

98/23

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital

NGR SK 9998 8736

undertaken by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

John Roberts Architects Ltd

1 James Street

Lincoln

LN2 1QD

JSAC 394/98/03
November 1998

Site Code : CLO98
Accession No. : 99.98

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone : 01522 880050

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

11 DEC 98

ack 11/12/98

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Monday 7 December 1998

(Jim read one also)

Mark Bennett - SMR Officer
Lincolnshire County Council
Highways and Planning Directorate
Archaeology Section
4th Floor, City Hall
Lincoln LN1 1DN

Dear Mark,

Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital

Please find enclosed a copy of the archaeological watching brief report for the above mentioned site, a copy has also been sent to Jim Bonnor.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

S. Cook

pp Nansi Rosenberg
for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

Enc.

ALOC	
DIRECT	
JFM	
10 DEC 1998	
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ACK	
REF	
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Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

11 DEC 98

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

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*Archaeological Watching Brief
at Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital*

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital**

97/P/0522

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Summary

John Roberts Architects were granted planning permission for the construction of one residential building at Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital. The site is within an area of some archaeological potential and an archaeological watching brief was included as a condition on the planning permission.

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned to undertake the watching brief, which was based on a written specification agreed in advance with the County Archaeological Officer.

The watching brief took place over one day in June 1998 and its results are presented below. The site had clearly been subject to extensive disturbance in the recent past, with backfilled material being present to the full depth of excavation. Quantities of modern porcelain, tile and other ceramics were recovered from the site, along with fragments of glass and metal.

It is concluded that whilst there may have been post-medieval or earlier use of this site, the extent of modern disturbance was such that it was impossible to identify.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 John Roberts Architects Ltd were granted planning permission for the construction of one residential building at Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital. The building covers approximately 120m², with associated drains and inspection chambers, centred on SK 9998 8736.
- 1.2 Planning permission was granted with a condition for an archaeological watching brief due to the archaeological potential of the development site. It is situated 200m to the west of the parish church, which dates in part to the late 11th / early 12th century (SMR 51397; Pevsner *et al* 1989: 596-7). Owmbly-by-Spital is recorded in the Domesday Book at which time there were at least two manors and possibly three (Foster & Longley 1924). The settlement had certainly reduced in size from the 14th until the 19th century (SMR 51398; Everson *et al* 1991 : 38) and aerial photographs have identified a number of former closes, earthworks, field boundaries and ridge and furrow around the village (RCHME survey held in SMR). The development site is within the centre of the village in the area of early enclosure (see Map 1). Since enclosure in 1776, the route of Church Lane has altered slightly, moving eastwards. Its original alignment would have passed through the north-eastern edge of the development site (see Map 1).
- 1.3 Outside the village, a large Iron Age and Roman settlement has been identified adjacent to the A15 at Owmbly Cliff and worked flints have also been found in the area (May 1976 : 90, 163, 191; Whitwell 1970 : 167, 168). This Roman settlement site is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 309). The closest prehistoric or Roman find to the development site is that of a fragment of an Iron Age or Roman quern stone, found in the 1920s (SMR 53982, 51400), 750m to the south-west.
- 1.4 This report was written by Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA, in consultation with Dr John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during groundworks were examined, interpreted and where appropriate and where it was safe to do so, recorded.
- 2.2 A qualified and experienced archaeologist was in attendance during all groundworks associated with the development. Excavation of foundation trenches was observed and the sides and bases of trenches inspected for evidence of cut or built features and artefacts. The excavated spoil was also inspected for artefactual remains.
- 2.3 Record of the site was made by measured drawing, colour print photography and written notes. Any finds were bagged and marked according to their location for later processing.
- 2.4 Specific details of the methodology employed are contained in the specification which is reproduced here as Appendix A.
- 2.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the specification agreed with the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist (JSAC 394/98/02) and adheres to the guidelines laid out in the Lincolnshire County Council *Archaeology Handbook* (1998). National standards and guidelines were followed, including

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994); and

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994).

3.0 Results

- 3.1 The house plot was excavated on 6th June 1998 on the site in question. Excavation was by JCB using a 0.90m toothed trenching bucket. The depths of foundations varied from 1.19m in the south-western corner to 0.78m in the north-west.
- 3.2 The entire area of the new building had been subject to previous ground disturbance, often to the full depth of trenching. A clayey sandy topsoil measuring up to 0.40m in depth overlay the majority of this backfilled material. The natural deposits, where exposed comprised yellow and off-white sands.
- 3.3 Due to the nature of the previous disturbance and the similarity of fills, it was largely impossible to discern individual features, except at their very base (see Photographs 1 & 2 and Figure 2). Quantities of modern pottery, including glazed earthenware, brown stoneware and blue and white china, and tiles were recovered from all areas of the foundations. Metal objects included the blade of a grass cutter, and numerous fragments of modern bottle and window glass were identified.
- 3.4 Only two features were clearly discernible within the trenches. A small v-shaped pit, [001], was identified in the western side of the site (see Photograph 3). It measured 0.60m deep by 0.40m wide. Several sherds of modern pottery were recovered from its fill, including glazed earthenwares, and it was interpreted as a 19th - 20th century rubbish pit. Also on the western side of the site, [002] was roughly rectangular pit measuring 1.40m long x 0.60m wide x 0.80m deep (see Photograph 4). This feature was visible on the surface and had been backfilled with topsoil, orange sand and building rubble. This feature appeared to have been excavated by a mechanical digger and may have been associated with geotechnical investigations associated with the development.
- 3.5 A fragment of dry-stone wall extended 0.15m into the central part of the eastern foundation trench (see Photograph 5). This wall survived to four courses and was constructed of Lincolnshire limestone. There was no evidence to suggest that it had originally extended further into the site.

