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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CEDAR COTTAGE, 37 HIGH STREET
WELBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCED99)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CEDAR COTTAGE, 37 HIGH STREET
WELBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCED99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mrs J. Warr-King

March 2001

Report Compiled by
James Albone MA, PIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 9660 5423
City and County Museum Accession No. 257.99
Planning Reference: N/72/878/98



A.P.S. Report No. 116/99

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at, Cedar Cottage, 37 High Street, Welbourn, Lincolnshire during topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling.

The watching brief was imposed as the site lay within the an area of significant archaeological interest. Romano-British (AD 50-410) pottery and Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-650) remains have been found within the vicinity of the site. The site lies within the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village which is recorded from at least the 11th century.

No archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief and only natural topsoil and subsoil deposits were recorded. Modern tin cans and other metal debris were the only artefacts that were discovered and these were not retained.

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 or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed*' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

On the 4th October 1999 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during

excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling at Cedar Cottage, 37 High Street, Welbourn, Lincolnshire (Planning Application N/72/878/98). Archaeological monitoring was recommended by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, in order to determine the presence of any archaeological remains.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mrs. Warr-King, to undertake an archaeological watching brief. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Welbourn is situated approximately 18km south of Lincoln and 13km northwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The settlement lies at the foot of the scarp slope of the Lincolnshire Limestone Edge (Fig 2).

The site lies to the southwest of the school and is centred upon National Grid Reference SK 9660 5423. The site was formerly occupied by a building which was demolished prior to the start of the development. The surface of the site lies at approximately 30m OD.

It lies on fine loamy and silty over clayey soils of the Wickham 2 Association resting on Lower Jurassic Marlstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351; BGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Welbourn village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from at least the Roman period through to the present day.

A few sherds of Roman pottery were

recovered from a medieval deposit during a watching brief at 28 High Street (Palmer-Brown 1994). Earthworks associated with Welbourn Castle were described as Roman in the nineteenth century and it was claimed that coins of this date were found there. These finds are now lost and cannot be confirmed.

Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded from close to the church, approximately 200m to the northeast of the site.

The place-name Welbourn is Old English in origin and refers to 'the stream running from a spring' (Cameron 1998, 135). It is first recorded in the Domesday Survey in 1086. At this time the manor of *Wellebrune* was held by Robert Malet and included a church and priest, a mill and 200 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976, 185).

The church is dedicated to St. Chad and, although it was in existence from at least the eleventh century, the earliest surviving remains are in the Early English style (Pevsner and Harris. 1989, 784).

The earthwork remains of Welbourn Castle, a medieval ring-work, are situated approximately 200m to the north of the site. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has recently been the subject of a detailed survey. Pottery of 10th to 12th century date was recovered indicating the early phase of the castle or activity pre-dating its construction (Rayner 2000). Although the exact period of the castle's operation is uncertain, it is known to have been out of use by the late fourteenth century (Tann 1999, 1).

Medieval pottery and remains, including possible fishponds, have been found during earlier watching briefs along the High Street and in the vicinity of the castle.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works (IFA 1997)

4. METHODS

The area of the development was stripped of vegetation and some topsoil prior to the commencement of the watching brief. The foundation trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator to a depth of approximately 0.9m. This part of the groundworks was monitored by Archaeological Projects Services.

Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. A representative section was drawn at a scale of 1:10 and its location recorded on a sketch plan. Photographic recording, depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded deposits, was undertaken.

5. RESULTS

Records of deposits excavated during development were examined. A list of contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits.

Phase 1	Natural Geology
Phase 2	Undated Deposits

5.1 Natural Geology

The earliest deposits recorded at the site were light yellow grey and blue silty clays (002 & 004) which were approximately 0.55m thick (Fig 4). In between these deposits was a lens (003) of iron pan, where the silty clay was orange in colour.

