

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT  
BINBROOK ROAD, WELTON-LE-WOLD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: WLW 00  
Acc. No: 2000.127  
NGR: TF 2748 8752

00/19

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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Report prepared for Mr and Mrs G.P. Ingamells  
by Jim Rylatt  
July 2000

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### Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief took place on land off Binbrook Road, Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire*
- *This revealed the in-situ remains of a small, brick-built Wesleyan chapel of late Georgian date*

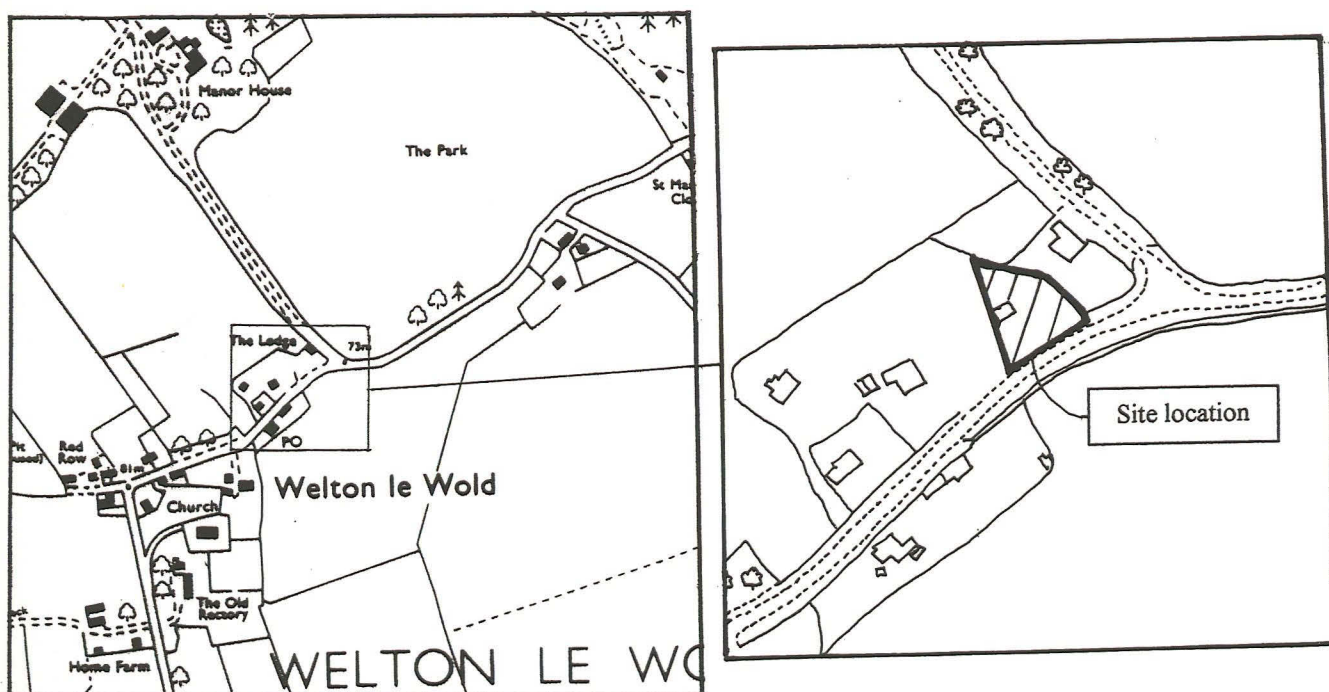


Figure 1: Site location at a scale of 1: 10,000, with close up at 1: 2,500 (note that the position of the chapel is shown in the latter).  
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Figure 2: General site plan showing the footprint of the trenches excavated for the strip foundations.



## 1.0 Introduction

Mr and Mrs G.P. Ingamells commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake an archaeological watching brief, to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the construction of a detached house and garage on land off Binbrook Road, Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire.

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998); national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also adhered to (IFA, 1994). Additionally, both documents were central to the structuring and content of this report.

The archive for this report will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum.

## 2.0 Location and description

Welton-le-Wold lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey. It is located approximately 4 km west of Louth, toward the centre of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The development site is situated adjacent to Binbrook Road, at the eastern edge of the village, and some 550m to the north of the A157 (fig. 1). It comprises an irregularly shaped unit of land, covering approximately 700m<sup>2</sup> (fig. 2).

Prior to development, the site was an area of rough, scrubby vegetation, which had been partitioned from the garden of The Lodge, situated immediately to the east. A conifer hedge, formed from a number of closely set *Leylandii*, defined the boundary of this sub-division. A few mature trees were also situated along this edge of the site. The northern boundary was formed by the lank, grown out remnants of a hedge; the surviving elements included sycamore, beech and hawthorn, all of which exceeded 3m in height. The majority of the western boundary was defined by larch-lap fencing, while the southern side was open onto the road. The ground-surface slopes from c. 76m OD along the northern edge, down to c. 73m OD at the southern edge, where it abuts Binbrook Road. The road itself runs east to west along a narrow valley, c. 25m wide, which was formed by a small stream located immediately to the north of this thoroughfare.