4.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1 Inspection of historic maps shows that the location of the new building was at the southern end of the property belonging to The Steadings. Immediately to the west lay a large pond and to the east a building associated with the property known as The Retreat. A building also formerly stood to the south of the site. This position, within an area of intense occupation, is likely to have been heavily used for domestic 'backyard' activities. The watching brief has identified vast amounts of disturbance within the site.
- 4.2 Only modern artefacts and features were identified during the watching brief. However, it is possible that modern disturbance has destroyed the remnants of earlier medieval settlement. Owmbly is recorded to have decreased in size from the 14th century and evidence of earthworks to the east and west of the existing village, coupled with the large area of early closes as reproduced in Map 1, indicates that the settlement was considerably larger during the medieval period.
- 4.3 The extent of modern disturbance was too great to determine the existence or otherwise of earlier remains. The features identified seem likely to relate to agricultural or 'backyard' activities, such as rubbish disposal, ponds and allotments. It is concluded that no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.

5.0 Figures, Maps and Photographs

Figure 1 : Location of the site

Figure 2 : Areas and features observed during the watching brief

Map 1 : Extract from Owmbly-by-Spital enclosure award, 1776 (LRO ref: Lindsey encl. 62)

Map 2 : Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" Sheet XLIV.SE, 1891

Map 3 : Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" Sheet XLIV.16, 1906

Photograph 1 : Eastern trench looking south-east

Photograph 2 : Western trench looking north-west

Photograph 3 : Pit [001] looking south

Photograph 4 : Pit [002] looking south

Photograph 5 : Northern trench showing wall remnant

Archaeological Watching Brief
at Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital

