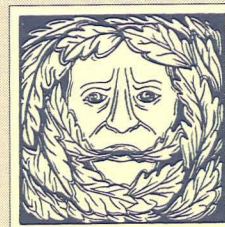


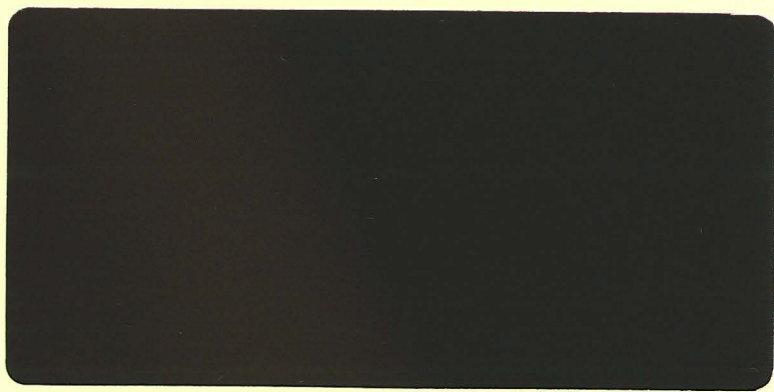
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MANOR FARM,
WITHAM ON THE HILL, SK
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WMF 00)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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PRA 35249 L180748

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MANOR FARM,
WITHAM ON THE HILL, SK
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WMF 00)**

Work Undertaken For
RC Ball Developments

Report Compiled by
P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

May 2000

Planning Application No: SK98/792/82
National Grid Reference: TF 0532 1653
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.114

A.P.S. Report No: 75/00



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Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking north

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a house and Garage at Manor Farm, Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

The development is situated in the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village of which the parish church and the base of a 14th century cross are the only extant remains of the period. Cropmarks to the southwest of the village have identified moated enclosures, possibly also medieval.

The investigations revealed two 18th to 19th century features, one a pit and the second possibly an infilled well. Finds include locally produced Bourne and Nottingham pottery, both of the post-medieval period.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by RC Ball Developments to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to Manor Farm House Cottage, Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development

was sought through the submission of planning application SK98/792/82. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out on the 9th and 10th May 2000 in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Witham on the Hill is situated 24km southeast of Grantham and 7km southwest of Bourne in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 60m southwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew (Fig. 2). Witham on the Hill lies at the top of a small ridge with land dipping steeply down to the north and gently to the south and east. The height at the site is c. 48m OD and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0532 1653.

Local soils are of the Wick 1 Association, typically coarse loamy brown earths, and Elmton Association, shallow brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179, 345). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Blisworth Clay, Cornbrash and Kellaways Clay which all outcrop in the vicinity (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Witham on the Hill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the medieval period. The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Witham*, the name is derived from the Old English and means either the settlement of *Witta's* people or a settlement in a bend (Ekwall 1974, 527). There appears to be no connection to the River Witham, the name of which is of British origin. The Domesday Survey

records that Witham on the Hill was owned by Peterborough Abbey, Gilbert de Gand, Drew de Beurre and Ralf Pagenel and contained 244 acres of woodland and 108 acres of meadow as well as a church and a watermill (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period are represented by St. Andrew's church dating from the 12th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 807). Located within the churchyard are the base and part of the shaft of a 14th century cross and a further cross may once have been located 500m west of the church. To the southwest of the village, aerial photographs have revealed cropmarks that may indicate the position of moated enclosures.

Dating to the 16th century is Palace Farm, located east of the site. This building is thought to incorporate an earlier structure of the Bishops of Lincoln (DoE 1987, 151).

Previous archaeological investigations are restricted to the monitoring of a pipeline trench through the village. This revealed former boundary walls and a ditch indicating changes in the layout of the village, as well as an undated stone drain and three pits (Cope-Faulkner 1996, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a depth of 1.1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the

sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following specialist descriptions, four phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was dark yellowish brown sand and gravel (003) which was overlain by a naturally formed

subsoil of dark yellowish brown silty sand (002).

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Cut into the underlying natural deposits was a circular feature (004) measuring 1.7m in diameter and was deeper than 0.7m (Fig. 4, Section 1). This pit contained two fills, a lower of yellowish brown silty sand (005) and an upper fill of greyish brown silty sand (006).