The solid geology of this area comprises substantial deposits of chalk laid down in the Upper Cretaceous period. A mantle of boulder clays, deposited during the Pleistocene, covers this (BGS, sheet 103). These orangey-brown clays contain significant quantities of comminuted chalk and nodules of white to grey flint. Soils are clayey and are largely derived from these drift deposits.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 2748 8752.

### 3.0 Planning background

East Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the construction of one detached dwelling and an associated garage (Planning Ref. N/200/01820/99), subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the programme of ground-works.

The dwelling was to be erected upon sloping ground. This involved the removal of relatively large quantities of soil to create a horizontal terrace, prior to the insertion of strip foundations.

### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

An impressive range of artefactual material has been recovered from Welton-le-Wold and its environs. Three Acheulian handaxes and an associated flint flake represent the earliest of these deposits. These items, the residue of Lower Palaeolithic occupation, were recovered from a gravel pit c.1km to the north-east of the development site.

A number of later prehistoric funerary monuments were constructed on a chalk ridge c. 1.5 to 2km to the south-west of the site. Two Neolithic long barrows and an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow have been identified as components of this necropolis, suggesting that the ritual significance of the locality had a resonance that lasted from the later 4<sup>th</sup> into the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.

The area was also the focus of extensive later Iron Age and Romano-British occupation. There are two especially large settlement foci from this period, which have been detected through aerial photography and the surface recovery of artefacts. Both have been deemed to be sufficiently important to deserve statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). The closer of the two is located c. 500m to the south-east of the site, to the immediate north of the A157 (county SAM no. 268); it covers an area of at least 13 ha, centred on TF 279 872. The other, which occupies an even larger area, is situated c. 1.6km to the south-west, to the south of Glebe Farm at TF 270 860 (county SAM no. 331). A small quantity of later 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery and considerably more 4<sup>th</sup> century material, a quantity exceeding 400 sherds, has been recovered from this locality (data in the SMR parish file). Additionally, the upper stone of a beehive quern has been retrieved from the scheduled area. This is an artefact with explicitly domestic connotations.

An isolated Roman coin of Gratian (AD 367-383) has been recovered from within the modern village core. This was discovered on the land lying to the immediate east of the churchyard.

The genesis of the modern settlement probably lies in the later Anglo-Saxon period. This is suggested by the etymology of the place-name, which appears as *Welletune* in the Domesday Book; the components of the name are Old English and the suggested meaning is 'farmstead by a spring or stream on the wolds' (Mills, 1993). Inferences made from entries in the Domesday Book suggest that the settlement was relatively large in 1086; the record of the king's holdings notes that in the village as a whole,



there were 167 freemen, 37 villagers and 27 small holders from whom taxes were due (Morgan & Thorn, 1986).

The tenurial holdings and feudal authorities were distributed among five freeholders. The most significant of these was King William, while at the opposite end of the spectrum was an individual called *Asgautr*, who is listed as owning a modest quantity of land (*ibid.*). The Bishop of Durham also held property in the parish, including one third of a mill; similarly, Roger of Poitou, owned 'two parts' of a mill, both he and the bishop having jurisdiction over separate manors located in the village. Count Alan owned several parcels of land, but also had authority over property belonging to *Siward* and *Landric* - 'the count's man'. He also possessed a mill and a quarter share of a church in the parish.

This church was probably an early manifestation of St Martin's, although nothing from this date is evident in the existing fabric. Smith (1962) suggested that St Martin's may have been dedicated as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but the source of this proposition is unknown. The oldest components of the present structure are the font and tower, the latter built in the Decorated style during the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). Other elements, including the west door and battlements, are slightly later, as indicated by their Perpendicular styling. However, the majority of the church was demolished and rebuilt in 1849 to a design by S.S. Teulon.

There is evidence indicating that the village has contracted. This may have begun in late Saxon or Norman times, as at the time of the Domesday survey it was noted that Count Alan's lands were only worth three quarters of their value prior to 1066 (Morgan & Thorn, 1986); this possibly resulted from a reduction in the size of the population. An extensive area of earthworks survives in the field to the south of the development site, representing the remains of medieval crofts and tofts (centred on TF 274 872). This field encloses a domed hill-slope, the crest of which is situated toward the southern edge. Stepping down the slope are a series of small terraces, more of which surround the church, also located upon a prominent mound. Along the brow are a series of platforms standing up to 1.5m high; excavation in 1959 demonstrated that they are the remains of buildings occupied between c. 1050 and 1350 (Smith, 1962). At the western edge of the ridge, near the church, a stone-founded structure was examined; artefactual material indicated that it was occupied in the late medieval period, from c.1350 to c.1450. This chronological sequence, albeit slight, could tentatively be used to imply that abandonment was an ongoing process.

