

98/19 neg

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
LAND NORTH OF 22 - 26 MAIN STREET,  
WILSFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

Site Code:	MSW98
LCNCC:	186.98
NGR:	TF 00525 43110
Planning Ref:	N/74/0476/96



Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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Negative.

## Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Location and Description	2
3.0 Archaeological and Planning Context	2
4.0 Methodology	3
5.0 Results	3
6.0 Discussion and Conclusions	4
7.0 Acknowledgements	4
8.0 Appendices	4
8.1 References	4
8.2 Site Archive	4
8.3 List of Contexts	5
8.4 Colour Photographs	6

Report prepared for Mrs J A Dawson,  
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September 1998

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## Summary

## Contents

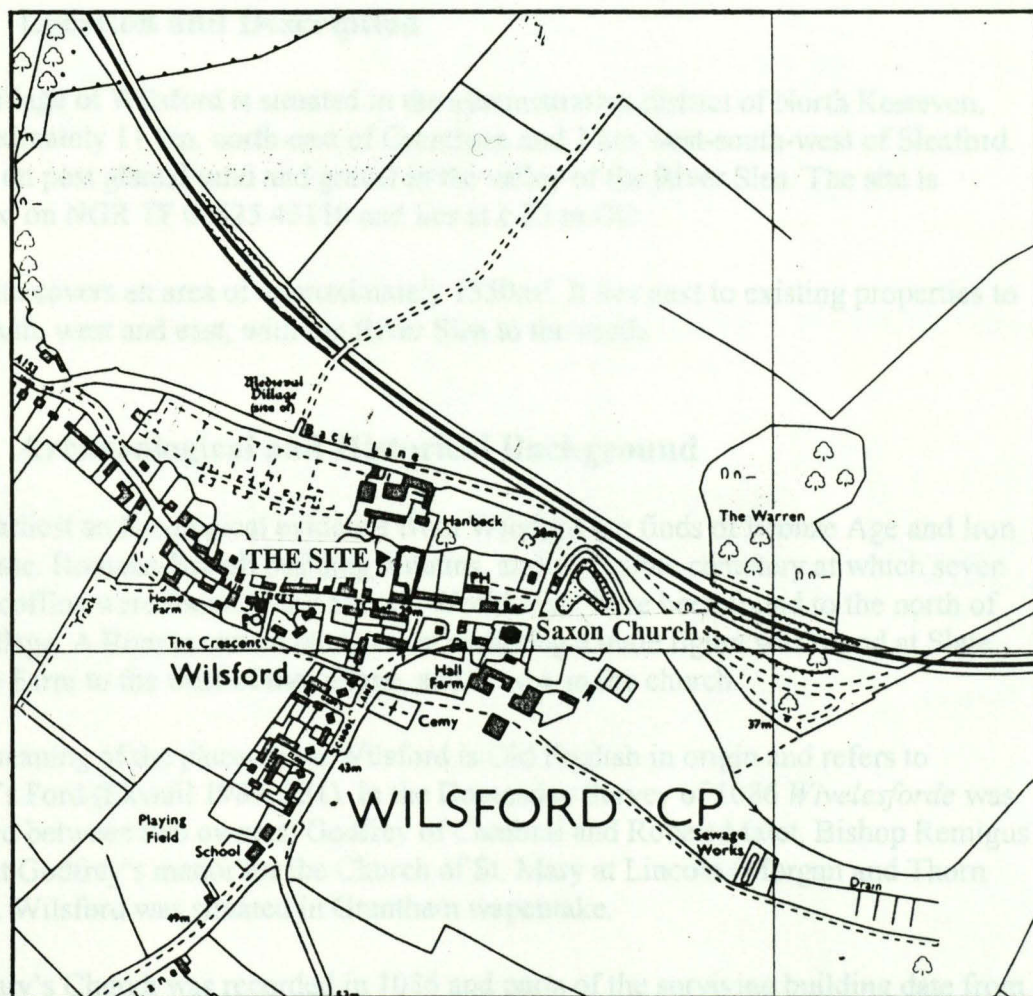
<b>Summary</b>	1
<b>1.0 Introduction</b>	2
<b>2.0 Location and Description</b>	2
<b>3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	2
<b>4.0 Methodology</b>	3
<b>5.0 Results</b>	3
<b>6.0 Discussion and Conclusions</b>	4
<b>7.0 Acknowledgements</b>	4
<b>8.0 Appendices</b>	4
8.1 References	4
8.2 Site Archive	4
8.3 List of Contexts	5
8.4 Colour Photographs	6

Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10,000)  
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### Summary

- \* An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached bungalow on land to the north of 22 - 26 Main Street, Wilsford, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).
- \* The area of the site had been lowered and only nineteenth and twentieth century deposits were exposed.
- \* Due to the absence of archaeological deposits the watching brief was terminated early.



**Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10,000)**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a site to the north of 22 -26 Main Street, Wilsford, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1) during the construction of a single detached bungalow. The work was commissioned by Mrs J A Dawson in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permission for the development (ref. N/74/0476/96).

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

## 2.0 Location and Description

The village of Wilsford is situated in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 11 km. north-east of Grantham and 7 km west-south-west of Sleaford. It lies on post glacial sand and gravel in the valley of the River Sleas. The site is centred on NGR TF 00525 43110 and lies at c.25 m OD.

The site covers an area of approximately 1350m<sup>2</sup>. It lies next to existing properties to the south, west and east, with the River Sleas to the north.

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

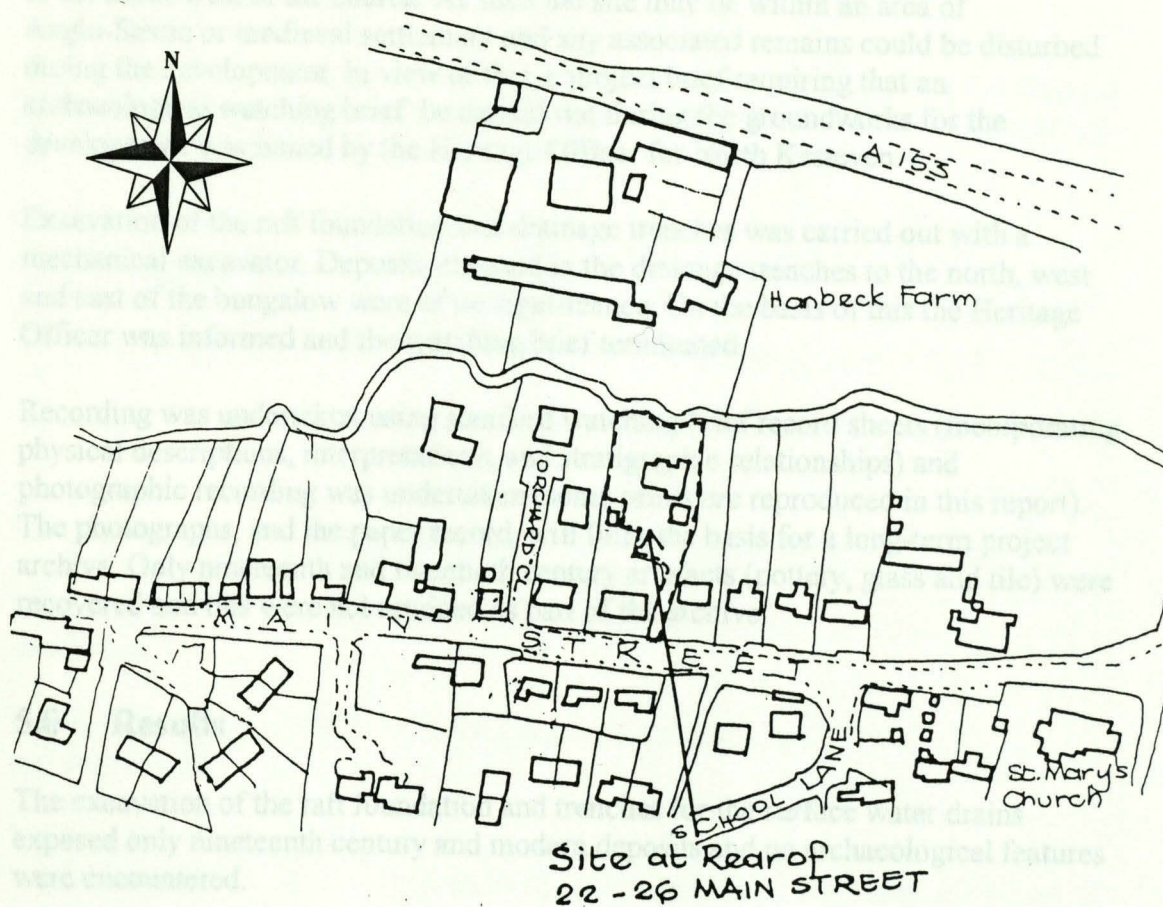
The earliest archaeological evidence from Wilsford are finds of Bronze Age and Iron Age date. Romano-British building remains, and a possible cemetery at which seven stone coffins were found in the Second World War, have been found to the north of the village. A Roman carved stone relief depicting a male figure was found at Slate House Farm to the west of the village, and is now in the church.

