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**Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby,
Lincolnshire
LN3 5AB**

Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief

Sitecode: MFWK02

Author: Carrie Cowan

Client: Jim Cowan

NGR TF 0882 8203

Archaeological Contractors: Carrie Cowan (fieldwork) and Network Archaeology
(finds and environmental)
April 2004



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Non-technical summary

The site is located in a medieval (and post-medieval) moated manor house complex. Within the moated area is the Grade II listed building, a late 18th-century manor house and outbuildings, including the agricultural barn, the current site.

The proposed development involves the conversion of the existing agricultural barn to a dwelling, demolition of the existing single-storey concrete-block extension and erection of a replacement. Listed Building Consent has been granted.

The groundworks monitored by the archaeologist consisted of underpinning pits under the current barn's foundations and new foundations for the extension to be added to the west side of the existing structure. New drain runs were also monitored.

The watching brief was carried out by Carrie Cowan on behalf of the client Jim Cowan and finds work was conducted by Network Archaeology.

The watching brief identified a large cut feature, the backfill of which, was dated by pottery to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century. It was not part of the moat but could have been a pond. Above the medieval fills was a layer or fill dated to the late 17th–18th century, above which was the original floor of the barn made of cobblestones.

No medieval or post-medieval structural remains were found and no artefacts except for the pottery.

A sherd of pottery dating to mid 12th–early/mid 13th century was found by a pond in the adjacent field within the moated area. This would be consistent with a late 12th-century date for the construction of the church of St Peter and St Lawrence and the moated site which were probably contemporary.