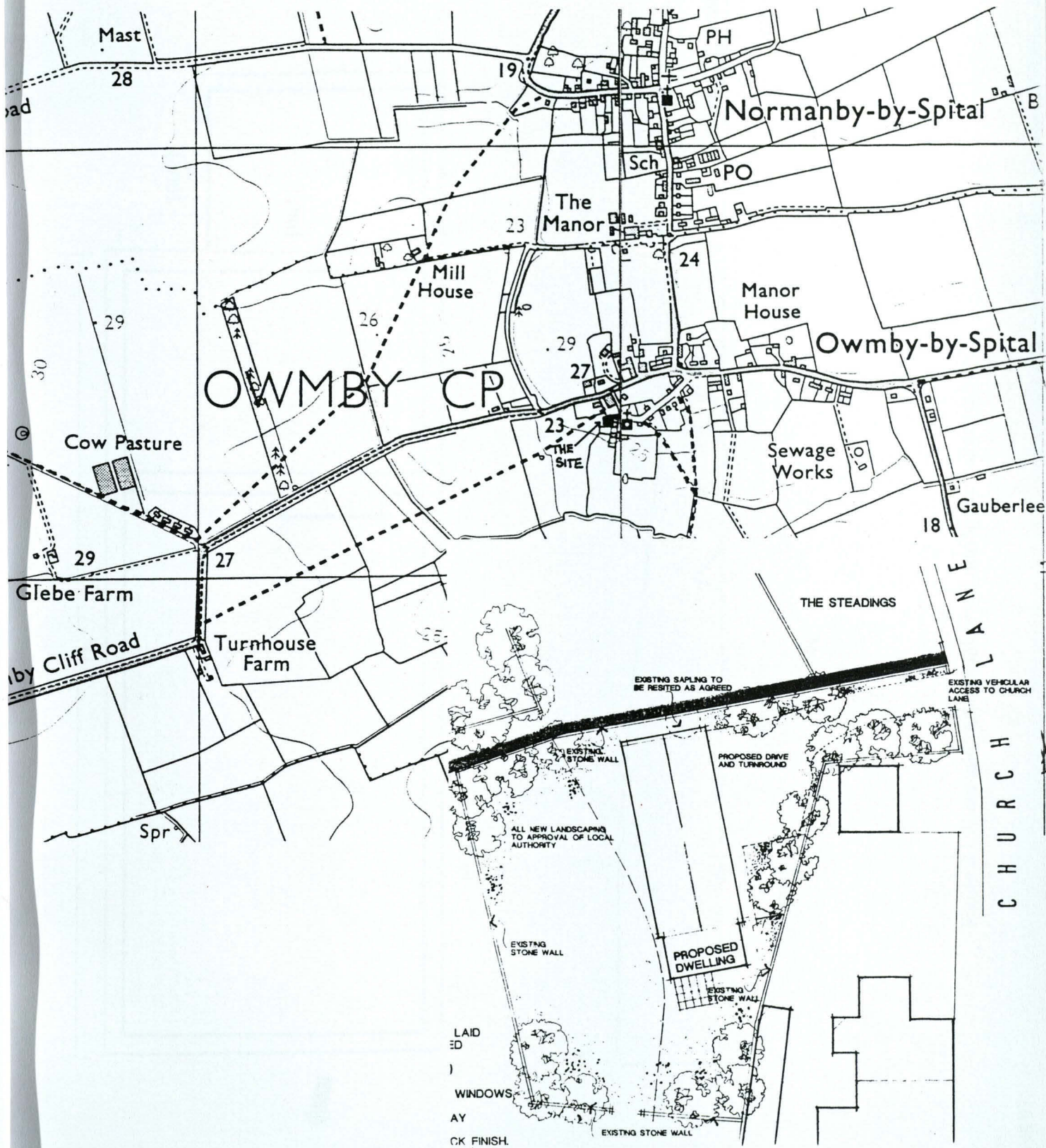


Figure 1 : Location of the site

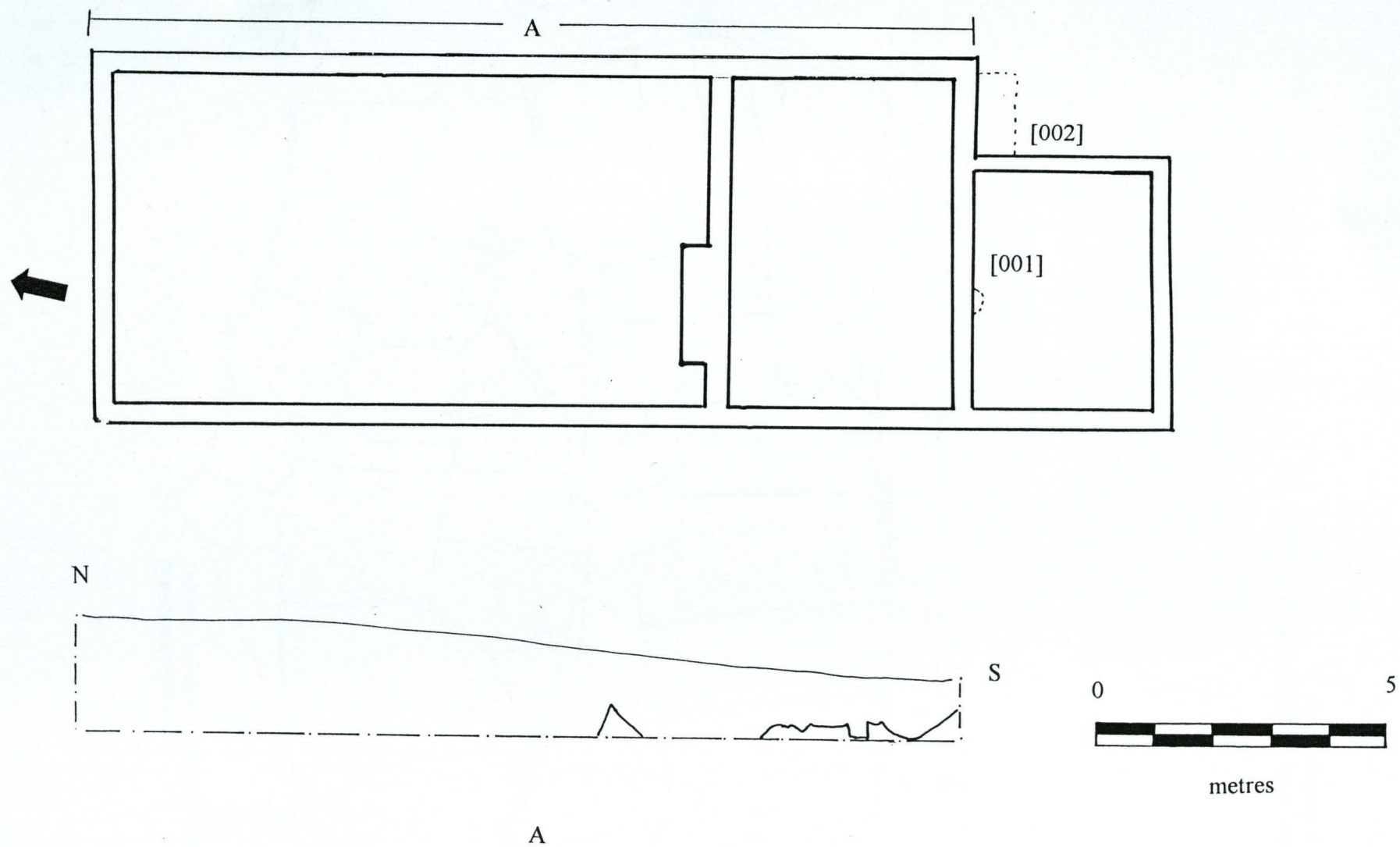
