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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
CROSBY LANE,
WELBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCL00)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
CROSBY LANE,
WELBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCL00)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr. R. Leighton

November 2001

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc PIFA

Planning Application No: N/72/331/99
National Grid References: SK 9655 5396
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2000.96

A.P.S. Report No.193 /00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks phase of the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to Crosby Lane, Welbourn, Lincolnshire. The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest within the core of the medieval village, perhaps in the manor of Southalle, with Welbourn Castle lying to the north in the manor of Northalle. Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds are recorded in the vicinity.

Two undated pits were observed during the course of the watching brief. A sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits were also recorded. No dateable artefacts were recovered with only three fragments of animal bone being found in the subsoil.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Archaeological Watching brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, 'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr R. Leighton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to Crosby Lane, Welbourn. The watching brief was undertaken on the 7th of July 2000. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/72/331/99. Permission was granted subject to a condition for

archaeological observation and recording. Archaeological Project Services carried out the work in accordance with a project brief set by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven (Appendix 1) and a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 2) which was approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Welbourn is situated approximately 18km south of Lincoln and 19km north of Grantham (Fig 1) in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The settlement lies at the foot of the scarp slope of the Lincolnshire Limestone Edge.

The site lies in the former garden of 'Allanbrook', a detached house on Crosby Lane, Welbourn. Crosby Lane lies at the southern end of the High Street and west of the Manor House. It is centred upon National Grid Reference SK 9655 5396 and lies at approximately 30m OD.

Local soils are fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogleys of the Wickham 2 Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). These are developed on a drift geology which overlies Lower Jurassic Marlstone (BGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Welbourn village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. A Neolithic flint axe has been found in the parish.

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. Similarly, linear earthworks to the northwest

of the castle were attributed to the Roman period, however, they are now believed to be associated with the castle.

Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded from close to the church, approximately 500m to the northeast of the site.

The place-name Welbourn is Old English in origin and refers to 'the stream coming 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 (Morris 1986).

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).

Welbourn has a polyfocal settlement plan centred around the castle, in the north, and the manor house in the south. The development site lies 100m west of the Manor House which contains 13th and 14th century architectural fragments. It is believed to lie on the site of the manor of *Southalle* which was first referred to in the 14th century. It is likely that the development site lay within the area of this manor. Earthwork remains of medieval settlement, possibly also representing part of *Southalle*, are located approximately 300m southwest of the site.

The northern settlement focus consisted of the manor of *Northalle*, centred on the castle. This manor is recorded in 1158, implying that *Southalle* was also in existence by that time (Tann 1999, 6).

Welbourn Castle consists of the earthwork remains of a medieval ring-work and is situated approximately 400m to the northeast of the site. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has recently been the subject of a detailed survey. Although the exact period of its operation is uncertain, it is known to have

been out of use in the late fourteenth century (Tann 1999, 1). A recent evaluation undertaken at the castle retrieved pottery of 10th to 12th century date indicating early use of the site. Wall tumble, probably relating to the demolition of the castle, was also identified, together with features of 13th to 14th century date. Artefacts retrieved were typical of a medieval domestic assemblage (Rayner 2000).

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, as outlined in the project brief (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the groundworks. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

Following topsoil stripping, foundation trenches were excavated up to a depth of 0.95m using a mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket. This part of the groundworks was monitored by Archaeological Project Services.

Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Sections were selectively hand cleaned to reveal any archaeological deposits and drawn at a scale of 1:10 with their locations recorded on a sketch plan. A photographic record, depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded deposits, was also compiled.

5. RESULTS

Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below and listed in Appendix 3. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the course of the watching brief was a mid-orangey brown clay (004) which represented the natural drift geology.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated Deposits

Sealing the natural clay (004) was a light brownish yellow to mid-reddish brown sandy silt / silt containing fragments of ironstone and limestone (003/008) which formed the subsoil (Fig. 4; Pl.2). Three fragments of animal bone, a sheep molar and rib fragment and a possible bird bone were recovered from this deposit (Appendix 4).

Cut through (003) was a 0.85m wide feature [007], filled by a friable, mid-brown silt (006) which was interpreted as a pit cut. Sealing this was a friable, mid-brown silt (005), up to 0.10m thick which formed the modern topsoil (Fig. 4, Section 1).

The latest feature encountered was a 0.90m wide cut [001], identified as a probable pit. This was filled by a friable, dark brown silt (002). This deposit had a very diffuse boundary with the topsoil and appeared to be cut through it (Fig. 4, Section 1).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit (004) represented the natural drift geology and is representative of the local area.