Anecdotal evidence suggested that a mill stood on the stream at a point opposite the Old Glebe House, some 140m upstream from the site (*ibid.*). This may have been a successor to one of the structures mentioned in the Domesday inventory.

A survey of the lands held in common in the parish was undertaken in 1770 under the direction of the enclosure commissioner, John Parkinson of Asgarby (Beastall, 1978). This resulted in their alienation and the re-division of the landscape following the Enclosure Award, 1771. This fundamental change in the nature of landholding prefigured and possibly precipitated a number of significant changes in the built and social landscapes of Welton-le-Wold, most of which appear to have been enacted in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

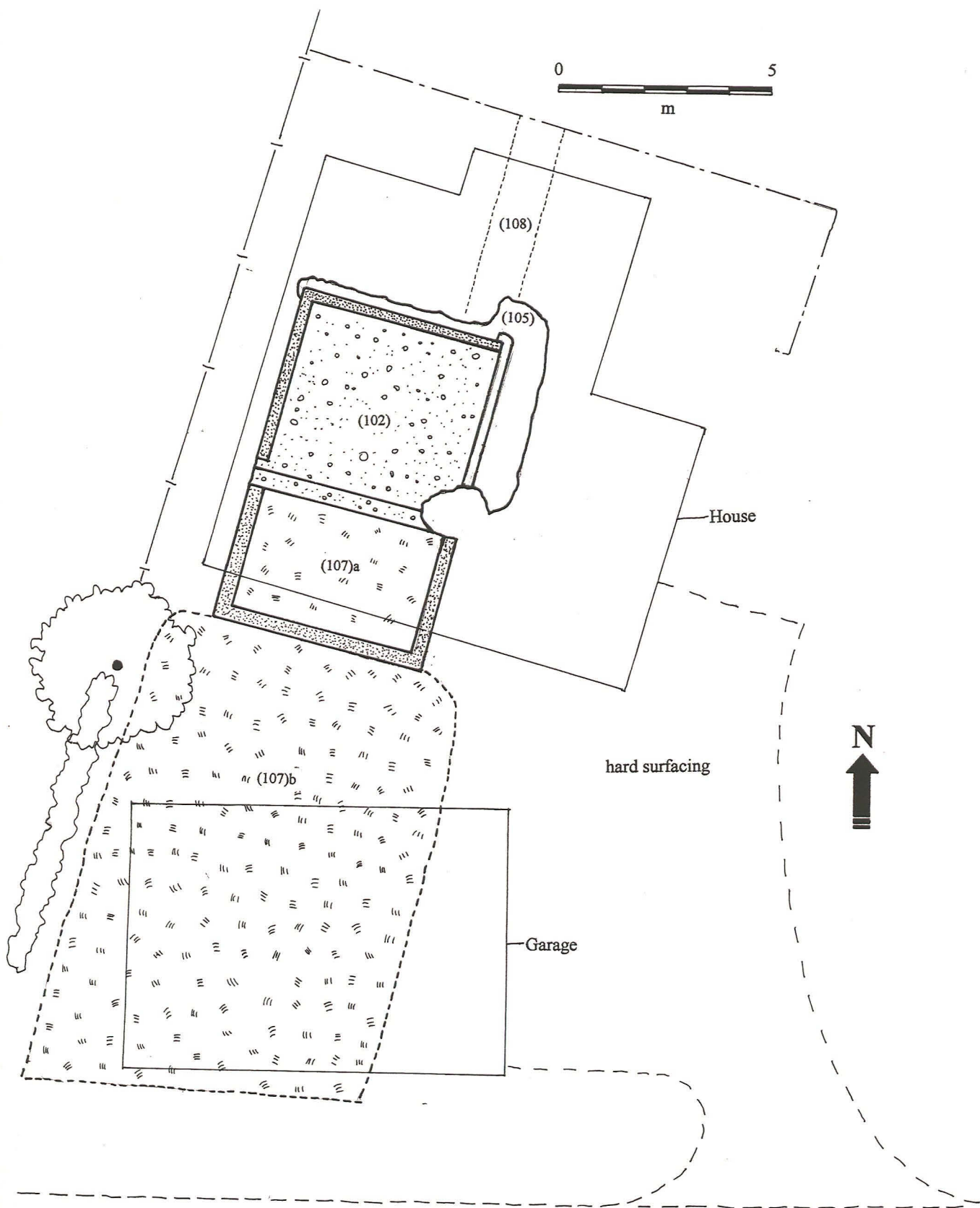


Figure 3: Relationship of the archaeological remains to the development.



Among the earliest of these changes was the erection, in 1835, of a Wesleyan Methodist chapel on the site of the current development (see 7.0, below). The rebuilding of the church in 1849 followed. Teulon's work on the latter impressed sufficiently for him to be retained to plan and oversee the construction of the 'Old Rectory' in 1853 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). It is also possible that he was responsible for the design of the village school erected in 1860. A new manor house was constructed in white brick a mere two years later; it was located c. 400m north of the present development. The Lodge, a gatehouse flanking the western side of the drive to the new manor, was built only c. 20m to the north-east of the Wesleyan chapel.