5.2 Undated Deposits

The latest deposit encountered was the topsoil (001). This was a mid grey brown clayey silt which was approximately 0.40m. thick. No artefacts were recovered from this context although modern metal debris was observed on the surface

6. DISCUSSION

A sequence of natural and topsoil layers was recorded by the watching brief. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring. The absence of any archaeological remains, particularly of medieval or later date, is surprising. This is especially so given the location of the site close to the core of the settlement and the previous finds to the northeast and southwest. The reason for the lack of remains at the site is uncertain but may be a result of differing land use from its immediate surroundings during the medieval period and later periods.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations at 37 High Street were undertaken as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village and the remains of the castle. However, no archaeological remains, of any period, were exposed during the work and no artefacts

were recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Warr-King who commissioned the watching brief. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer allowed access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration: James Albone
Post-Excavation Analysis: James Albone

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

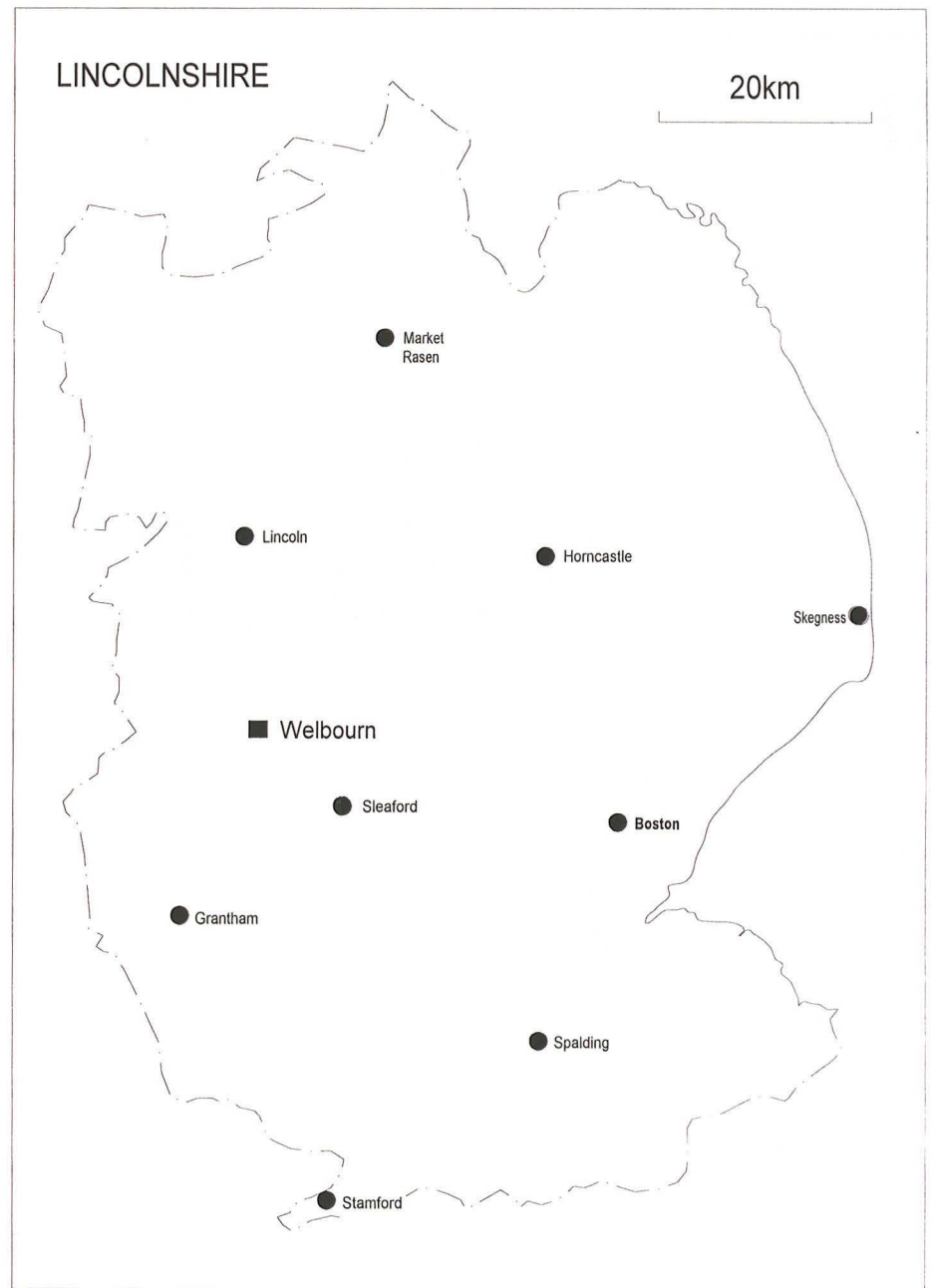
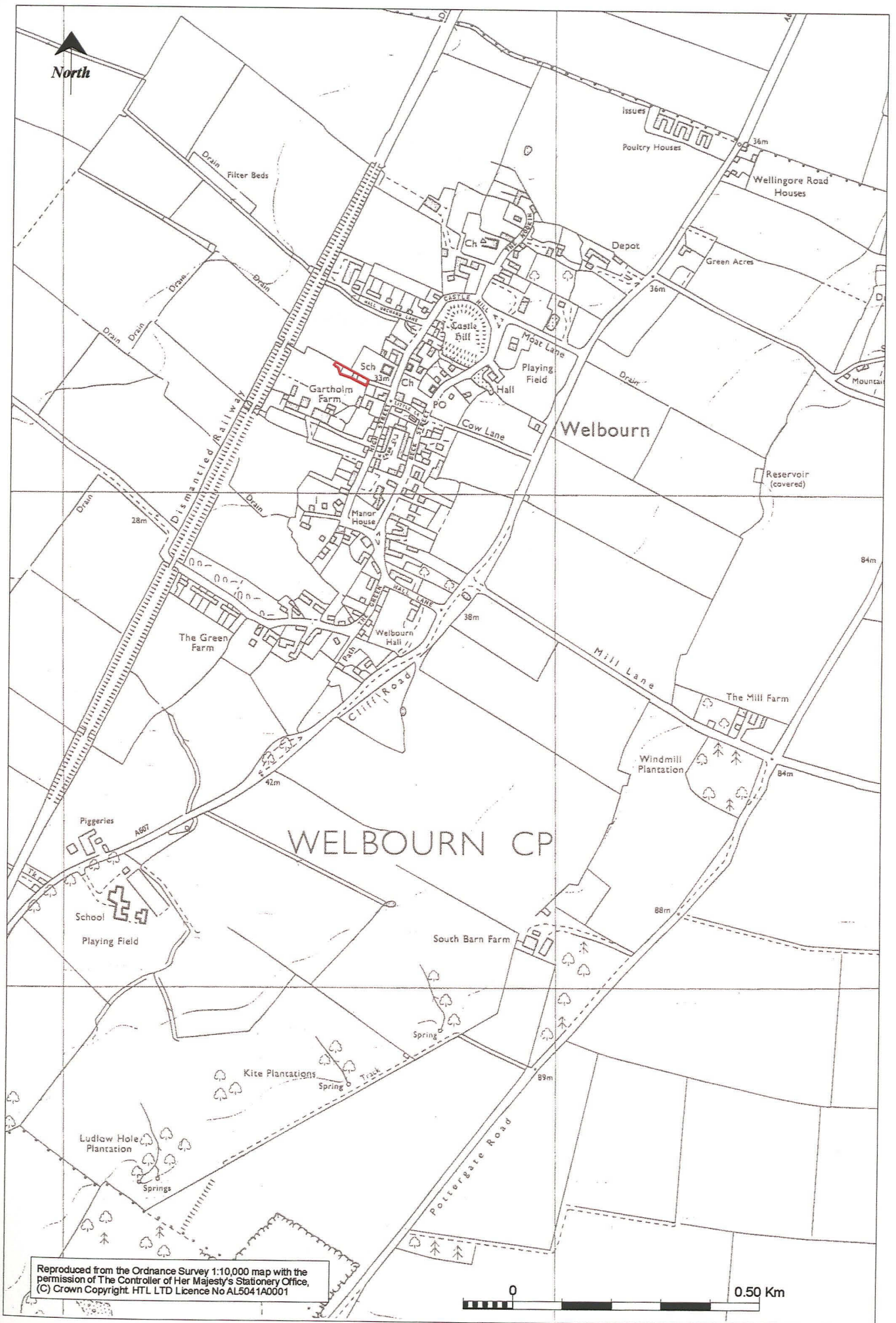