Also cut into the natural deposits and located less than 1m to the west was a second feature (007), possibly a former well. This was 1.4m wide and deeper than 0.6m. The lowest fill comprised greyish brown silty sand (008) and was overlain by dumped reddish brown brick fragments (009). The feature had then been sealed by light yellowish brown mortar (010).

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a levelling deposit of greyish brown silt, with gravel and rubble (001). This layer measured between 0.24m and 0.32m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sand and gravel (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. No drift geology is recorded for the vicinity. However, this may represent an isolated outlier of glaciofluvial deposits.

A single post-medieval pit was revealed (Phase 2) and represents the earliest archaeological feature on the site. A later post-medieval feature was also recorded and this may represent an infilled well that was subsequently capped off.

Few finds were retrieved from the investigation and include three sherds of Bourne D-type pottery and a single sherd of late 18th century Nottingham salt glazed stoneware.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Witham on the Hill because the site lies within the core of medieval settlement.

A post-medieval pit and a possible infilled well were the only features identified during this investigation. Locally produced post-medieval pottery was also retrieved. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R. Ball of RC Ball Developments who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Simpson, Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted the examination of the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Supervisor: James Snee, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

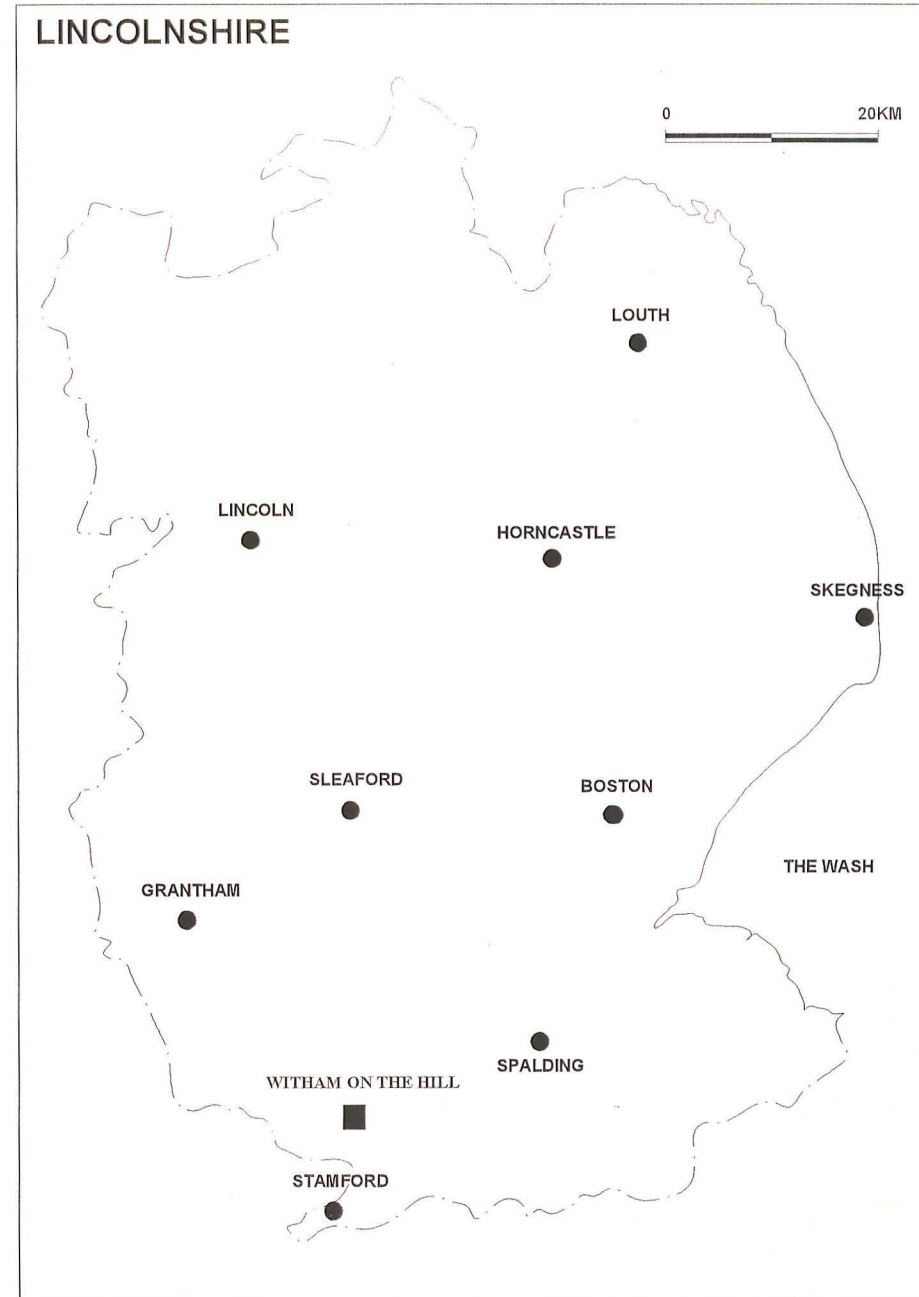


Figure 1 - General location map

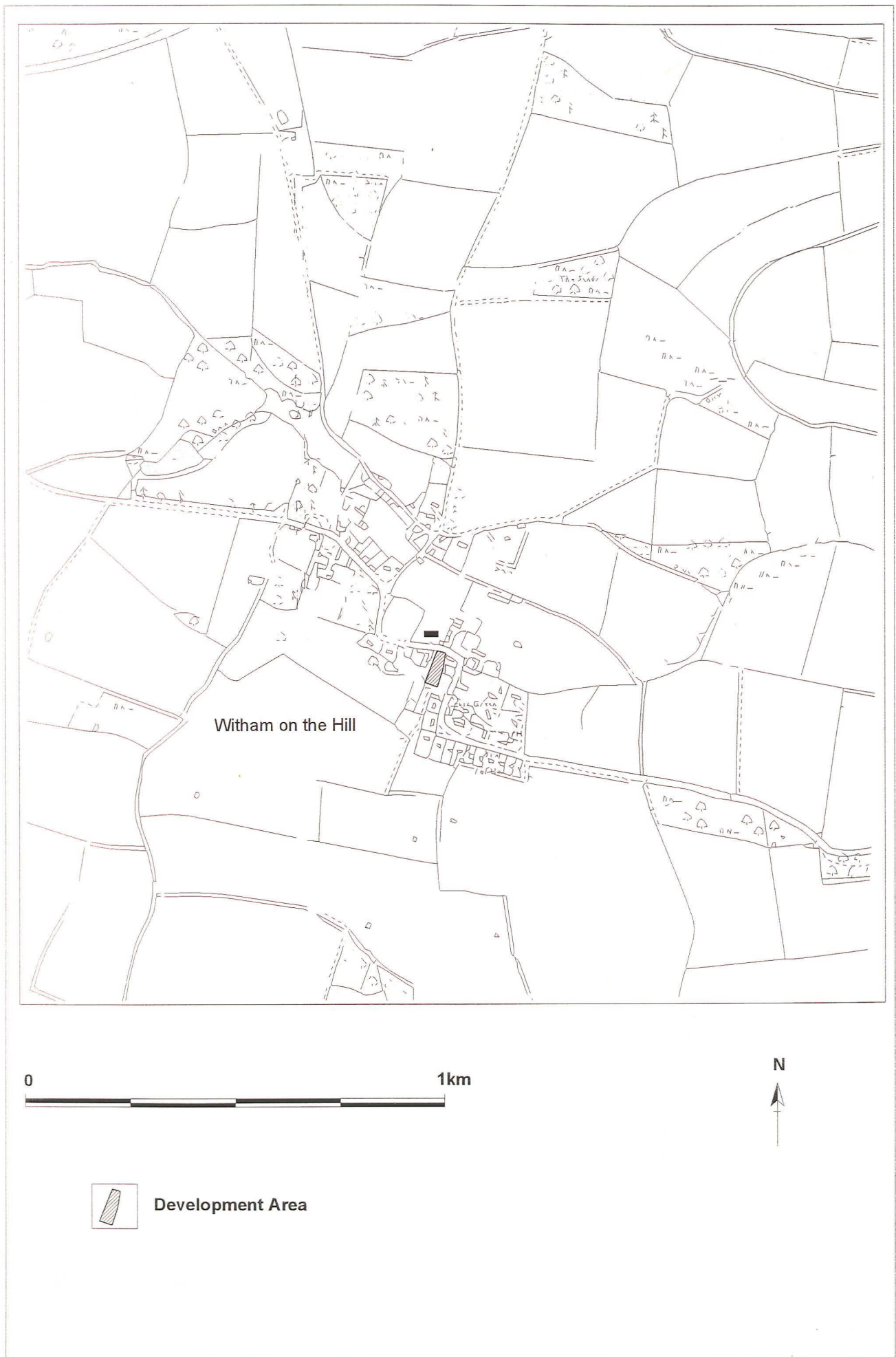
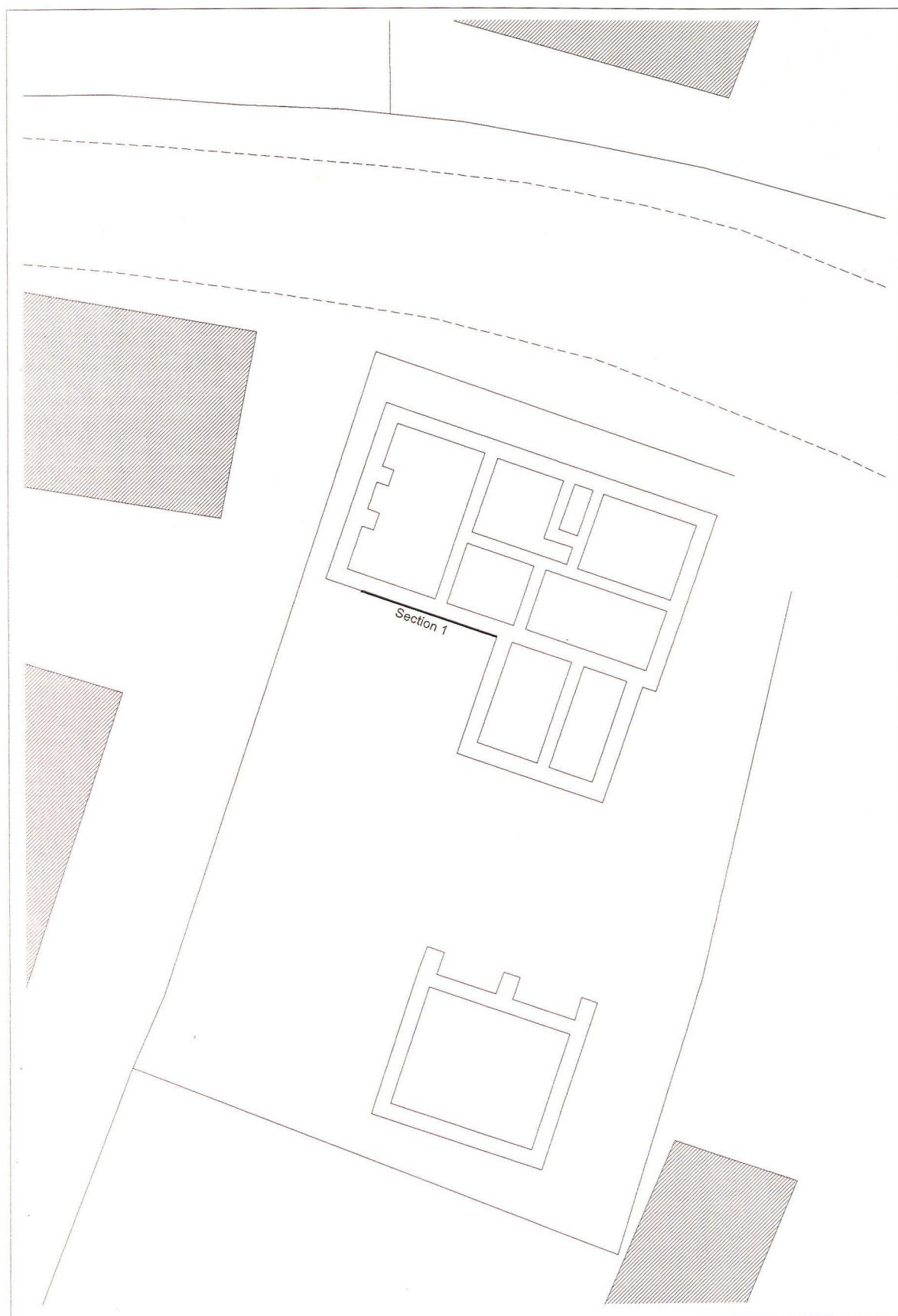