## 5.0 Methodology

One experienced field archaeologist undertook the watching brief over a period of two days, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2000.

The fieldwork entailed observation during the all ground-works associated with the development. This equated to the cleaning by hand of all exposed surfaces, followed by a thorough inspection; all archaeological features identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation, in order to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of all deposits and features on standard watching brief context recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings, in both plan and section, compliment these accounts.

A JCB using a back-actor equipped with a 0.75m wide toothed bucket removed the slope deposits to create the terrace. Subsequently it excavated the trenches for the strip foundations (fig. 2). The northern edge of the terrace extended c. 1.55m below ground level, this gradually tapering off to the existing ground surface at the front (southern) edge. The trenches for the strip foundations were generally c. 0.85m wide, extending c. 0.90m beneath the level of the terrace.

Artefactual remains recovered from the site were washed and processed prior to their submission to researchers specialising in the examination of archaeological materials. The results of these investigations have been included as independent appendices to this report, and the general conclusions of such accounts have been integrated into the main text.

## 6.0 Results

A small number of archaeological features were detected, which all appear to be associated with one period of activity (fig 3). All features were buried beneath a topsoil, (100), but the depth of this layer varied across the site; this loamy sandy clay silt was only c. 0.1m deep over the southern half of the site, but thickened significantly, to c. 0.35m, to the north of the area formally occupied by the chapel. Considering that the remains of the latter had been utilised until relatively recently (see 7.0), it is probable that much of the southern section of this soil layer is fairly immature and largely composed of leaf litter derived from the deciduous trees situated along the eastern side of the property.

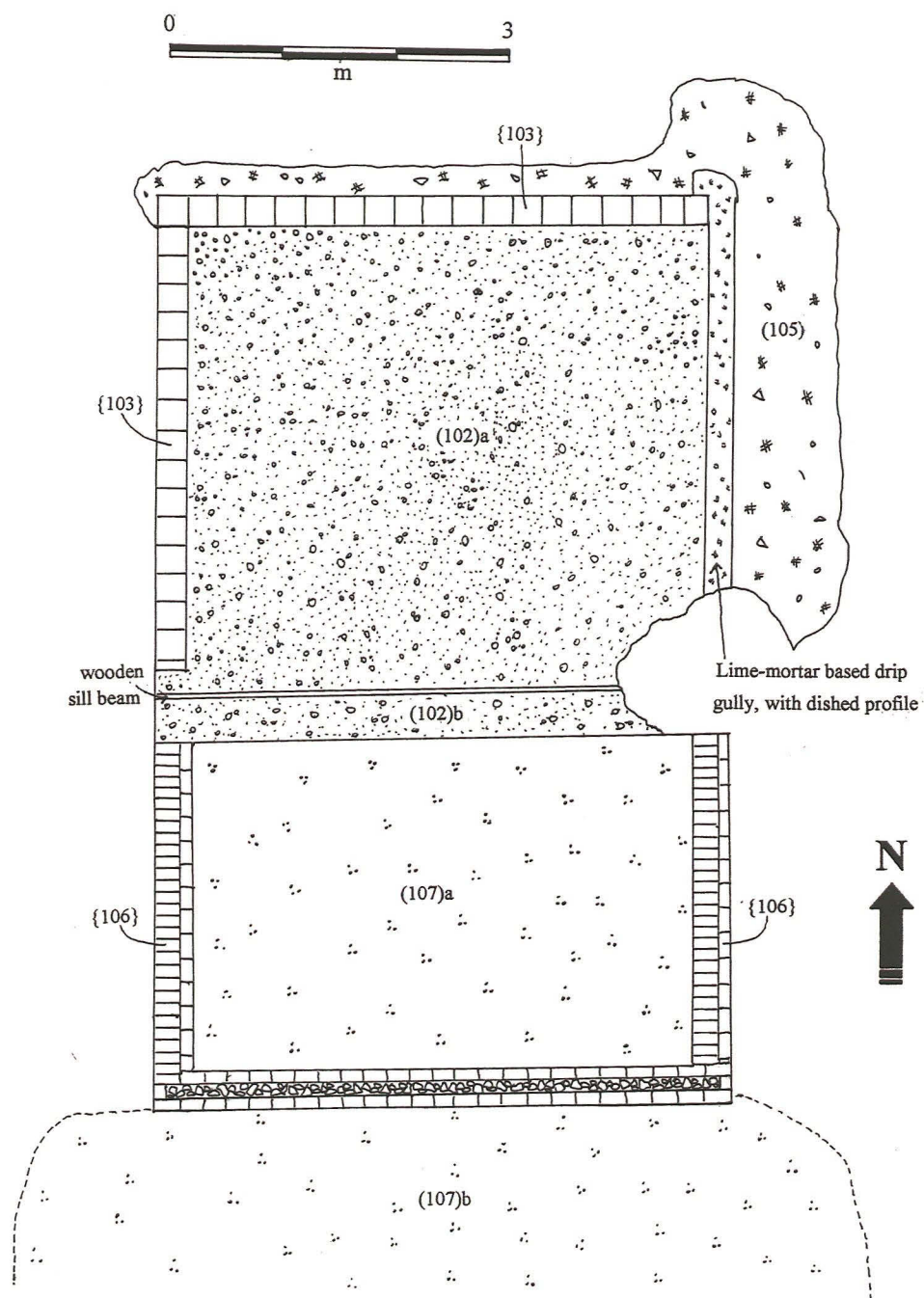


Figure 4: The remains of the Wesleyan chapel as exposed during the groundworks.