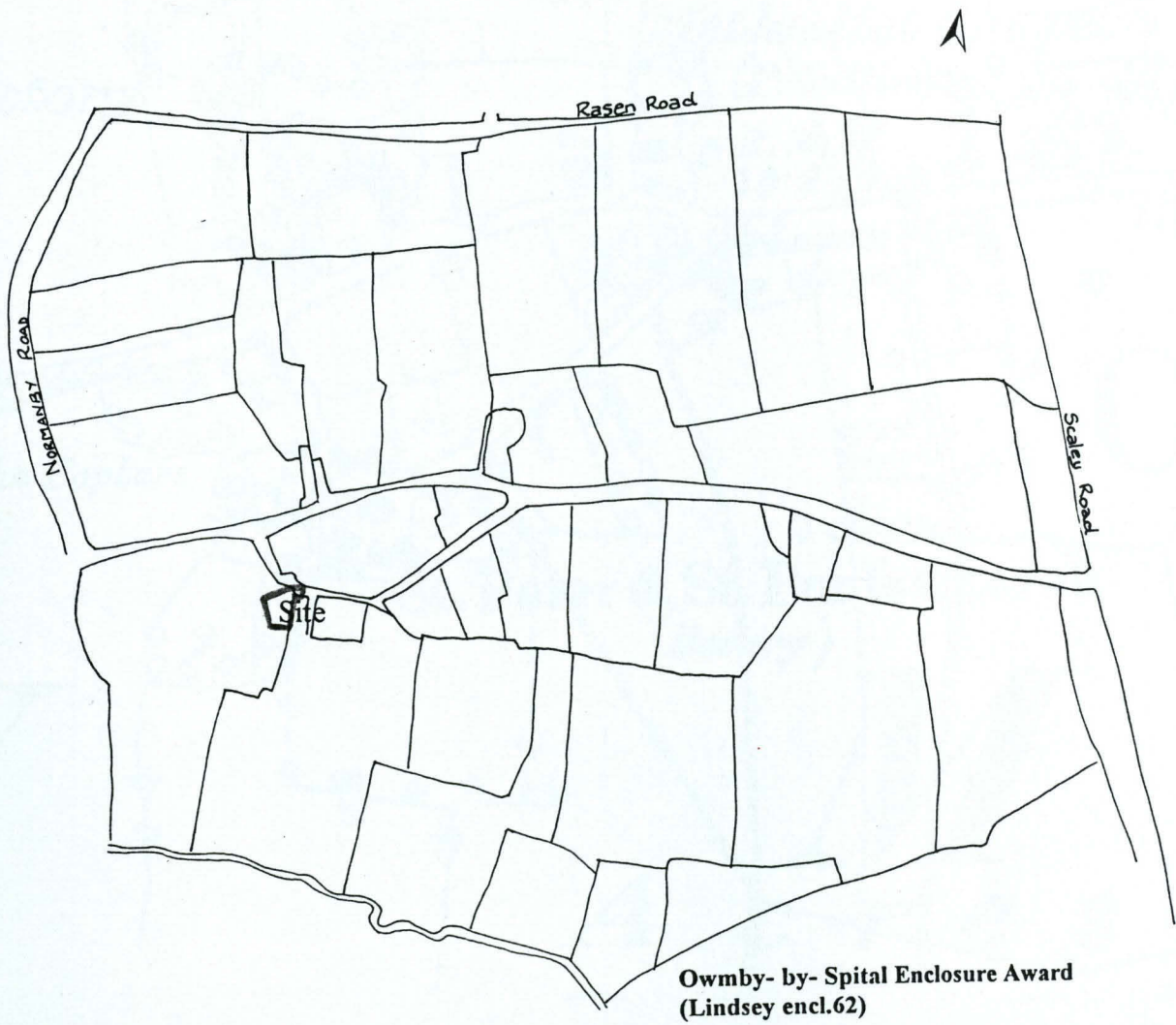
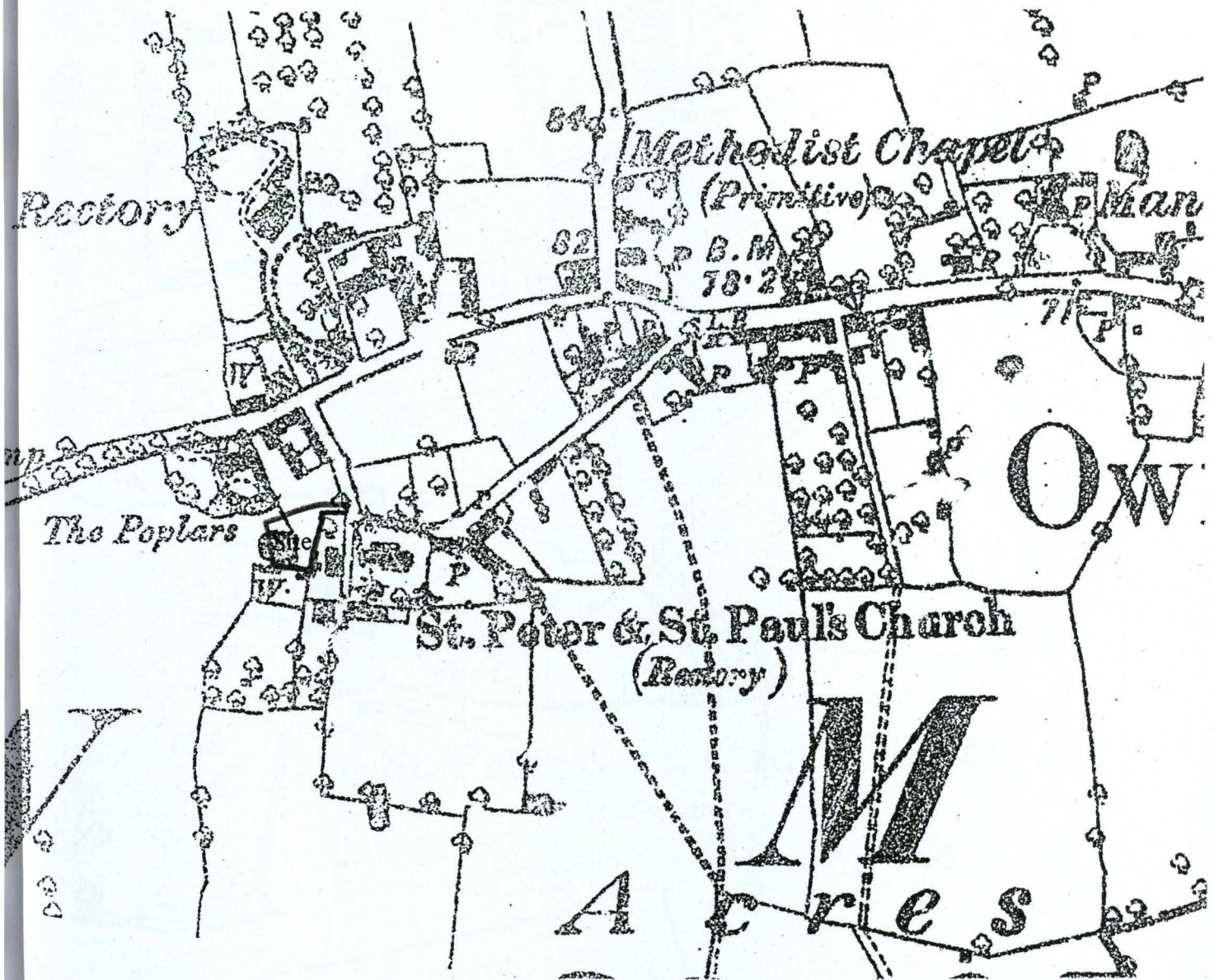