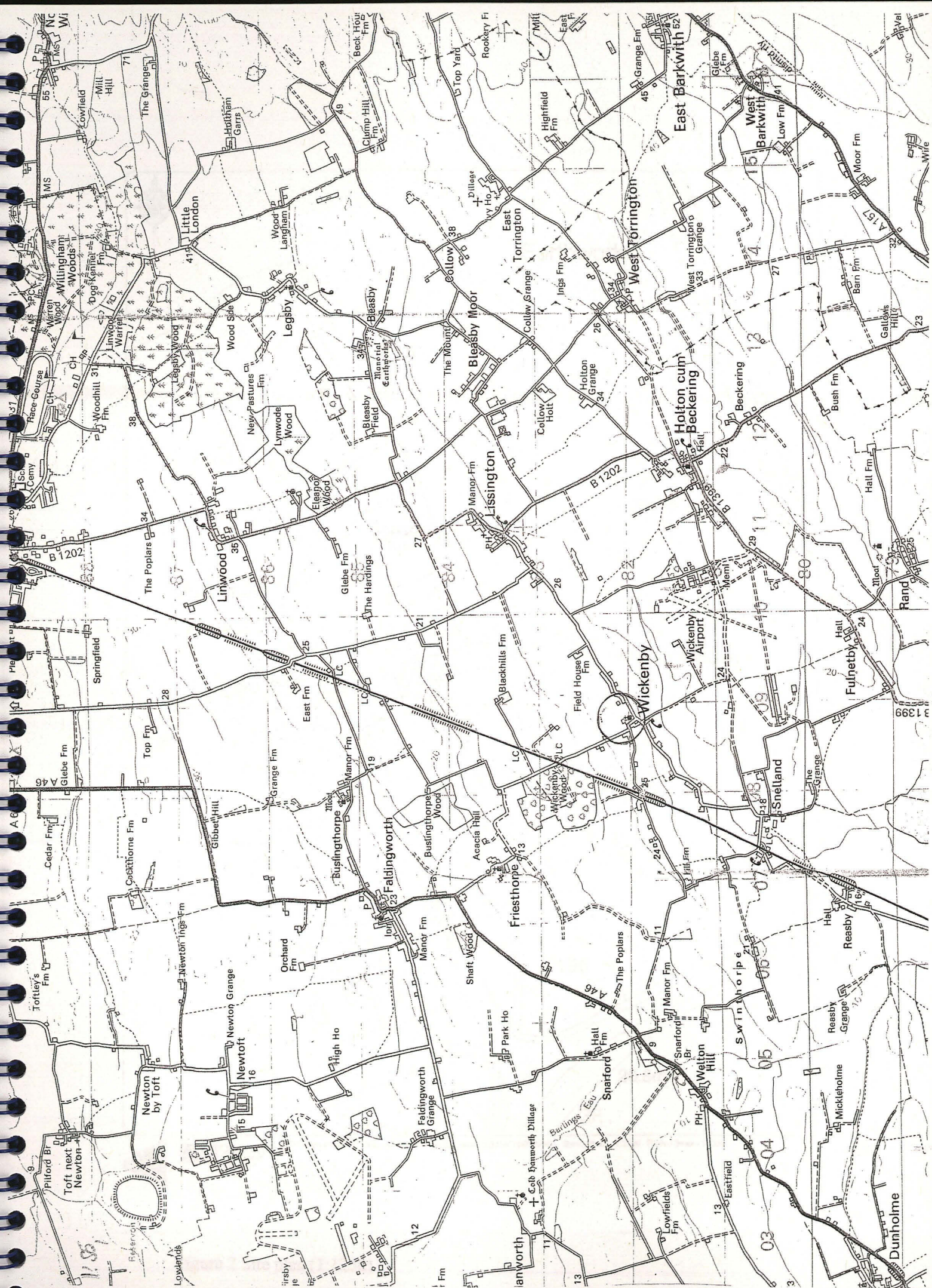
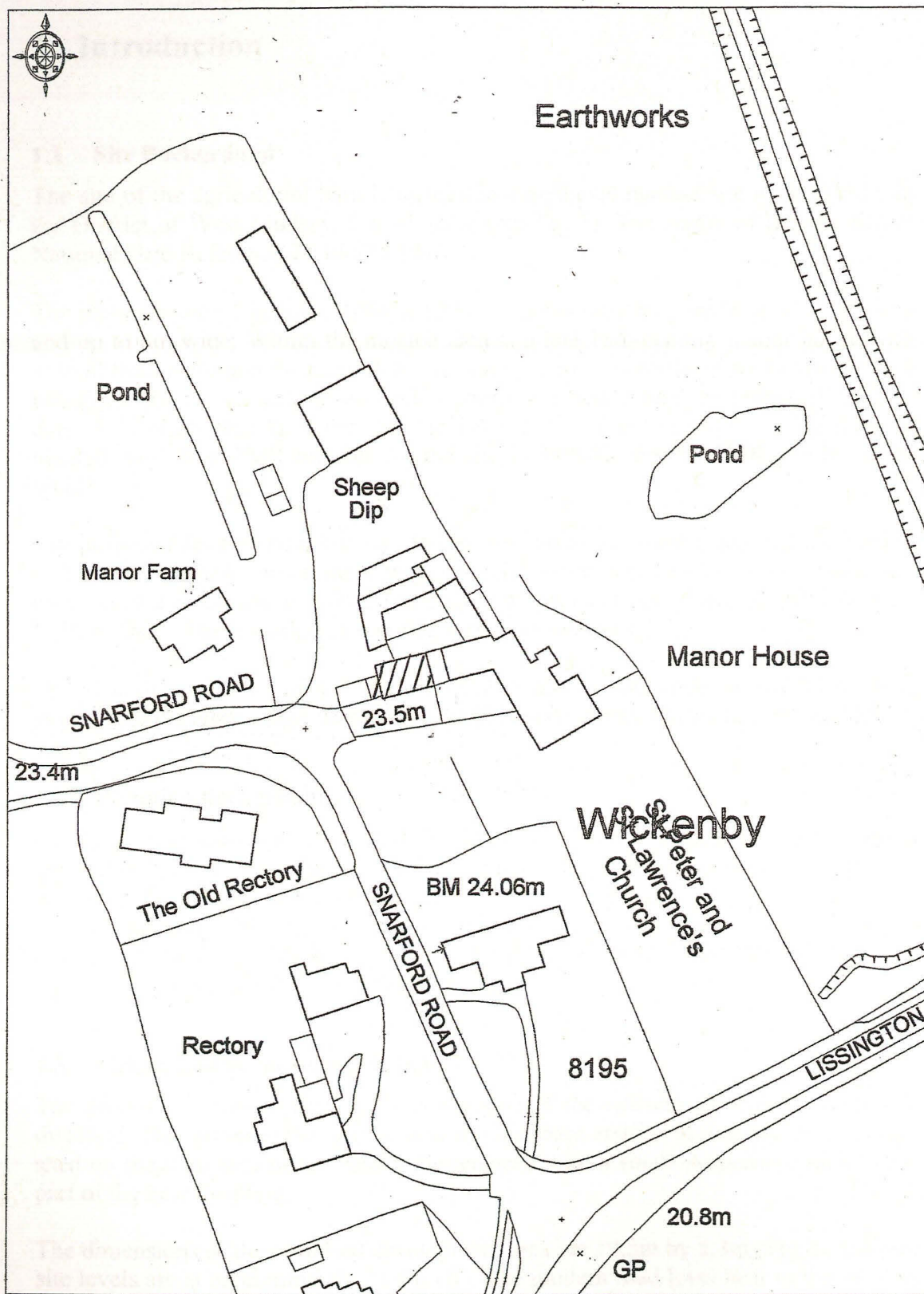