The following archaeological features were identified (fig. 4):

(102) A floor slab of grey concrete, which was composed of a hard, modern cement matrix binding sub-angular gravel. It could be divided into two distinct components. (102)a – was contained within the surviving remains of the chapel walls. It extended c. 4.60m east-west and c. 3.40m north-south. (102)b – situated immediately to the south of (102)a was a narrow strip of concrete measuring c. 4.80m east-west and c. 0.40m north-south. The decaying remains of a wooden sill-beam of c. 0.08m square-section separated these two components. This sill beam had been placed into a protective shroud of blue plastic prior to the pouring of the concrete; examination of this damp-proof membrane demonstrated that it was formed from a number of 'ICI fertiliser' sacks, indicating that floor slab (102) was constructed in the 1970s.

{103} The surviving elements of the chapel walls, consisting of an 'L'-shaped section of foundation in red brick; the northern wall was c. 4.60m long, while the western component extended c. 4.20m. Four courses of brick remained *in-situ*, the lower three courses being composed of a double skin of stretchers, each brick having dimensions c. 0.23 x 0.115 x 0.065m (fig. 5). The uppermost surviving course was more unusual, being entirely made up of slab-like 'double bricks', each being 0.23 x 0.23 x 0.07m. All of these bricks were unfrogged, relatively hard and well fired, and of fairly equal dimensions. However, it was also apparent that they were hand made, as most had slightly rolled edges and some showed signs of lipping over the edge of moulds. Lime mortar was utilised for all bonding.

(105) This was a very mixed deposit running along the outer edge of the northern wall, (103), and the eastern edge of the concrete slab, (102). Its position relative to the remains of the chapel suggested that it was the fill of a construction trench and this proposal was supported by the partial survival of the brickwork forming the northern wall (i.e. it had not been robbed). However, the nature of the coarse components within the silty clayey sand matrix challenges this premise. This material included a considerable quantity of coke clinker and ash, fragments of painted lime plaster and mortar, part of a toilet bowl, brick, pantile and wood fragments, and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. These objects are more redolent of a destruction deposit.

{106} A wall situated on the south side of the chapel enclosing a small yard. The eastern and western arms were 3.20m long and abutted the chapel at one end, being connected at the other end via a third length c. 5.10m long. The walls orientated north-south were c 0.35m wide and were formed by a series of headers laid in parallel with a row of stretchers. The longer southern wall was constructed differently, the outer faces being formed by parallel rows of stretchers enclosing a rubble core. The surviving sections of wall were quite roughly built and some of the bricks appeared to be seconds, as they were poorly fired and had degraded to a compact, oxidised clay. A yellowish lime mortar bonded all elements.

(107) A loose, degraded tarmac surface, now largely composed of disaggregated grits. It could be divided into two distinct components. (107)a – was the surface of the yard contained by walls {106}, and covering c. 2.90m north-south by 4.50m east-west. (107)b – lay to the south of this yard, extending c. 11.0m north-south and 8.40m east-west. Close examination demonstrated that this surface had been replaced on one

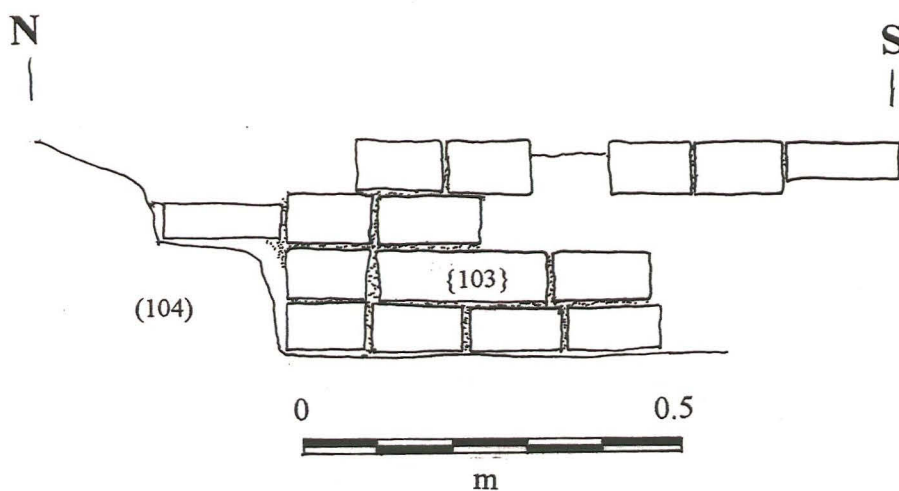


Figure 5: Detail of the north-west corner of the chapel. Mortar is shown stippled.