Figure 2 : Areas and features observed during the watching brief

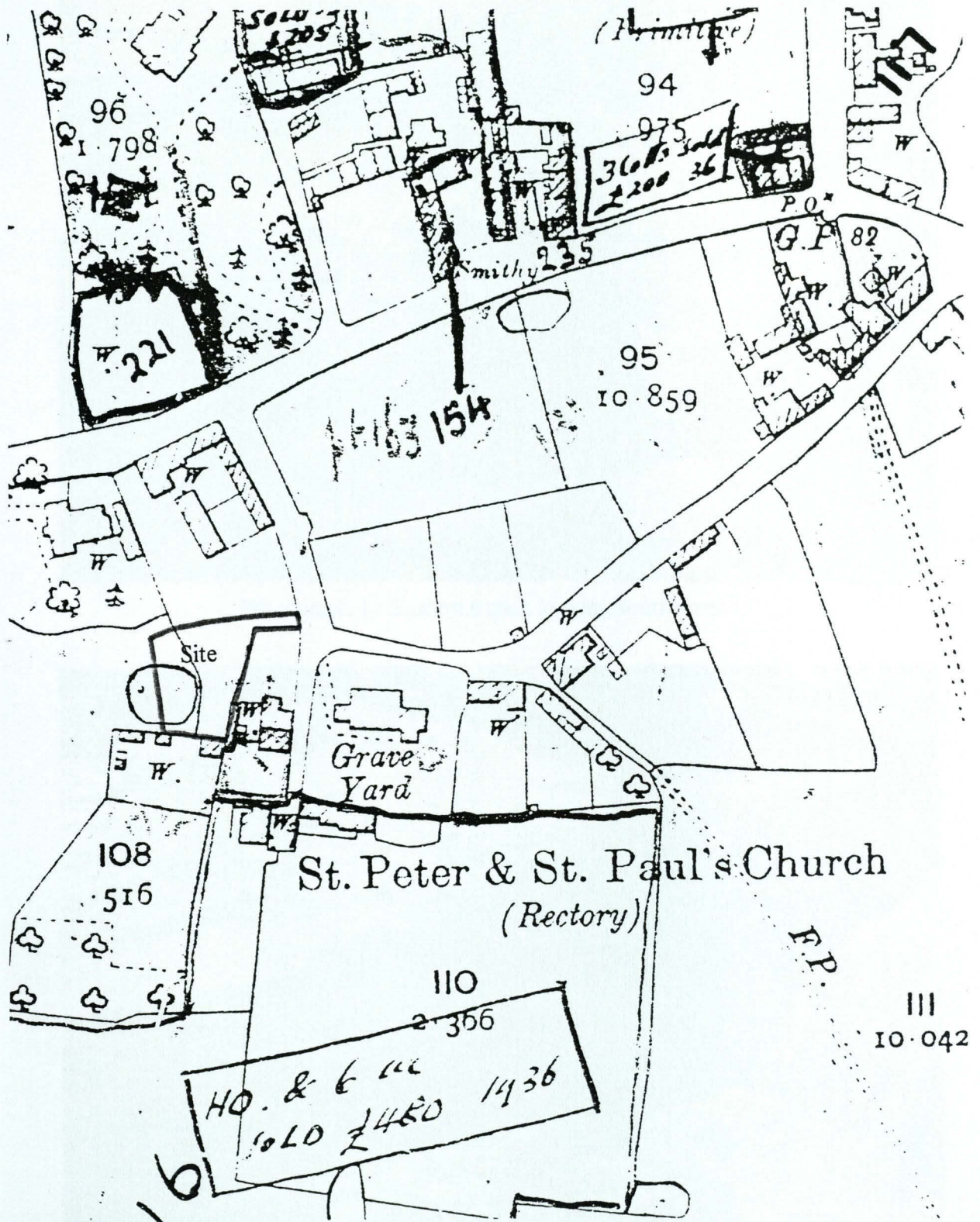
*Archaeological Watching Brief
at Land off Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital*