Figure 1 Site location plan (1:50,000)



Ordnance Survey

© Crown copyright 2001. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100020449. Survey Scale - 1:2500 Plotted Scale - 1:1250

Figure 2 Site plan (1:1250)

1 Introduction

1.1 Site Background

The site of the agricultural barn is located in a medieval moated site in Wickenby in the District of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at National Grid Reference TF 0882 8203.

The platform complex, some 210m x 120m, is surrounded by a moat up to 1.5m deep and up to 8m wide. Within the moated area is a late 18th-century manor house with outbuildings including the barn. Both the manor house and the barn are Grade II listed buildings. There are also several other sheds and agricultural buildings of modern date. It is likely that the Church of St Peter and St Lawrence also lies within the moated area. The NMR number for the site is 349801 and the SMR number is Li 50323.

The proposed development involves the conversion of the existing agricultural barn to a dwelling, demolition of the existing single-storey concrete-block extension and erection of a replacement. Listed Building Consent has been granted (application no. M01/P/0043). These works are outlined further in section 1.3.

An accession number of LCNCC: 2002.305 and a site code of MFWK02 was assigned to the archaeological work by the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

1.2 Planning background

Planning permission was granted in 2001 by West Lindsey District Council (M01/P/0022) for the conversion of the existing agricultural barn on the site to a dwelling. Planning permission was granted subject to the satisfactory completion of the requirements of the archaeological condition detailed in Cowan 2002 *Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire: Project Design and Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief – Section 1.2*.

1.3 Origin and Scope of the report

The proposed works consist of the conversion of the existing agricultural barn to a dwelling. This involves the refurbishment of the barn and the demolition of a modern shed on the west side of the barn to be replaced with a small extension which forms part of the new dwelling.

The dimensions of the proposed development area are 19.5m by 5.3m (Fig 2). Current site levels are at approximately 23.4m OD. The modern road level near to the site lies at c 23m OD.

As part of the refurbishment the foundations of the existing barn were to be underpinned. This consisted of the digging of five sets of six or seven underpinning pits each measuring 1.0m by 0.8m and 1.5m deep (Fig 4).

In addition, the extension added to the west side of the existing structure, was constructed on strip foundations, measuring 600mm wide for the external foundations and 450mm wide for internal foundations. All foundations were 1.5m deep from ground level. Part of this extension was not constructed at this stage. The surface slab level will be at 23.4m OD. New drainage connects to a new cesspit located in the garden to the south of the barn and consists of a cut 2.0m by 2.0m and 2.15m deep for the cesspit and drain trenches 0.35m wide and up to 0.60m deep for the connecting pipes (Fig 4).

These works were thought likely to remove any surviving archaeological deposits and required archaeological monitoring.

This report has been commissioned by Jim Cowan of Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire and forms the written results of the archaeological monitoring on the site as required under the archaeological planning condition placed on the development.

1.4 Archaeological & Historical Background

The time-scales used in this report are:

Palaeolithic:	450,000-12,000 BC
Mesolithic:	12,000-4,000 BC
Neolithic:	4,000-2,000 BC
Bronze Age:	2,000-600 BC
Iron Age:	600 BC-AD 43
Roman:	AD 43-410
Saxon (early-medieval):	AD 410-1066
Medieval:	AD 1066-1485
Post-medieval:	AD 1485-present

The archaeological and historical background was fully described in Cowan 2002 (Section 1.3) and only a brief resume is included here.

Wickenby is located on a ridge of Boulder Clay or Till between tributaries of the Barlings Eau. The modern ground level is at 23m OD.

The site of the barn at Wickenby lies within a medieval moated site surveyed in 1976 by RCHME and published in Everson and Taylor 1991 (see Fig 3). The platform at Wickenby was some 210m x 120m, surrounded by the moat. The manor was held by William de Percy at Domesday and had passed to the Chamberlain family by the mid-13th century and remained in their possession until at least the mid-15th century.