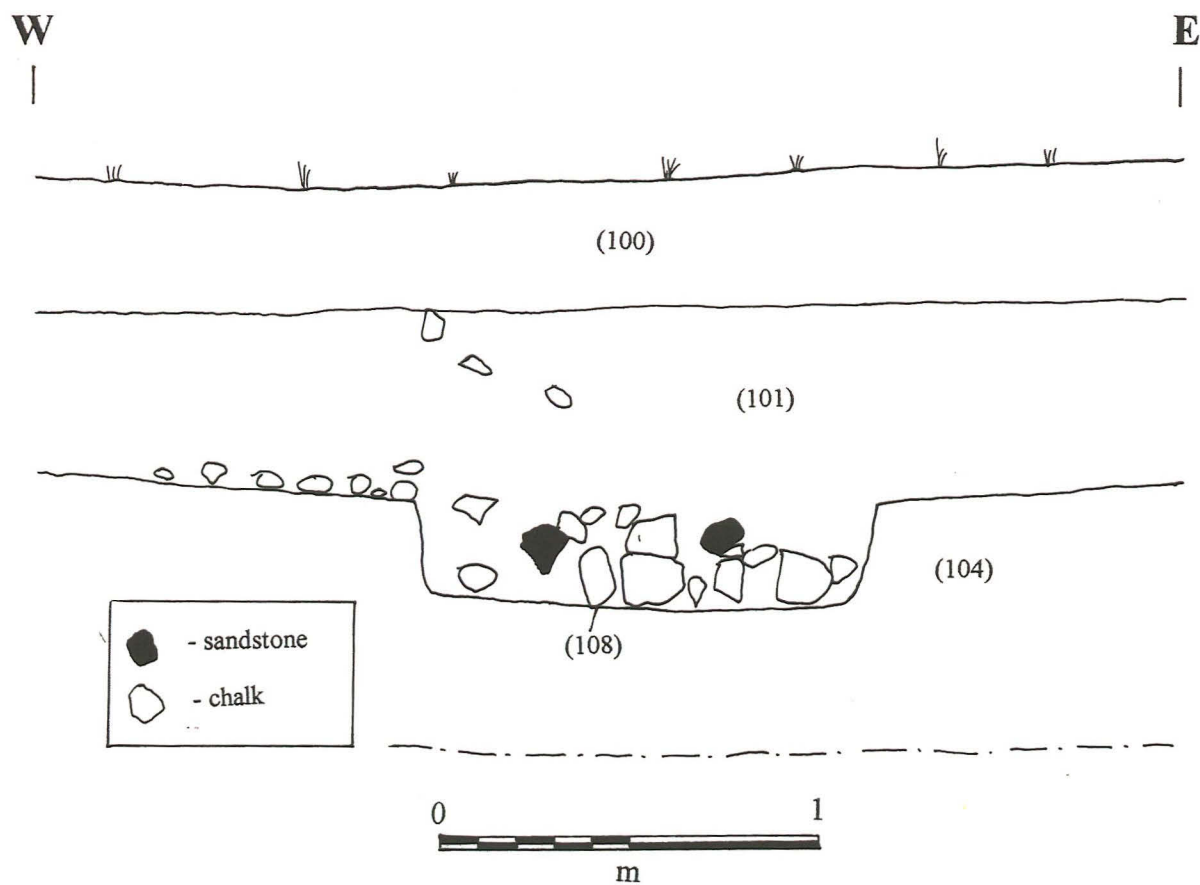


Figure 6: South-facing section showing wall {108} at the northern edge of the terrace excavated for the development.



occasion; the initial deposit was c. 0.05m thick and was separated from another, c. 0.03m deep, by a very thin lens of clay (c. 0.005m thick).

{108} This feature represented the remains of a wall running northwards from the north-east corner of the chapel. Its destination was never established as it continued beyond the area that was subject to terracing (fig. 6). The components of {108} contrasted with the other walls found on the site, as they consisted of unmortared chalk and sandstone rubble, situated within a matrix of subsoil, (101). However, this material only survived to a depth of c. 0.25m, which, combined with a width of c. 1.20m, raises the possibility that it was only a hardcore footing for a more substantial brick or stone wall; there were no loose fragments of brick or mortar within or above {108}, which implies that any superstructure was of drystone construction.

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusions

There is evidence, provided by maps and aerial photographs, to indicate that a precursor to Binbrook Road once ran c. 15m higher up the northern side of the east-west valley within which much of Welton is located (Smith, 1962) (fig. 7). This alternate route appears to have run from the bottom of Dark Lane, near the school, to the location of the Old Manor House, where it merges with the present course of the road. It is suggested that the road was situated higher up the slope because of the stream used to flood fairly frequently. The course of this defunct track would have bisected the development site, the projected route running approximately through the site later occupied by both the chapel and the house currently being constructed. No evidence of any metalling or other surface was detected.