Map 1 : Extract from Owmbly-by-Spital enclosure award, 1776 (LRO ref: Lindsey encl. 62)



Map 2 : Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" Sheet XLIV.SE, 1891



Map 3 : Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" Sheet XLIV.16, 1906



Photograph 1 : Eastern trench looking south-east



Photograph 2 : Western trench looking north-west



Photograph 3 : Pit [001] looking south



Photograph 4 : Pit [002] looking south



Photograph 5 : Northern trench showing wall remnant

6.0 Sources Consulted

Everson, P L, Taylor, C C & Dunn, C J 1991. *Change and Continuity: Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire*. London : HMSO

Foster, C W & Longley, T (eds) 1924, reprinted 1976. *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*. Lincoln Record Society Volume 19

Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, 19th November 1998

Pevsner, N & Harris, J, revised by Antram, N 1989. *Lincolnshire*. The Buildings of England. London :Penguin Books Ltd

White, W 1856, reprinted 1969. *White's 1856 Lincolnshire*. Newton Abbot : David & Charles Ltd

Maps

Owmbly-by-Spital enclosure award, 1776 (LRO ref: Lindsey encl. 62)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" Sheet XLIV.SE, 1891

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" Sheet XLIV.16, 1906

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants Archaeological Watching Brief
at Land off Church Lane, Owby-by-Spital

The Mowbray, South Street, Northcote, Newark, Nottinghamshire
Telephone 01302 821757 Fax 01302 822060

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at Church Lane, Owby-by-Spital, West Lindsey

NOR BK 9998 8736

Produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

On behalf of

John Roberts Architects Ltd
1 James Street
Lincoln
LN1 1CD

**Appendix A :
Specification**

JSAC 394/98/02
April 1998

Site Code : CLOS
Accession No. : 99/02

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

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Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital, West Lindsey

NGR SK 9998 8736

Produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

On behalf of

John Roberts Architects Ltd
1 James Street
Lincoln
LN2 1QD

JSAC 394/98/02
April 1998

Site Code : CLO98
Accession No. : 99.98

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

**Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital, West Lindsey**

NGR SK 9998 8736

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Summary

John Roberts Architects have been granted permission for the construction of one residential building at Church Lane, Owmbly-by-Spital. The site is within an area of slight archaeological potential and an archaeological watching brief is included as a condition on the planning permission.

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants have been commissioned to prepare a written specification for the watching brief to be agreed with the District Planning Authority's archaeological advisor. This document describes the proposed methodology for the watching brief and sets it within a summary of the archaeological potential of the area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 John Roberts Architects Ltd have been granted planning permission for the construction of one residential building at Church Lane, Owby-by-Spital. The building covers approximately 120m², with associated drains and inspection chambers, centred on SK 9998 8736.
- 1.2 Planning permission was granted with a condition for an archaeological watching brief. A large Iron Age and Roman settlement has been identified adjacent to the A15 at Owby Cliff and worked flints have also been found in the area (May 1976 : 90, 163, 191; Whitwell 1970 : 167, 168). The parish church dates, in part, to the late 11th or early 12th century (Pevsner *et al* 1989 : 596) and it is recorded as being a double manor in the Domesday Book Foster & Longley 1924.
- 1.3 This specification details the proposed methodology for undertaking the watching brief in order that any archaeological features disturbed by the development are identified and recorded appropriately. It conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy and Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (PPG16). The requirements of *Lincolnshire County Council Recreational Services Archaeology Manual* (Lincolnshire County Council) will be adhered to. The specification has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including :

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1993);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Archaeological Site Manual (Museum of London Archaeology Service, 1994).

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks connected with the development.
- 2.2 The aims of the watching brief will be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during groundworks be examined, interpreted and where appropriate and where it is safe to do so, recorded.
- 2.3 The County Archaeologist will be given notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site whenever he wishes. He will be kept informed of progress and should any significant remains be found he will be informed immediately. Should any significant remains/finds or unexpected discoveries be made it may be necessary, in liaison with the County Archaeologist, to formulate a strategy designed to fully establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.
- 2.4 In practice, and in liaison with the developers, the watching brief will take the form of site visits by suitably qualified/experienced professional archaeologists to monitor the groundworks. The watching brief will involve:
- 2.4.1 non-intensive watching brief of groundworks associated with all house plots, access roads and services. This would comprise:
- i. archaeological supervision of modern overburden stripping;
 - ii. inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - iii. recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - iv. rapid excavation of features if necessary;
 - v. archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
 - vi. inspection of natural for archaeological features, to be excavated and recorded where identified.
 - vii. Excavation, removal and recording of any human remains encountered compliant with appropriate statutory consents and licences (see below, para. 2.8)
- 2.5 Excavated archaeological features will be recorded by measured drawing at appropriate scales (normally 1:20).
- 2.6 Excavated archaeological features will be recorded by single context on standard forms; the system is based upon the Museum of London's '*Archaeological Site Manual*' (1994).