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



0 20m



Existing buildings



Figure 3 - Plan of the development, showing section location

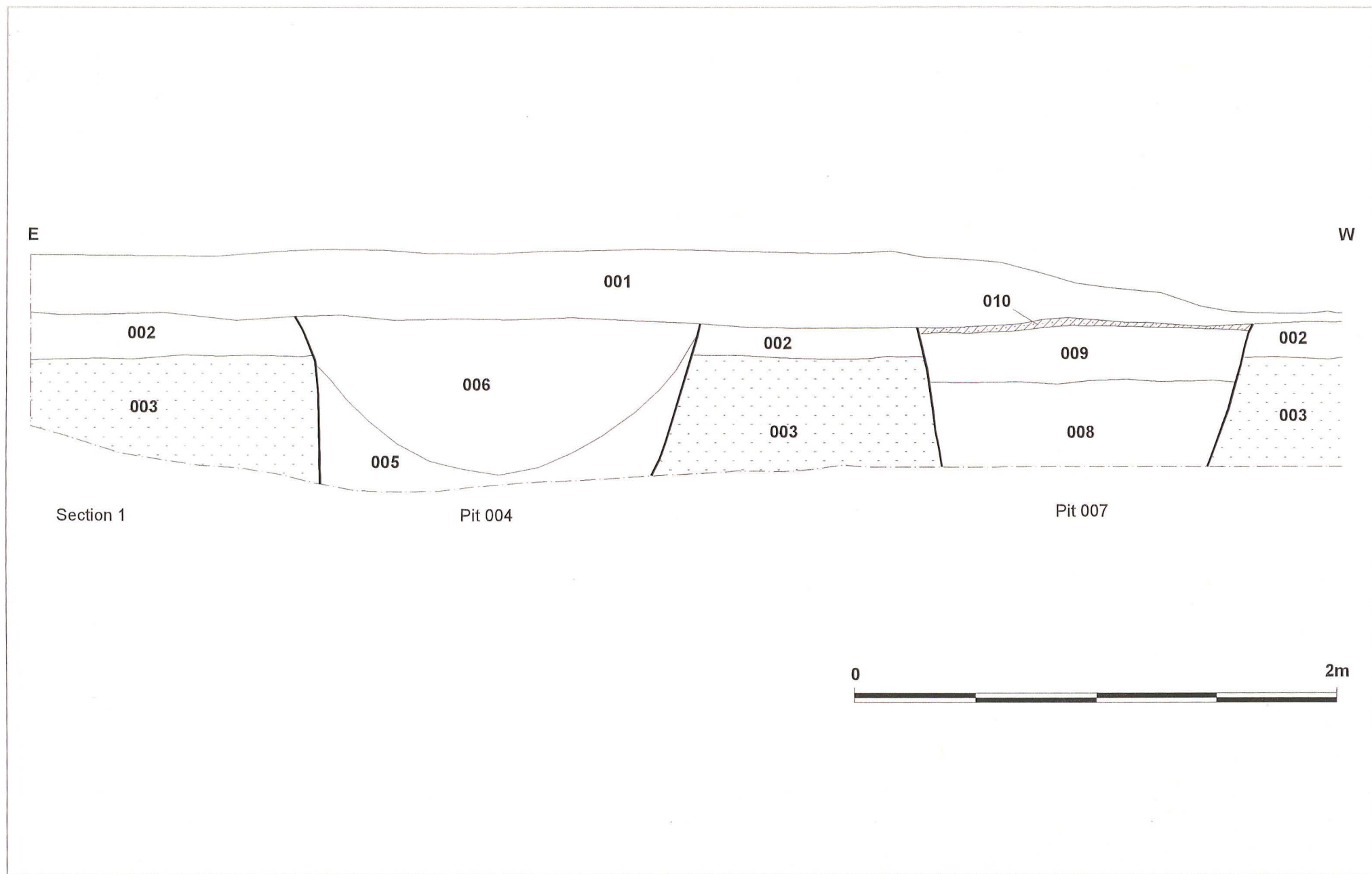


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking north

Appendix 1

PLOT ADJACENT TO MANOR FARM WITHAM ON THE HILL LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development lies in the centre of the village close to the church, which dates from at least the 12th century. Undated archaeological remains were also discovered during work on a pipeline along the main road through the village.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire at national grid reference TF 0536 1654.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Witham on the Hill lies approximately 10km north of Stamford and 25km southeast of Grantham and in the administrative district of South Kesteven. The site is in the centre of the village, about 50m southeast of the parish church, at national grid reference TF 0536 1654.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (SK98/792/82) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the erection of a dwelling and garage. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at approximately 50m OD. Local soils of the area are the Wick 1 Association, coarse loamy typical brown earths, and Elmton 3 Association, brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984 181, 345).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Witham on the Hill lies in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval period. Witham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey and contained a church. The site is located in the centre of the village, a short distance to the south of the present church of St Andrews which

dates from the 12th century. The remains of a 14th century cross lie in the churchyard.

- 6.2 Palace Farm, dating from the 17th century, lies to the east of the church and is thought to incorporate an earlier building of the Bishops of Lincoln. The village stocks and whipping post to the northwest of the church are also of 17th century date.
- 6.3 Excavation for a water pipeline along the main road through Witham on the Hill revealed a series of undated features including former boundary walls, a ditch, pits and a stone-lined drain (Archaeological Project Services 1996).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2 Methodology
 - 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
 - 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, archaeological curator, Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as appropriate.

9

POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 **ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 **PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about three days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	Medieval and later - G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm greyish brown silt, moderate gravel and rubble, 0.24-0.32m thick	Levelling deposit
002	Soft dark yellowish brown silty sand, 100mm - 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Loose dark yellowish brown sand and gravel, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit
004	Circular feature, 1.7m diameter by >0.7m deep, steep vertical sides, unexcavated fully	Pit
005	Soft dark yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of 004
006	Soft greyish brown silty sand	Fill of 004
007	Feature, 1.4m wide by >0.6m deep, steep vertical sides, unexcavated fully	Pit
008	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	Fill of 007
009	Loose reddish brown brick fragments with some mortar	Fill of 007
010	Soft light yellowish brown mortar	Fill of 007
011	Firm dark blackish brown sandy silt with frequent brick and stone debris, 0.8m thick	Made ground

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

*By Hilary Healey MPhil
and Gary Taylor MA*

Provenance

The artefacts were recovered from a pit fill (005) and the fill of a possible well (008).

All of the pieces are relatively local to the Witham on the Hill area, with pieces made in Nottingham, 50km to the northwest, and possibly Grantham, 22km to the northeast, or perhaps Leicestershire to the west.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
005	3 x ?Grantham product, similar to Bourne D-type ware, 2 link, probably all same vessel	15 th -17 th century
008	1 x Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware	late 18 th century

Grantham or the vicinity appears to have been a production source for sandy, oxidised utilitarian wares in the late medieval to early post-medieval period and is the possible production centre for the pieces from (005). These possible Grantham products are the earlier pieces and dominate the small assemblage. All three fragments of this material are large and although only two of the pieces link they probably all derive from a single vessel. All these pieces are quite abraded. By contrast, the Nottingham stoneware is fresh and unworn.

Probably all the material dates to the post-medieval period, from the 16th to the 18th century. No animal bone or other faunal remains were retrieved.

Condition

Although most of the artefacts are abraded, all the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. Storage of the archive is by material class.

Documentation

A number of archaeological examinations at Witham on the Hill have previously been undertaken and reported. Records of archaeological sites and finds are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

In general, the material has limited-moderate potential but probably reflects post-medieval occupation and use of the site and surrounding area. Although probably only representing a single vessel, the pieces of earlier ceramic from (005) are large and may indicate some more intensive activity in the area in the 15th-17th century, or could be function-specific.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

11	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic records
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of Finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.114

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WMF 00

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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