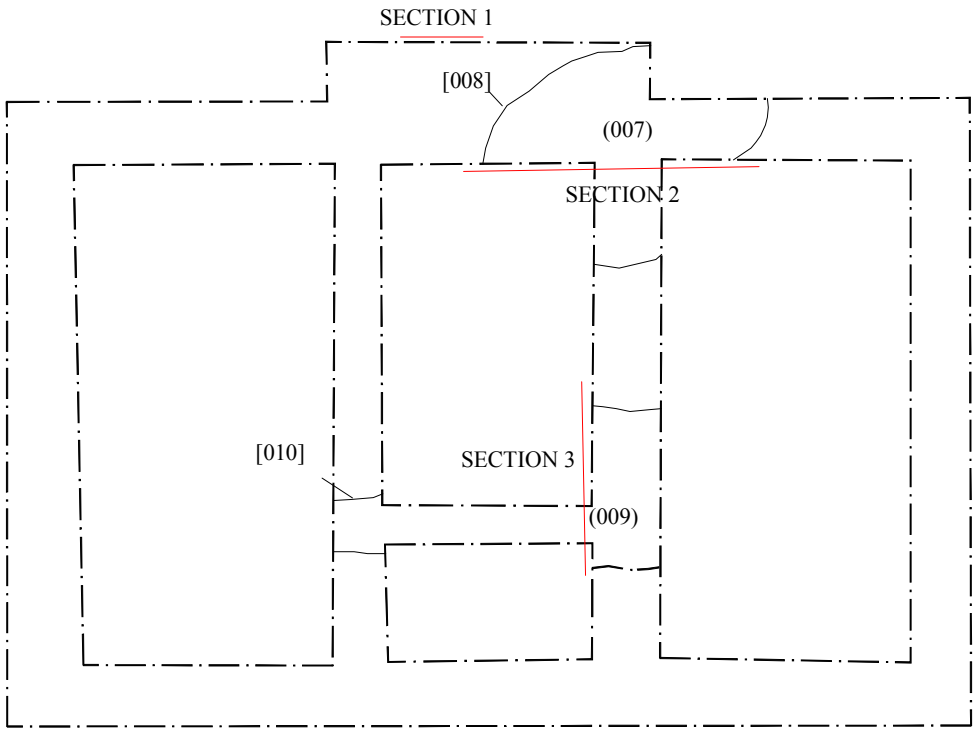
Fig. 2



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Overall plan of development Scale 1:200

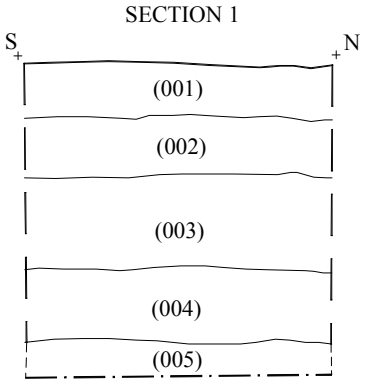
Fig. 3

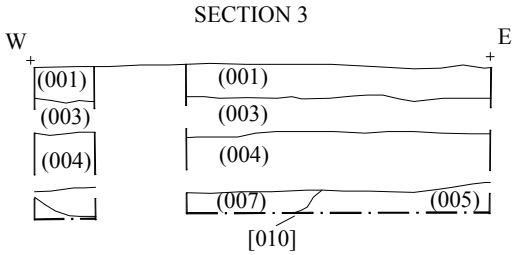


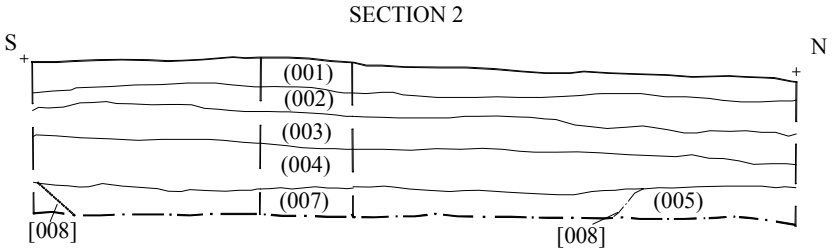
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Plan 1 Scale 1: 100

Fig. 4









Witham Archaeology Showing Sections 1-3 Scale 1:50 Fig. 5

APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Interpretation*
001	Soft, mid brown silt with occasional roots, cinders and flecks of charcoal.	0.25m average thickness	Redeposited soil from adjacent plot
002	Soft, mid yellowish brown & mid brown silt.	0.20m thick	Redeposited soil and natural from adjacent plot
003	Soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing plastic and fragments of modern brick	0.30m thick	Topsoil buried by redeposited material from adjacent plot
004	Soft mid briwn clayey silt	0.25m thick	Subsoil/ploughsoil
005	Soft, mixed yellowish brown and mid brown silt	0.15m	Interface between subsoil/ploughsoil and natural
006	Soft, light brownish yellow silt	Depth not known, exposed in base of trench	Natural
007	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal	0.20m deep	Pit fill
008	Oval to sub-circular cut. Northwest to southeast aligned with gradual break of slope at top of cut	Max known depth 0.2m	Pit
009	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional charcoal.	0.2m max known thickness	Possible ditch fill
010	North south aligned linear feature.	Unexcavated – max known depth 0.2m. Max known width 2.0m	Possible ditch cut

APPENDIX B – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: withamar1-361473

Project details

Project name	Broadgate, Whaplode Drove. Archaeological monitoring and recording
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land at 61 Broadgate, Whaplode Drove, South Holland, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Mr G Biver to fulfil a condition attached to planning permission by South Holland District Council for the construction of a new dwelling. The Planning Archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council advised that monitoring and recording was undertaken as the site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, in close proximity to cropmarks of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date. Artefactual evidence indicated that the area was heavily utilised for salt production, probably during the early Roman period. A pit and a possible ditch were revealed beneath a 0.4m thick sequence of former subsoil\ploughsoil and topsoil. The former topsoil was sealed beneath redeposited silt and topsoil from recent construction activities on the adjacent plot to the south.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2019 End: 30-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WDBG19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	H23-0710-15 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC : 2019.80 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND WHAPLODE 61 Broadgate
Postcode	PE12 0TN
Study area	650 Square metres

Site coordinates	TF 31804 12923 52.697558369333 -0.049324181139 52 41 51 N 000 02 57 W Point

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC : 2019.80
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC : 2019.80
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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