- 2.7 A photographic record, primarily in colour print but supplemented by colour slide and black & white print where appropriate, will be maintained during the course of the watching brief and will include :
- i. the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork.
 - ii. individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - iii. groups of features, where their relationship is important.
- 2.8 Any human remains encountered will be cleaned and recorded with minimal disturbance and left *in situ* and covered over. Such remains will only be removed if necessary and only once the County Archaeological Officer has been informed. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 2.9 Archaeological staff and visitors will respect Health and Safety provisions and site safety regulations (see section 5.0).
- 2.10 All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds' (1981) and comply with the City and County Museum Lincoln's *Conditions for the Acceptance of Archaeological Project Archives* Version 2. All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning, marking and analysis.
- 2.11 Any material considered suitable for environmental analysis will be sampled, where possible, in 30 litre quantities for examination by either Mr. James Rackham or Mr. Robert Alvey who will be available to advise on site.
- 2.12 The project archive will follow the guidelines contained in "*Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage*" (UKIC 1990) and "*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*" (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992) and in consultation with Lincoln City and County Museum.
- 2.13 A report on the results will comprise :
- i. Location plan of all areas inspected;
 - ii. Section and plan drawings with levels tied in to Ordnance Datum and scales as appropriate;

- iii. Specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts, including environmental analysis of deposits sampled;
- iv. A summary and conclusion of the results of the watching brief.

2.14 Deposition of the Archive :

The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation shall, after analysis and recording, be transferred to Lincoln City and County Museum. An accession number (99.98) and site code (CLO98) have been agreed with Lincoln City and County Museum. The site code will be used to denote this site on finds and photographs of features excavated during the watching brief. This excludes items of gold and silver which by law must be reported to Her Majesty's Coroner and any finds that individual land owners wish to retain.

2.15 Deposition of the Report :

Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to the client and the County Archaeologist.

2.16 Publication :

Should the results of the archaeological investigations be considered significant, an article for publication will be submitted to a suitable journal or journals.

3.0 Timetable and Personnel

- 3.1 The project will be directed by John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA with assistance from Forbes Marsden BA, Cert Arch, Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA and Dan Slatcher BA. Additional staff will be brought in as required.
- 3.2 A full report on the results of the watching brief will be submitted within 6 months of the completion of groundworks. Two reports will be submitted to the County Archaeological Office, following approval by the client. Digital data will also be provided on 3.5" floppy disk, for inclusion in the SMR.
- 3.3 Specialist assistance will be provided, where required, by the following persons:

Robert Alvey - Small finds / environmental sampling
John Carney - Geological and soil analysis
Jane Cowgill - Slags
Sheila Elsdon - Prehistoric pottery
James Rackham - Environmental sampling
John Samuels - Roman Pottery
Robert White - Conservation
Jane Young - Medieval Pottery

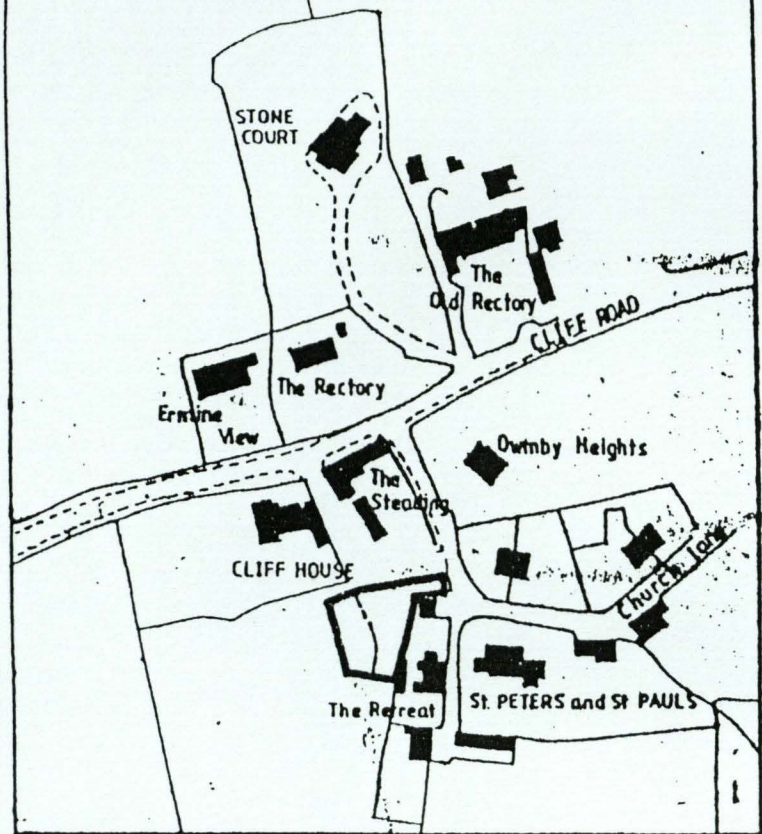
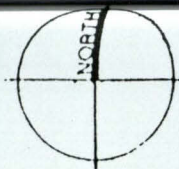
4.0 Insurance