Figure 1 General Location Plan



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL LTD Licence No AL5041A0001

Figure 2 Location plan

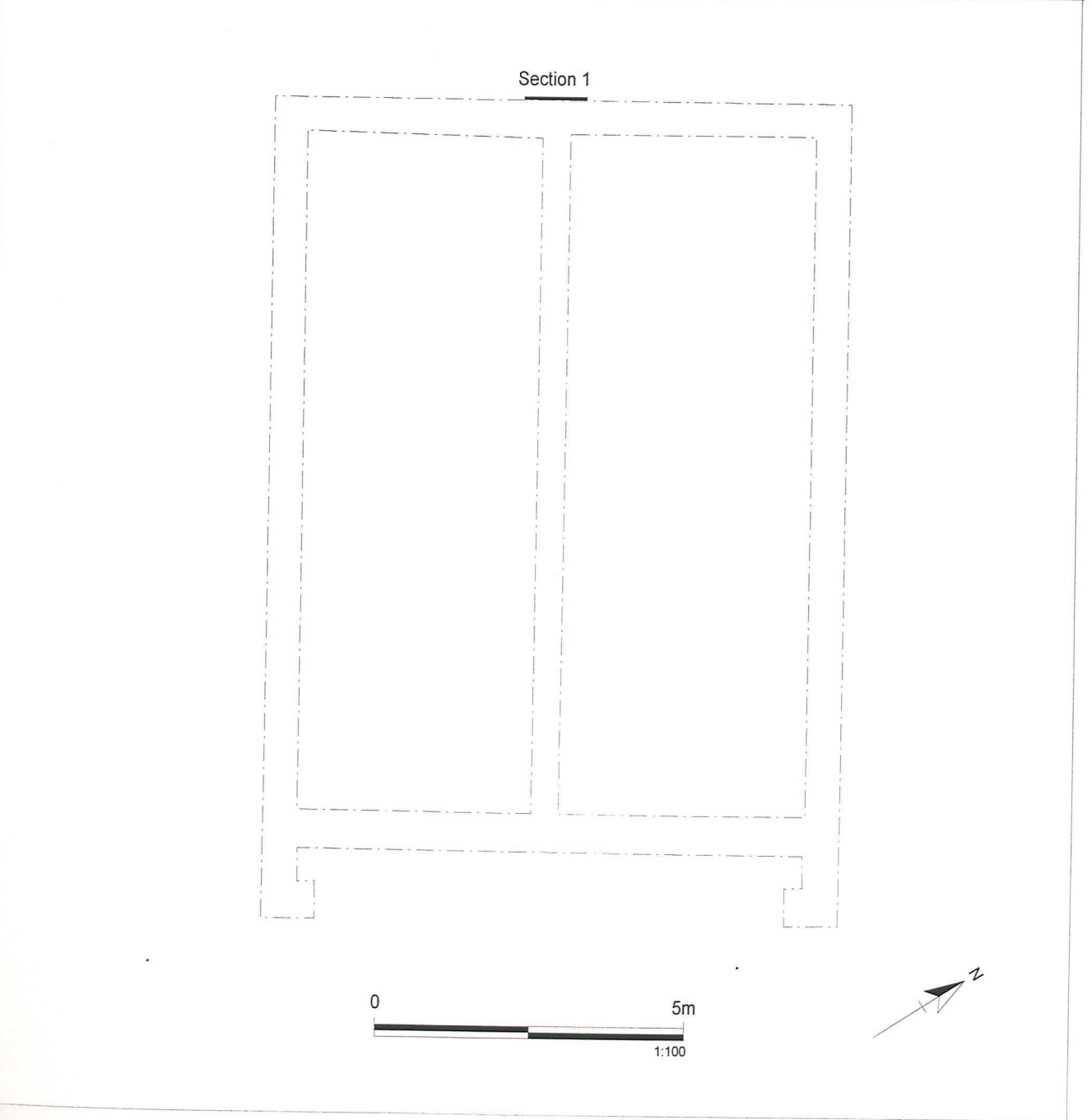
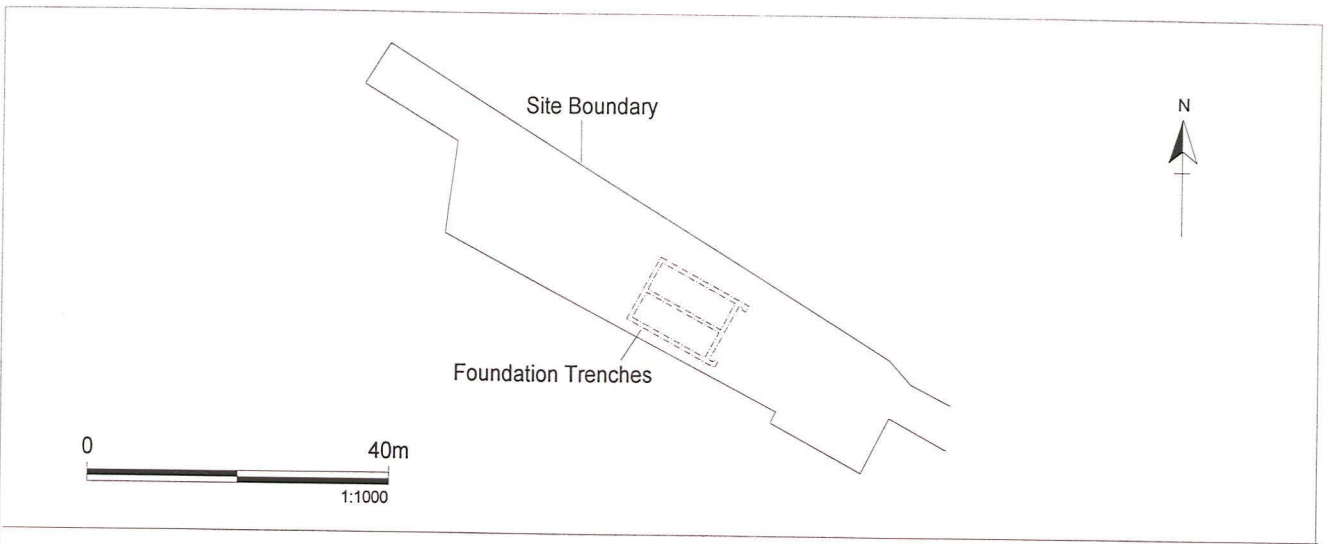