Two undated pit cuts [001] and [007] were identified. Although no finds were recovered from the fills of either of these features it is likely that they are were of both modern in date. The function of these features is also uncertain.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Crosby Lane, Welbourn, Lincolnshire, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village. Two undated pits were the only remains encountered during the course of the watching brief.

The absence of any medieval features or artefactual remains is surprising given the proximity of the site to the likely focus of the manor of *Southalle*. However, this may suggest that the site lay in open ground or fields during that period.

The nature of the local soil conditions suggest that few environmental indicators (*eg* seeds, pollen, plant macro fossils) would survive other than through charring, although other environmental indicators (snail shells, bone) may be preserved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Leighton who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Denise Drury and Tom Lane. The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files

maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: Rachael Hall
Illustration: Mark Dymond and Steve Thomson
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Steve Thomson

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

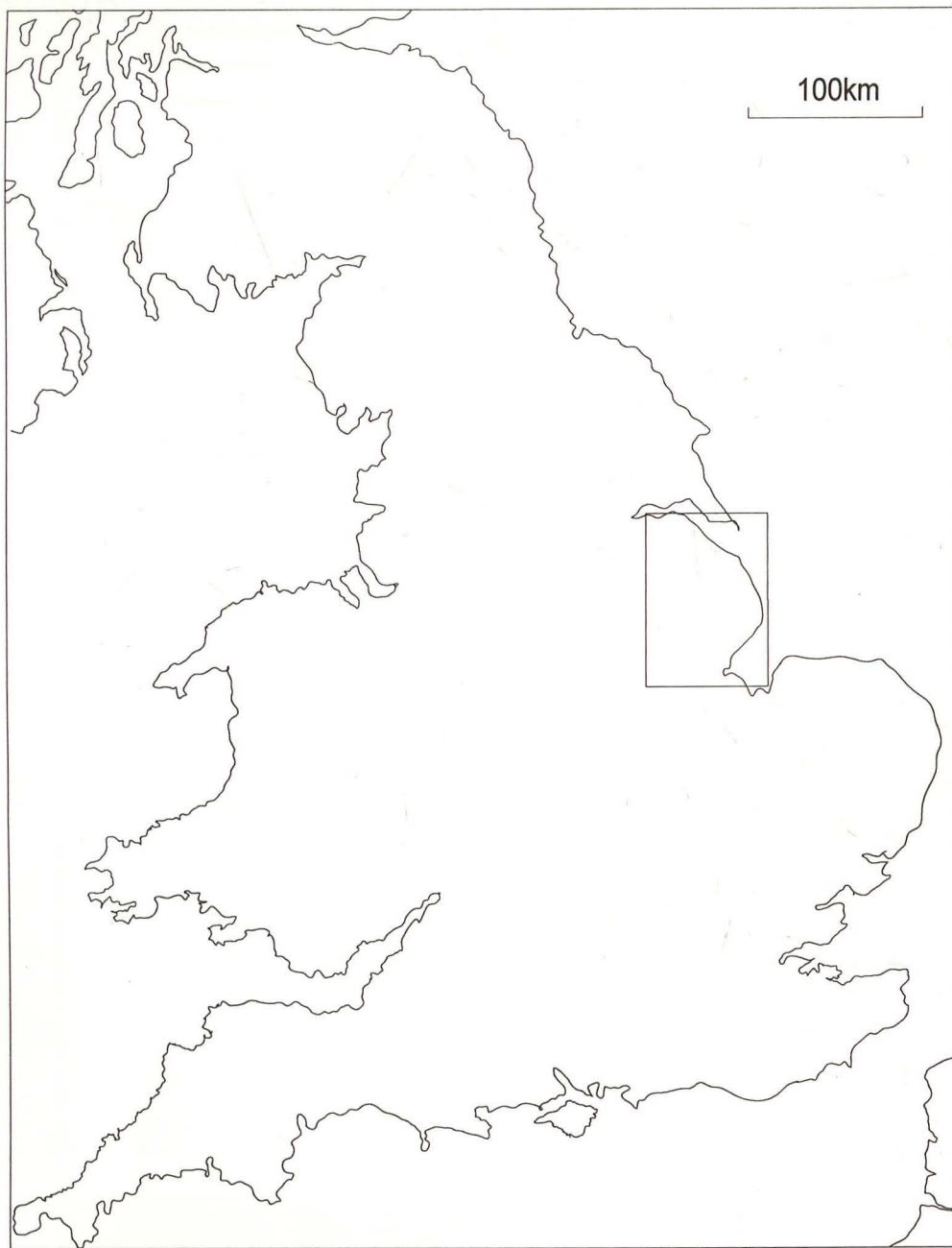


Figure 1 General Location Plan

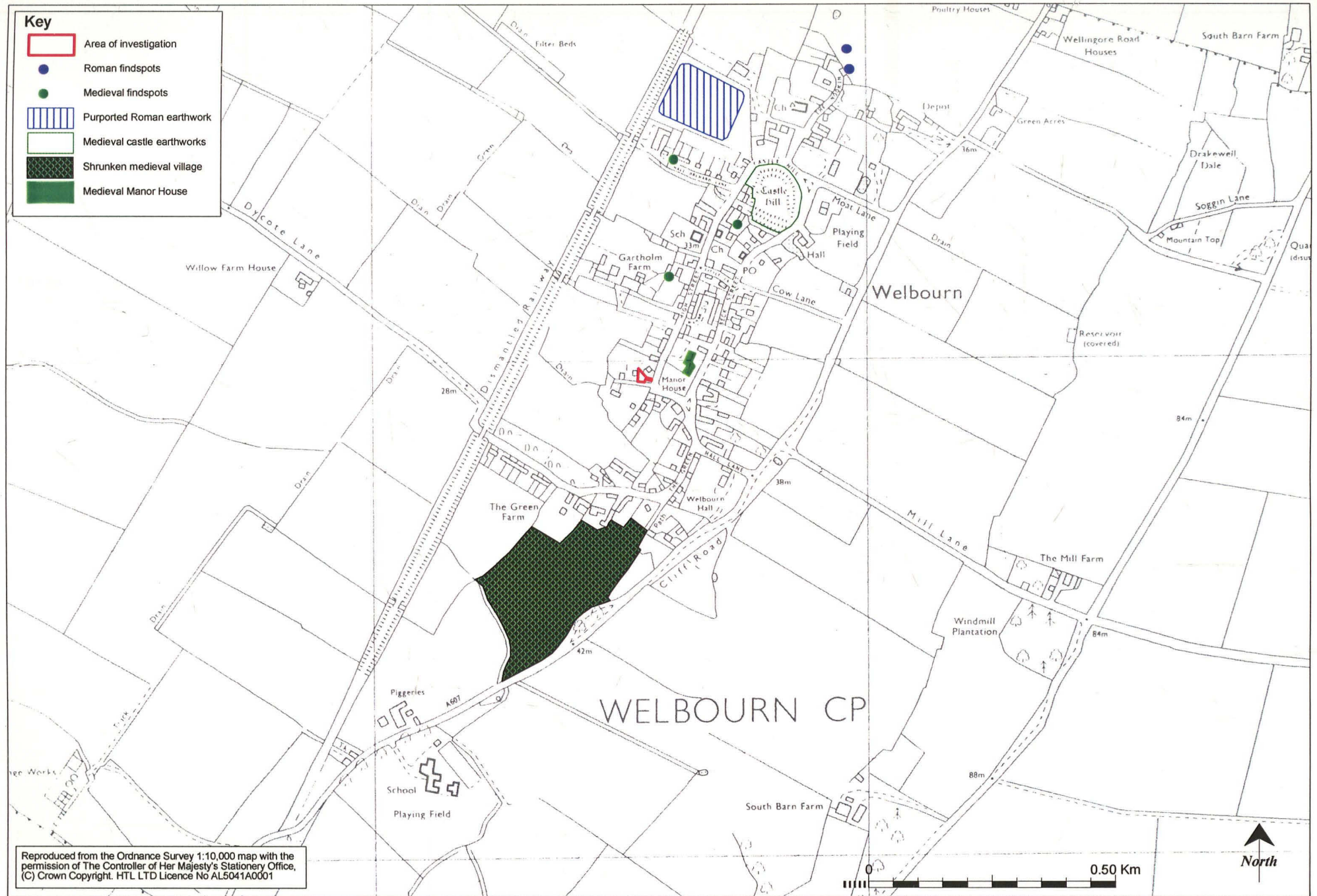


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting



Figure 3 - Site plan showing section locations

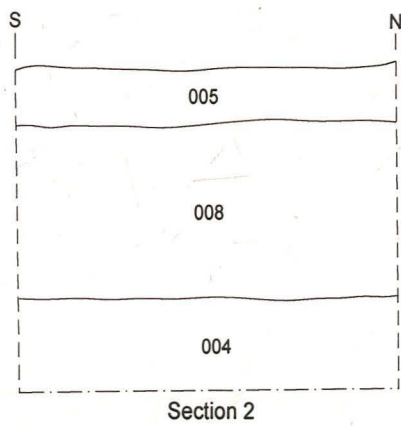
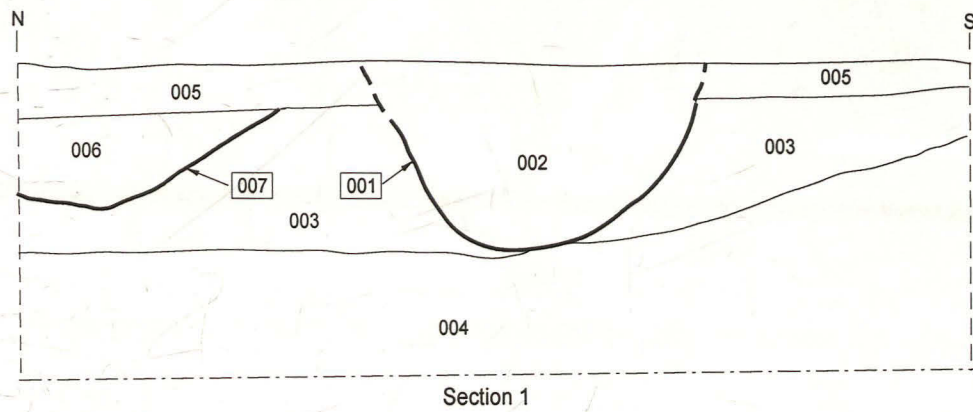


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 General view of site during groundworks, looking south



Plate 2 Section 2, looking west

Appendix 1

PLOT ADJACENT TO ALLANBROOK, CROSBY LANE, WELBOURN, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during development on a plot adjacent to Allanbrook, Crosby Lane, Welbourn, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The application area lies within the core of the medieval village, to the west of the High Street. The site is thought to lie in the medieval manor of 'le Southalle' and is located a short distance southwest of The Manor House, which dates from the early 14th century.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *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