The meaning of the place-name Wilsford is Old English in origin and refers to Wifel's Ford (Ekwall 1989, 521). In the Domesday Survey of 1086 *Wivelesforde* was divided between two owners; Godfrey of Cambrai and Robert Malet. Bishop Remigus bought Godfrey's manor for the Church of St. Mary at Lincoln (Morgan and Thorn 1986). Wilsford was situated in Grantham wapentake.

St. Mary's Church was recorded in 1086 and parts of the surviving building date from the late Saxon period. It was restored in the 1860s although a variety of architectural styles survive (Pevsner, Harris & Antram 1995, 801).

During the first half of the twelfth century, Hugh de Evermue founded an alien priory at Wilsford which was attached to the Benedictine abbey at Bec in Normandy. This was seized by the King in 1369, during the Anglo-French wars, and later that century it was bestowed on Bourn abbey. By the time of the dissolution the priory had a fair





**Fig. 2: Site location (1:2500).**



and market at Wilsford; its lands were given to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (Trollope 1863, 28-29).

Wilsford Hall was built in 1649 by Sir Charles Cotterell and was located next to the church. It was converted into a hunting-box by the Duke of Rutland in 1776 and after conversion to a farmhouse it was demolished in 1918 (Mee 1949, 420).

#### 4.0 Methodology

The development site lies within the centre of the village area approximately 150 m. to the north-west of the church. As such the site may lie within an area of Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement and any associated remains could be disturbed during the development. In view of this, a project brief requiring that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the groundworks for the development was issued by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.

Excavation of the raft foundation and drainage trenches was carried out with a mechanical excavator. Deposits exposed in the drainage trenches to the north, west and east of the bungalow were of no significance. On the basis of this the Heritage Officer was informed and the watching brief terminated.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships) and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). The photographs, and the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. Only nineteenth and twentieth century artefacts (pottery, glass and tile) were recovered and these were not retained as part of the archive.

#### 5.0 Results

The excavation of the raft foundation and trenches for the surface water drains exposed only nineteenth century and modern deposits and no archaeological features were encountered.

Across the whole of the site was a 0.4m. thick layer of dark grey brown silt topsoil which sealed a medium brown silt subsoil. This subsoil was 0.3m. thick and contained nineteenth century pottery and glass. The excavation of the raft foundation only removed the topsoil and just exposed the surface of the subsoil. The level of the natural rubbly bedrock was exposed in a drain trench beside a concrete path along the eastern side of the site. Below this path was a thin (c. 0.05m.) band of topsoil (Plate 2). The level of the subsoil and the base of the topsoil were found to be below that of the upper surface of the natural bedrock on the eastern side of the site. This indicated that the whole of the development area had been lowered and levelled at some time in the late post-medieval period.

On the basis of these results it was recognised that the remaining groundworks would not disturb any archaeological deposits and the watching brief was terminated.



## 6.0 Discussion and conclusion

As the watching brief did not expose any archaeological features, it is not possible to draw any conclusions about the site before the late post-medieval period. The site was lowered at some point in time, possibly by shallow quarrying, and subsequent soil build up during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries brought the site up to its present level.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Mrs J A Dawson for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR.

## 8.0 Appendices:

### 8.1 References

- |   |      |  |
|---|------|--|
| Ekwall, E.                                | 1989 | <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names.</i>   |
| Mee, A.                                   | 1949 | <i>The King's England: Lincolnshire.</i>   |
| Morton, J.<br>and Thorn, C                | 1986 | <i>'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book.</i>   |
| Pevsner, N., Harris, J.<br>and Antram, N. | 1995 | <i>The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.</i>   |
| Trollope, E.                              | 1863 | Notes on Sleaford, and other churches in its vicinity, visited by the society in 1863. <i>The Twentieth Report of the Architectural Society for the Diocese of Lincoln.</i> p1-40. |

### 8.2 Site Archive

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of the paper element is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

The site archive consists of :

Paper Element:

- x 1 Project Specification



- x 1 Development plan
- x 1 Colour print film

Object Element:

The only artefacts recovered were nineteenth and twentieth pottery, glass and tile. This material was discarded and not retained for the archive.

8.3 List of Contexts

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 100 | Dark grey brown silt topsoil.                    |
| 101 | Medium brown silt subsoil.                       |
| 102 | Cut and mixed fill of 20th C sewage pipe trench. |
| 103 | Natural clay.                                    |
| 104 | Natural limestone bedrock.                       |

Pl. 1 General view of the development area, looking south.



Pl. 2 Concrete path on east side of the site, resting directly on natural limestone.



#### Appendix 8.4



Pl. 1 General view of the development area, looking south.



Pl. 2 Concrete path on east side of the site, resting directly on natural limestone.