- 4.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5 m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

5.0 Health and Safety

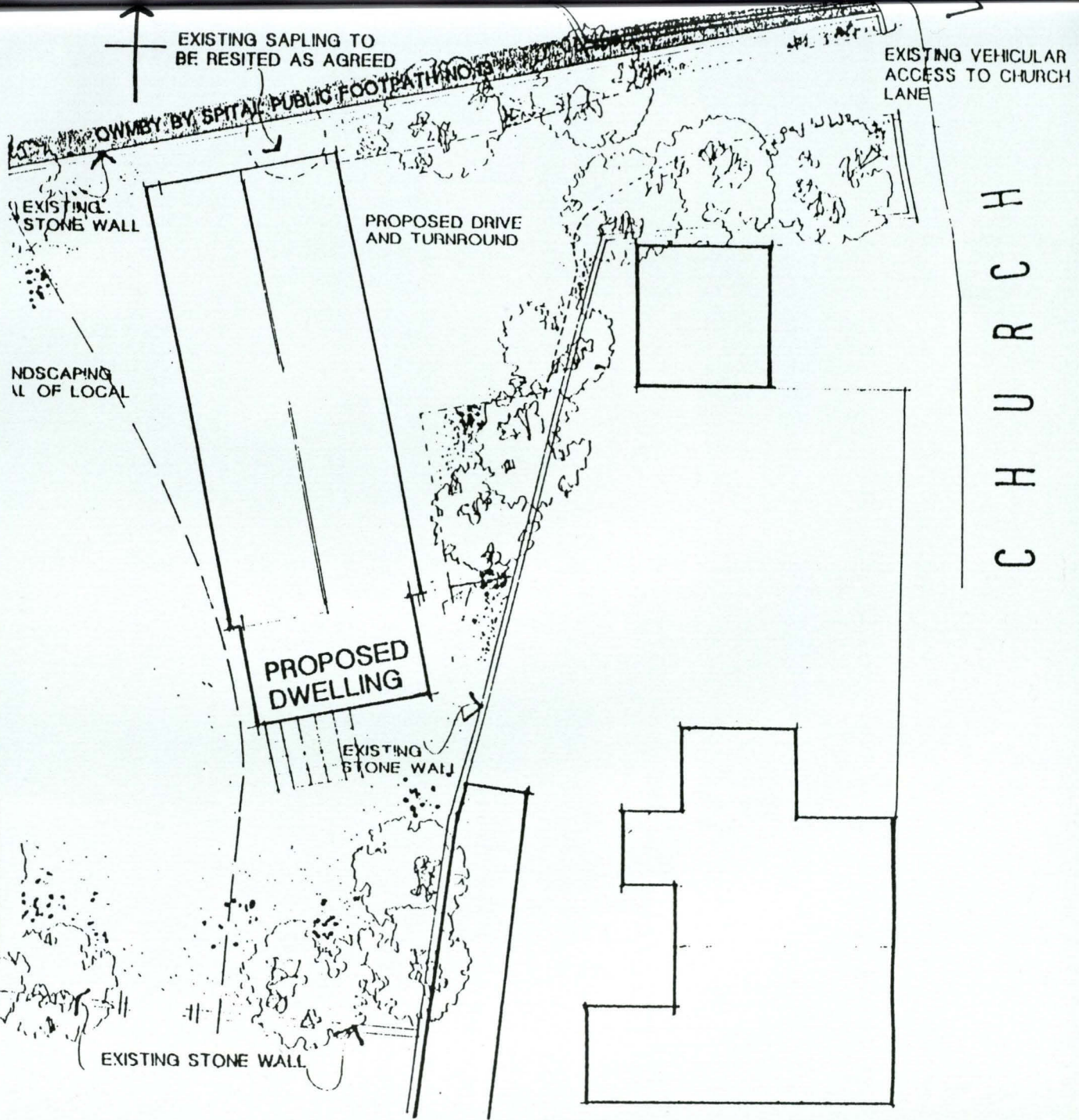
- 5.1 It is the policy of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants ('the Employer') to conform fully with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act (1974).
- 5.2 It is accepted that it is the duty of the Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of all his employees at work.
- 5.3 The employer also has a duty to ensure that his employees are aware of their responsibility for their own health and safety, and for the health and safety of others, including the general public, who might be affected by their work.
- 5.4 Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.5 In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 5.6 Attention is paid to the requirements of more recent legislation including the provision and use of *Work Equipment Regulations 1992*, the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and the *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994*. A risk assessment is undertaken, a safety officer appointed and all aspects of health and safety nominated during work.

OWMBY BY SPITAL



1 : 2500 LOCATION PLAN

- 3ER WINDOWS
- CLAY
- 3LACK FINISH.



1 : 200