Figure 3: Plan and Location of Foundation Trenches

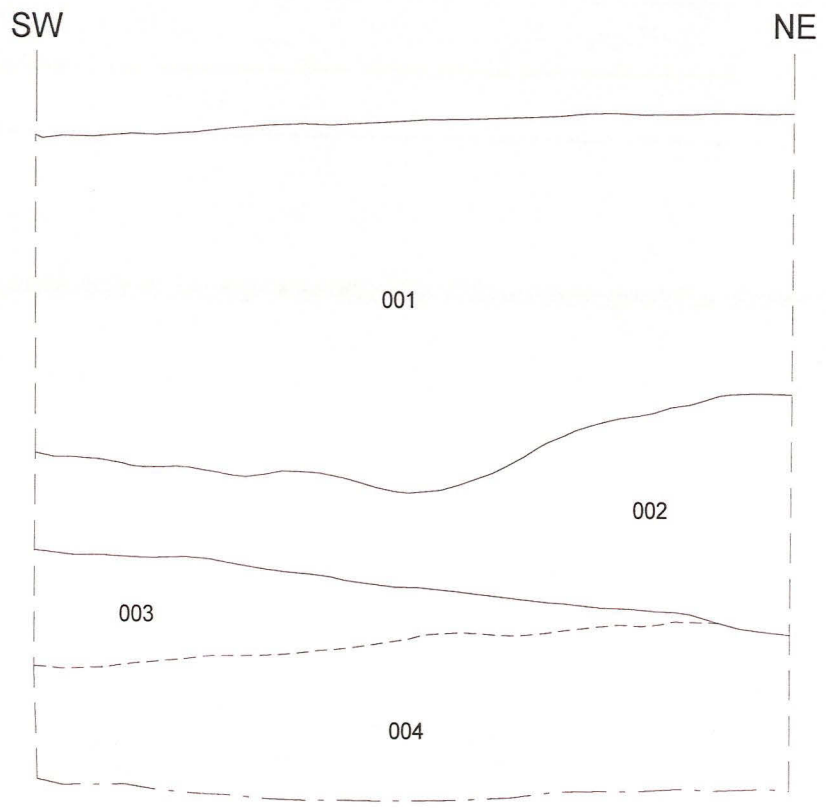


Figure 4: Representative Section 1



▲ Plate 1 General view of the site looking east.



◀ Plate 2 Representative Section 1.

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

37 HIGH STREET, WELBOURN, LINCS

Planning Application Number: N /72/878/98

NGR: SK 9660 5423

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Warr-King

Agent: Plantec Building Services

1. Summary

1.1 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. (The Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists, Tel: 0118 931 6446).

1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Welbourn village is situated mid-way between Lincoln and Grantham on the west side of the Lincoln Limestone Edge. Local soils are drift deposits of clay overlying Lincolnshire (Jurassic) Limestone.

2.2 The development site is on the western side of the High Street, to the south west of the school. The new dwelling is to be built partially on the site of a building that is to be demolished.

3. Planning Background

3.1 Full planning permission has been given to erect a dwelling at 37 High Street and a watching brief is required as a planning condition.

4. **Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 The application area occupies an area within the medieval core of the village. Documentary evidence tells us that there was a settlement and a manor here from the eleventh century.
- 4.2 Welbourn 'Castle' is situated approximately 200m to the northeast of the application site. What survives is the 'motte' of a Norman Castle or defended manor house. Its outer court of 'bailey' may follow the line of the High St, Little Lane and Beck Street.
- 4.3 Two watching briefs carried out either side of the application site have produced archaeological information. Evidence of ground raising in the thirteenth century was revealed at 28 High Street and early medieval occupation features including a fishpond were found at 33 High Street.
- 4.4 Anglo-Saxon grave goods and Roman and medieval pottery scatters have also been found within 300m.
- 4.5 Although the dwelling is to be built partly on top of a building which is to be demolished, there is still a good possibility that archaeological material may remain.

5. **Requirements for Work**

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.
- 5.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997) and should include the following:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.
 - 5.3.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers including person hours for on-site work.

5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.

5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that medieval finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in these areas.

5.3.6 Contingency costs should only be used in the event of unexpected costs and should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

6. Methods

6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. If the specialists to be used by the body are not members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists and are not locally recognised, a CV or some other form of reference should be provided with the specification.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable

requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

6.2.8 Under the new Treasure Act, all gold and silver artefacts found during the watching brief, thought to be 'treasure' should be reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford within fourteen days.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. The Heritage Officer should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and should be regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. Reporting Requirements

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.

8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. A summary of the results must be published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.

9.2 Should the watching brief reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made of publication within the appropriate regional or national journal.

10. **Additional Information**

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

10.2 Further contact addresses:

Kate Orr
North Kesteven Heritage Officer
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

County Sites and Monuments Record
Highways and Planning Directorate
Lincolnshire County Council
4th Floor
City Hall
Lincoln LN1 1DN

Mr T. Page
City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 5AL

Department of Planning
North Kesteven District Council Offices
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7EF

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 15/3/1999

This brief is only valid for one year from this date.

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Mid grey-brown clay silt.	Topsoil
002	1	Light yellow-grey silty clay	Natural
003	1	Orange silty clay	Iron pan
004	1	Blue/yellow-grey silty clay	Natural

Appendix 3

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).
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context records
1	Scale drawing
2	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 237.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WCC99

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Site Code: WCED99

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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