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on a plot adjacent to Allanbrook, Crosby Lane, Welbourn. The site is located at national grid reference SK 9655 5396.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Welbourn is situated on the west side of the Lincoln Limestone Edge, approximately 18km south of Lincoln and 19km north of Grantham in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The application area is on the west side of the High Street, to the southwest of The Manor House at national grid reference SK 9655 5396.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A full planning application (N/72/331/99) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the construction of a dwelling. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies in the centre of the village at approximately 35m OD. Local soils are drift deposits of clay overlying Lincolnshire (Jurassic) Limestone.

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. Anglo-Saxon grave goods and Roman and medieval pottery have been found in the vicinity of Welbourn.

- 6.2 The application area lies within the core of the medieval village. Documentary evidence records a settlement and a manor at Welbourn from the 11th century. In the 12th century it was divided into two manors of 'le Northalle' and 'le Southalle', the former centred on the 'Castle' and the latter on, or close to, the site of The Manor House. The manors remained divided throughout the 13th century.
- 6.3 The application area is thought to lie in the manor of 'le Southalle' and is located approximately 100m southwest of The Manor House which dates from the early 14th century.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

a. Stage 1

- i. 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: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. 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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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 four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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 Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist; with G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or P Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. INSURANCES

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. 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.
- d. 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

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Indeterminate cut feature, 0.90m wide x 0.47m deep	Pit cut
002	1	Friable, dark brown silt, 0.47m thick	Fill of 001
003	1	Loose, light brownish yellow sandy silt, 0.36m deep, 3.5m long N-S	Subsoil
004	1,2	Firm, mid orangish brown clay, 0.60m thick to L.O.E.	Natural
005	1,2	Friable, mid brown silt, 0.10m thick	Topsoil
006	1	Friable, mid brown silt, 0.26m deep x 0.85m wide	Fill of 007
007	1	Indeterminate shape cut feature, 0.26m deep x 0.85m wide	Pit cut
008	2	Friable, mid reddish brown silt, 0.46m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 3

THE ANIMAL BONE

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Three fragments of animal bone were retrieved from context (008). The material is described below.

Species	Bone	Comments
Sheep	molar	fragment with post-depositional damage Possibly small mammal or bird
Sheep	scapula	
Unknown	unidentified	

The material is in generally good condition. With the absence of other finds from the site, this collection has limited potential.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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).
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.
Early Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 410-650
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Late Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 850-1066
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.
Middle Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 650-850
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.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records
- 1 Context record sheet
- 1 Section drawing record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheets
- 1 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 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 Museum Accession Number: LCNCC : 2000.96

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WCL00

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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