All the archaeological deposits identified during this watching brief related to a chapel constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Older artefacts were not identified, even as residual material in later contexts. One sherd of pottery was recovered from (100) and submitted for analysis in the belief that it was slightly older than the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery found elsewhere on the site, but examination demonstrated that it belongs to the same general date range (appendix 12.2).

The chapel was erected for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation in 1835 and the building was utilised solely as a place of worship. It was one of three religious centres operating in the village during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ambler, 1979). Elsewhere in the village was a Primitive Methodist congregation that met in part of a licensed dwelling that had been erected c. 1826. The Anglican congregation was long established, being based in the medieval church of St Martin's.

A census of religious worship conducted on 30 March 1851 provides further insight into the configuration of practices and beliefs held by villagers. From a population of 368 individuals, 30 people attended the evening service at the Primitive Methodist meeting house, some of whom were also pupils at the Sunday school (*ibid.*). The parish church was obviously a much larger establishment, holding up to 230 people. However, only 38 attended the morning service, with the afternoon congregation being slightly larger at 59. The Sunday school appears to have been the most popular aspect of the Anglican ministry with 63 and 64 scholars attending in the morning and afternoon respectively. It is possible that this educational element was so well

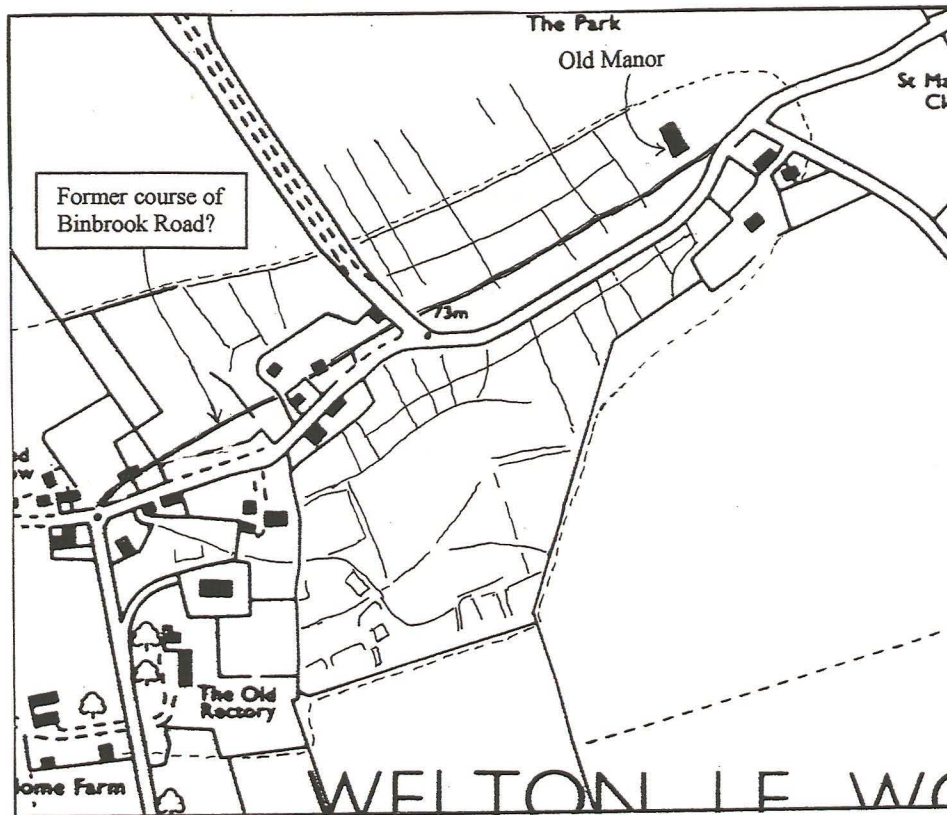


Figure 7: Sketch plot of earthworks in Welton-le-Wold. The dashed line defines the boundary of the medieval village as suggested by Smith (1962). Compare with figure 1. Scale 1: 7,500.



frequented because it provided an opportunity for the less affluent elements of the society, especially the adults, to acquire basic literacy. In return for a small fee many of the children would have had access to education following the construction, in 1839, of two National Schools in the village (White, 1856). These schools were gender segregated and served the villages of Welton and, North and South Elkington.