It is likely that the moat also enclosed the church and churchyard of St Peter and St Lawrence. A church was not recorded at Wickenby in the Domesday Book so it is likely that the church was associated with the construction of the moated site, and, as

the church has a Transitional doorway (late 12th century) (Pevsner 1995, 797), this would give a date for the medieval manor as well.

Earthworks were noted during the 1976 survey, both in the field to the east of the current house and in the field beyond the moat (Fig 3). These may have been building platforms. The moat also has a low internal bank.

The large pond to the east may have been the remnants of medieval fishponds connected to the moat by a channel (see Fig 3). The pond is situated on the site of a spring which presumably would once have also fed the moat. A chain of fishponds were noted also on the survey. There was another sunken area, possibly a channel off the moat or a fishpond, along the northern side of the churchyard found by the previous occupants of the manor.

The manorial block has disrupted the road alignment. Snarford Road may once have linked up to Lissington Road at the east of the village. This east-west route (noted on Fig 3 between b and c) may originally have crossed beneath the present site access road but has now rerouted around the moat to the south.

The post-medieval history of the manor has not been fully investigated but many historical documents exist in the Lincolnshire archives. In 1610, the manor was owned by the Amcotts who held over 400 acres. Inventories of the hall dated 1622 when the manor was occupied by the Milners. Henry Milner died in 1635 and there is a brass plaque to him in the church.

The parish was enclosed between 1625 and 1638. It is possible that the present manor house was built in the 1770s. By the early 18th century there were 26 households in the parish. The tithe map dated 1800 shows the extent of the village in the 19th century. By the later 1840s the population had doubled with many new buildings outside the old settlement nucleus. This was due perhaps to the construction of the railways as Wickenby Station was opened in 1848.



[151] Wickenby (3) Settlement Remains.