It was noted that attendance at the church fluctuated during the course of the year, being highest in the summer and autumn and lowest in spring, which was the time the census was conducted (Ambler, 1979). The extensive building works, which must have still been underway at this time as part of the wholesale reconstruction of the church, may also have affected attendance. The Wesleyan congregation was relatively large, even in comparison with that attending the church. Unbelievably, for a building with an internal area of c. 19.3m<sup>2</sup>, it is recorded as having 'free sittings' for 30 and 'other sittings' for an additional 70 (*ibid.*); it can only be concluded that there wasn't much sitting at all, due to lack of space! The actual attendance for the evening service on 30 March was 83. Whether this was a deliberate, politically motivated show of force by the congregation, in the knowledge that their presence was being recorded by the census, must remain a matter of conjecture. It may also be significant that the Rector of St Martin's felt it necessary to record that church and chapel services were held at different times; this may indicate that some people were attending both.

The chapel is depicted as a standing building on the 1956 edition of the 1: 2,500 Ordnance Survey map. However, by the late 1960s it had been demolished, at the time the current owner of The Lodge moved into that property, which was then a tied cottage belonging to the Welton Estate. It was he who laid the concrete slab, (102), and adapted the remains of the structure into a workshop and garage. This had a part timber and part brick superstructure, with a roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting, it was described as a "posh chicken-shed".

The re-use of the chapel foundations has led to some difficulty in the reconstruction of the form of the chapel itself. The later concrete slab, (102), covers only part of the area enclosed by walls {103} and {106}. This could be considered to bias any interpretation toward the notion that the area enclosed by {106} was not part of the internal area of the chapel building; in many respects, including the contemporary statement that the building had 'sittings' for 100 people, reason would dictate that these walls together defined 3.5 sides of one large building, with its long access orientated north-south. However, the interpretation that the remains represent a building and adjacent southern yard (see 6.0) has been reached independently of any factor associated with the area of the concrete slab. Firstly, the form of footings {103} differs from those of {106} despite surviving to the same height. Secondly, the 1956 Ordnance Survey map shows a sub-rectangular building with its long axis orientated east-west.

Based upon the materials examined during the watching brief and the form of other religious meeting houses of this size and date, it is possible to provide a tentative reconstruction of the chapel. It would most likely have been a single storey, sub-rectangular building constructed in red brick. It is probable that entry was through a door placed centrally in the southern wall. The latter was probably flanked on either side by a typical Georgian period rectangular window. The roof appears to have been covered with pantiles, hipped gables being consistent with the period of construction.

Access to the building was through a southern yard defined by a low brick wall. This probably bracketed a centrally placed gate. Viewed externally from the south, the structure would be markedly symmetrical.

Little can be said about the internal organisation of the building, other than to note that fragments of plaster indicate that the colour scheme changed over time. Initially, the bare plaster was painted burgundy/deep red; a coat of khaki green pigment replaced this. Later still a light blue-turquoise paint was used, which was finally superseded by one or more coats of limewash.

In addition to the archaeological deposits noted above, it is possible that there are sub-surface features in the eastern area of the site adjacent to the boundary with The Lodge. Any such remains would not have been detected during the watching brief, due to the absence of groundworks in this sector of the site.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

Although only relatively modern features were identified during the watching brief, it is considered that this programme of monitoring adequately served to determine the spatial distribution, density, nature and date of archaeological deposits located in the development area.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr and Mrs G.P. Ingamells for this commission and, for help and discussion during the programme of groundworks. Thanks are also extended to Mark Bennet at the County SMR, for his assistance during the compilation of this report.



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## 11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2000.127.



## Appendix 12.1: Colour photographs



**Plate 1:** General view of the site at the onset of groundworks, looking north-north-west.



**Plate 2:** Concrete floor slab (102), with wooden sill beam in blue plastic fertiliser sacks in foreground. Note that pinky brown natural (104) is exposed immediately behind chapel, indicating that it was also terraced into the hillside, looking north.





**Plate 3:** The north-west corner of chapel foundation {103}, looking east.



**Plate 4:** Northern wall of chapel, with dark demolition deposit (105) in the foreground. Note also the northern corner of the concrete drip gully that appears to define the eastern end of the chapel, looking west.



## Appendix 12.2: Pottery archive

# pottery archive wlw00

Jane Young   Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	description	date
100	LPM	Early Modern wares (general term)	jar	1	yellow earthenware;white slipped band with bue decoration	19 to 20th

### 12.3 List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	Topsoil
101	Layer	Subsoil – spatial restricted to northern area of site
102	Structure	Floor slab of chapel (102)a; with later southerly extension (102)b
103	Structure	Northern and western wall of chapel - surviving lower courses and foundations built in red brick.
104	Layer	Natural – pinkish-orange silty clay containing localised areas of chalk grits and pebbles and areas of angular flint nodules.
105	Fill	Fill of trench following (103) – while this may be construction trench, it contains 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century demolition material, yet wall has not been robbed-out to this depth.
106	Structure	Brick wall to the south of the chapel defining a small front yard.
107	Layer	(107)a – a tarmac surface within the area enclosed by wall (106). (107)b – a tarmac surface to the south of wall (106), that has been resurfaced once.
108	Structure	Wall running north-south up to the north-east corner of the chapel. Surviving portion consists of unbonded chalk and sandstone rubble – may be hardcore in the foundation trench or lower courses of drystone wall.