Figure 3 Archaeological survey of the moated manor carried out in 1976

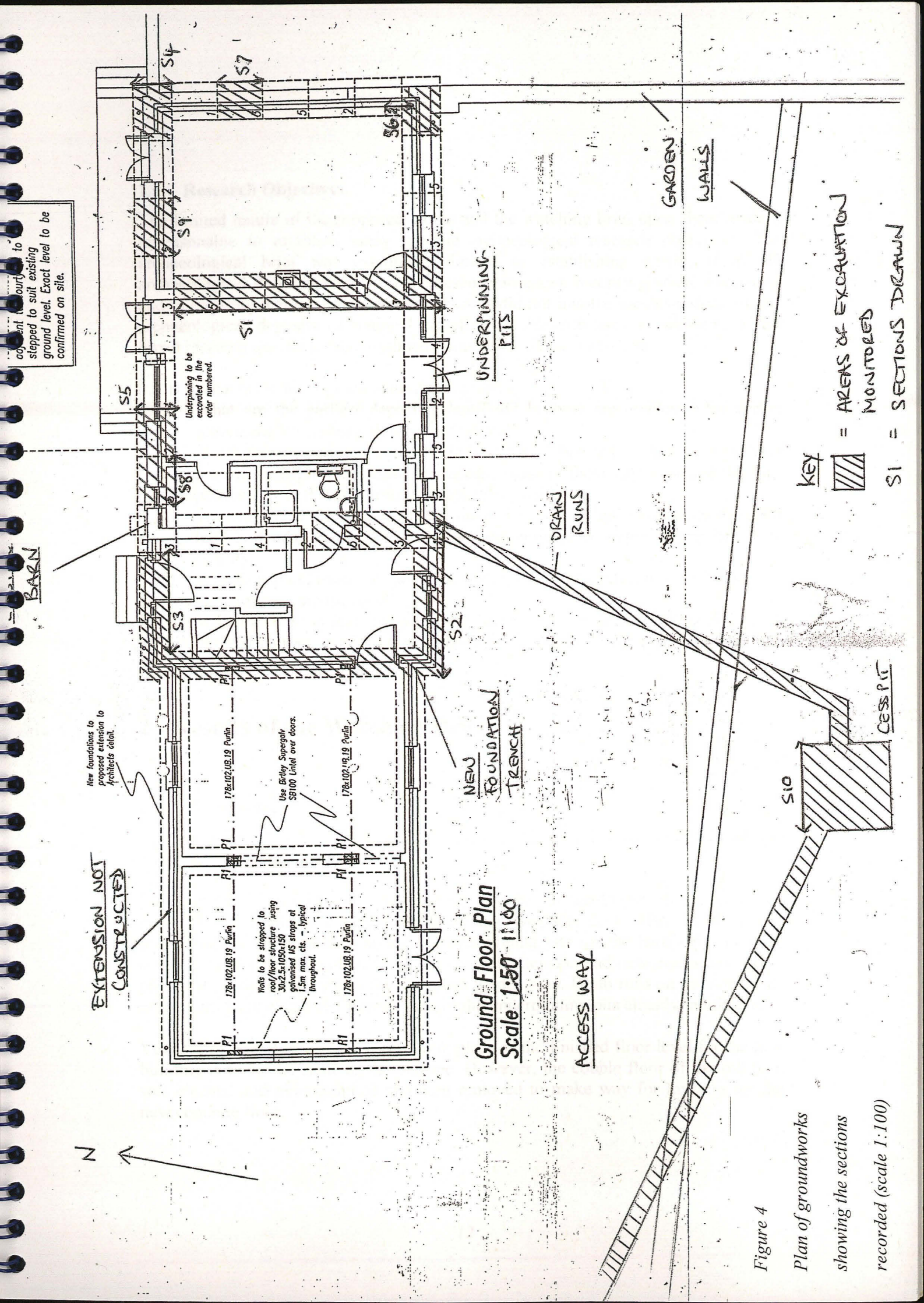


Figure 4

Plan of groundworks

showing the sections

recorded (scale 1:100)

1.5 Research Objectives

The limited nature of the proposed works and the watching brief upon them made it unreasonable to establish many specific archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief was essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks did not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of national significance. Nevertheless, in addition, a few broad research questions were outlined (numbers as *Project Design*):

- 2.2.1 What is the level of the natural topography?
- 2.2.2 What are the earliest deposits identified? Is there any evidence for earlier settlement sealed beneath the moat upcast?
- 2.2.3 The original east-west route (noted on Fig 3 between b and c) may have crossed beneath the present site access road. Is there any evidence for this, particularly in the drain runs to the south of the barn?
- 2.2.3 The site lies within the medieval moated manor. What evidence is there for medieval activity on the site? Can this activity be dated to the late 12th century?
- 2.2.4 Is there any evidence for the moat, particularly in the drain runs to the west of the barn and into the road?
- 2.2.5 What evidence is there for post-medieval activity on the site? What is the date of the construction of the present barn?

2 Results of the Watching Brief

2.1 Methodology

The watching brief took place 22–23rd June 2002, 16th November 2002 and 2nd January 2004.

The watching brief involved monitoring by the archaeologist of the proposed groundworks outlined in the project design (Section 2.1). This involved the monitoring of the machine digging of underpinning pits for the barn's foundations, excavations for new foundations for the current extension and new drains and a cess pit to the south of the barn in the drive and garden area. Drain runs on the north side of the barn were excavated into the area of the underpinning pits already monitored.

Very little general ground reduction took place as the finished floor level for the new building is to be the same as the old one. However, the cobble floor of the old barn was cleaned and photographed and then removed to make way for makeup for the new concrete floor.

Sections of each observed trench or pit were drawn and descriptions and plans locating the sections were made. The recording systems used were taken from the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition 1994). Levels of deposits were recorded to allow comparisons between deposits on site and any previous or future archaeological investigations. Levels were taken from the OD benchmark of 24.06m OD on the church of St Peter and St Lawrence.

2.2 Results

Natural deposits consisted of a compacted orange sandy clay with flint pebbles recorded at 22.54m OD in the west (S3) (Section 3) (Fig 4), and in the north (S5) the clay was recorded at 22.24m OD. It sloped down to the east where (in S7) it was at 21.72m OD. The levels of natural indicated that there was a large irregular cut which was at the deepest in the east part of the barn (S7).

It was filled with a homogenous grey silty clay, context [3], with few inclusions except for occasional pebbles and a medieval green-glazed jug handle which was dated to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century. More pottery sherds of late 13th–early/mid 14th century were found in grey-brown silty clay deposit [9] in S7 under the foundations of the barn and this was probably the same fill as [3]. The top height of [3] and [9] was at 23m OD.

Above this was a mid-grey silty sand deposit [2] with occasional flecks of tile and pottery dated to the late 17th–18th century up to a height of 23.3m OD. Above [2] was a sand makeup for the original cobbled floor of the barn. This did not exist in the western part of the barn and was limited to the area east of S2 and S3.

The drain runs across the modern access drive were dug to a depth of 0.36m and only revealed modern makeup deposits for the drive.

To the south in the garden area, the drain runs into the modern road (Snarford Road) were dug to a maximum depth of 0.60m. The cut for the cess pit was dug down 2m. and revealed natural orange clay at 22.26m OD overlaid by light brown sandy clay subsoil up to 22.90m OD (S10). This was overlaid by dark brown silt, a garden topsoil [11] up to 23.30m OD. Pottery was dated to the late 13th–late 14th century.

A sherd of pottery dating to mid 12th–early/mid 13th century [12] was found ex situ during fieldwalking by the edge of the main pond in the adjacent field.

2.3 Research objectives answered

What is the level of the natural topography?

Natural sloped from the south in the garden area at 22.90m OD down to the western part of the barn where it was recorded at 22.54m OD, and down to the eastern part of the barn, where it was at 21.72m OD.

What are the earliest deposits identified? Is there any evidence for earlier settlement sealed beneath the moat upcast?

The earliest deposits identified are dumped fills [3] and [9] dated to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century. Pottery from the topsoil in the garden area was also dated to the late 13th–late 14th century. There was no evidence for moat upcast.

The site lies within the medieval moated manor. What evidence is there for medieval activity on the site? Can this activity be dated to the late 12th century?

Medieval activity is represented by the dumping of material into a natural or cut feature. Pottery from the fills was dated to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century.

The original east-west route (noted on Fig 4 between b and c) may have crossed beneath the present site access road. Is there any evidence for this, particularly in the drain runs to the south of the barn?

The drain runs across the modern access road were dug to a depth of 0.36m and only revealed modern deposits. There was no evidence for earlier road surfaces.

Is there any evidence for the moat, particularly in the drain runs to the west of the barn and into the road?

The drain runs into the modern road (Snarford Road) were dug to a depth of 0.60m but no evidence of the moat was seen.

What evidence is there for post-medieval activity on the site? What is the date of the construction of the present barn?

Pottery from under the cobblestone floor was dated to late 17th–18th century, a date slightly earlier than the date of late 18th century for the barn construction. No further post-medieval features were seen.

2.4 Further work

The archaeologist will transfer the archive to the City and County Museum. The archive will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials as referred to above) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent before transfer to the Museum. It will also contain a site summary and artefactual data.

It will follow *Conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological archives, City and County Museum, Lincoln*.

The copyright to the archive will remain with the originators but Lincolnshire County Council will be given a full licence to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. Permission from the land owner and any sub-contracting specialists to donate the archive will be obtained using the Transfer of title forms for granting this licence provided by the museum.

Publication and dissemination

The results of the fieldwork will be submitted to the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* for inclusion in the Archaeological Notes following the guidelines laid down in the *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook, Appendix 7*.

A short report on the findings will also be submitted to the local Parish Magazine.

3 Conclusions

The nature of the works and the watching brief upon them makes it difficult to interpret archaeological features observed in such a limited manner. The earliest deposits identified are dated to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century by the pottery and represent the backfill of a large cut feature. It was not part of the moat as natural was found on three sides. It could have been a pond; the natural clay would have held in the water, but there were no water-deposited fills seen at the base.

Above the medieval fills was a layer or fill [2] dated to the late 17th–18th century.

The original floor of the barn was made of cobblestones. Pottery from under the floor dated to the late 17th–18th century could not help to refine the date of the barn's construction.

No medieval or post-medieval structural remains were found and no artefacts except for the pottery.

A sherd of pottery dating to mid 12th–early/mid 13th century was found by the pond in the adjacent field (see Fig 3a) which would be consistent with a late 12th century date for the construction of the medieval moated site and the church of St Peter and St Lawrence.

Two sherds of the pottery found (MEDLOC contexts [10] & [11]) were selected as good examples of their type and were donated by the landowner to the Lincoln pottery type series held at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The two sherds intended for the type series are possibly of local manufacture and do not yet have a ware type name.

4 Bibliography

Cowan, C, 2002 *Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire: Project Design and Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Everson, P,L and Taylor, C, C, 1991 *Change and Continuity – Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1999 *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1999 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*

Pevsner, N, 1995 *Lincolnshire*

5 SMR Archaeological Report Form

1) *Type Of Recording*

Watching Brief

2) *Location*

Site address: Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire LN3 5AB

Site code: MFWK02

Nat. Grid Refs: TF 0882 8203

3) *Organisation*

Name of archaeological unit/company/society:

Carrie Cowan (fieldwork) and Network Archaeology (finds)

4) *Duration*

Date fieldwork started: 22/06/02 Date finished: 02/01/04

5) *Periods Represented*

Medieval and Post-medieval

6) *Period Summaries*

The site is located in a medieval (and post-medieval) moated manor house complex. Within the moated area is the Grade II listed building, a late 18th-century manor house and outbuildings, the church of St Peter and St Lawrence and the agricultural barn, the current site.

The watching brief identified a large cut feature, the backfilling of which, was dated by pottery to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century. It was not part of the moat but could have been part of a pond. Above the medieval fills was a layer or fill dated to the late 17th–18th century above which was the original floor of the barn made of cobblestones.

No medieval or post-medieval structural remains were found and no artefacts except for the pottery.

A sherd of pottery dating to mid 12th–early/mid 13th century was found by a pond in the adjacent field within the moated area. This would be consistent with a late 12th century date for the construction of the church of St Peter and St Lawrence and also for the moated site which were probably contemporary.

7) *Natural*

Type: Boulder Clay

Height above Ordnance Datum: 22.90m OD (untruncated)

8) *Location Of Archives*

Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession:

1 plan, 10 section drawings, 16 context sheets, 2 reports, photographs, 6 small bags pottery

b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location:

City and County Museum, Lincoln

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: Yes

9) *Bibliography*

Cowan, C, 2002 *Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire: Project Design and Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Cowan, C, 2004 *Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm, Wickenby, Lincolnshire: Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief*

SIGNED: Carrie Cowan DATE: 25/03/04

6 Archaeological Notes for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

Wickenby: Agricultural Barn, Manor Farm, NGR: TF 0882 8203, Site code: MFWK02

A watching brief was carried out during refurbishment of a late 18th-century Grade II listed barn which is located in a medieval moated site. The watching brief was carried out by Carrie Cowan on behalf of the client Jim Cowan and finds work was conducted by Network Archaeology.

The watching brief identified a large irregular cut feature, the backfilling of which, was dated by pottery to the late 13th–early/mid 14th century. It was not part of the moat but could have been part of a pond. Above the medieval fills was a layer or fill dated to the late 17th–18th century, and above this was the original cobbled floor of the barn.

No medieval or post-medieval structural remains were found and no artefacts except for the pottery.

A sherd of pottery dating to mid 12th–early/mid 13th century was found by a pond in the adjacent field within the moated area. This would be consistent with a late 12th century date for the construction of the church of St Peter and St Lawrence and the moated site which were probably contemporary.

Date of completion of the archive - 25/3/04

Anticipated location of the archive - City and County Museum, Lincoln

Accession number - LCNCC: 2002.305

The Pottery

Jane Young

context name	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description	date
02	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	thrown bowl	1	1	21		rim		manganese mottled glaze over white slip; Yorks?	late 17th to 18th
02	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	press mould dish	1	1	15	trailed tan & brown dec over white slip; pressed rim edge	rim		red body; Staffs?	late 17th to 18th
03	LSWA	Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	early baluster jug	1	1	212		handle		small rod handle; cu glaze; handle tapers towards lower join	late 13th to early/mid 14th
09	SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware	jar	1	1	153		base		soot	13th to 14th
09	SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware	bowl	1	1	14		rim			13th to 14th
09	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jar/pipkin	2	1	4		BS			13th
09	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	51		handle		small rod handle; central thumbing	late 13th to early/mid 14th
09	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	7		BS		poss same vessel as rod handle	13th to early/mid 14th

context cname	full name	sub fabric	form	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description	date
10	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	large bowl	3	1	78		BS	Fabric Type Series	abundant fine-med subround quartz occ larger rounded occ flint occ ca mod fe streaks light firing clay;thick reduced int glaze	mid/late 13th to 14th
11	HUM	Humberware	jug	1	1	21		BS			late 13th to late 14th
11	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine-m jug ed sandy;hard	1	1	30		BS	Fabric Type Series	abundant fine-med subround quartz occ larger rounded occ flint occ ca mod fe;pocked glaze	13th
12	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	jar	1	1	9		rim		soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th



The cobbled floor of the barn



Cleaning the barn floor