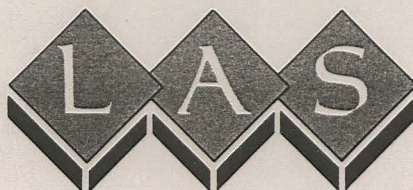


ELI 6830

SL 1802 10830

94/11

52143



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

**SUDBECK LANE WELTON
(WSL 94 Accn no. 152.94)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

for

DAVID WILSON HOMES LTD

November 1994

SUDBECK LANE WELTON

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by David Wilson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a piece of land behind properties on the south side of Sudbeck Lane Welton, prior to a planning application being made for housing development (Fig. 1).

Archaeological Background

The village of Welton was mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In 1066 the estate belonged to a Dane called Swen but the land was given to the Bishop of Lincoln who split the land between six canons of the cathedral. The whole layout of the village has been influenced by the presence of these six prebendal manors. A central green, now much encroached upon, is surrounded by a complex patterns of closes and lanes (Everson et al. 1991, 25). Sudbeck Lane, as its name suggests lies south of Welton Beck. The proposed development site lies south-east of the village centre behind a double row of house plots which are thought to have been a planned part of the village (Fig. 2).

The Site

The site comprises two fields covering an area of 2.73ha, currently under pasture (Fig. 1). The eastern field of 1.3ha is covered in medieval ridge and furrow (Pl. 1). The vestiges of ridge and furrow were also visible in the west field, especially at the south end near the old pond (Pls. 2 and 3).

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish whether archaeological remains were preserved beneath the intact medieval plough furrows present on the eastern half of the site.

Method

Five evaluation trenches were excavated using a JCB with a 1.5m wide dyking bucket which averaged 10m in length (Fig. 3). The topsoil was carefully removed and in the absence of any obvious archaeological features the subsoil was also removed by machine.

The topsoil was a dark brown crumbly loam, and including turf was c.0.20m (\pm 20mm) deep in all five trenches. Subsoil varied a little in character and depth but was generally a mid-brown clay loam with a few small pebbles and other inclusions.

Photographs of the trenches show the North point. The scales used are metric, the larger being 2m long and the shorter 0.50m.

Trench 1

This trench was located near the northern field boundary. Some of the area appeared disturbed but there was a clear headland which marked the

northern limit of the plough furrows (Pl. 4). Present property boundaries respected this limit and there was a slight fall in the ground levels inside the gardens, forming a hollow way, running W-E on the other side of the modern fence. A later track running W-E cuts through the ridge and furrow and was the only other feature observed on the field (Pls. 1, 5, 6).

The trench was positioned just south of the headland and crossed the full width of a furrow extending to the maximum height of the flanking ridges (Pl. 6). It was excavated to a depth of 1 metre but the natural chalky boulder clay was reached at a maximum depth of 0.70m below the top of the ridge and 0.33m below the base of the furrow (Pls. 6 and 7).

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned near the centre of the field on its west side and crossed a complete ridge, extending across parts of the flanking furrows (Pls. 8,9). The surface of the natural chalky boulder clay was uneven in this trench and pockets of light brown clay were found in hollows which were at first thought to be archaeological in origin. Excavation established that they were natural hollows in the boulder clay, their fills containing fragments of fossil shell and the edges of the features being irregular in shape and form.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located at the south end of the field on its east side. Soil conditions in this trench were quite different to those found elsewhere in the field. The underlying natural was a stiff sticky grey clay, much wetter than the northern parts of the field (Pl. 10). A shallow spread of whitish silt crossed the clay, suggesting the presence of a former water course (Pl. 11). Two fragments of modern roof tile and a piece of nineteenth century pottery were found in this trench, the only finds made during the evaluation. These were discarded.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was dug perpendicular to the southern field boundary, which forms part of the parish boundary between Welton and Dunholme. The plough furrows curve eastwards as they reach the headland which runs along the boundary (Pl. 12). Wooden stakes and barbed wire form the present field boundary, which lies in front of an older hedge. There are mainly hawthorn with some ash and elder trees, which all appear to be relatively young, despite the boundary being ancient. There is a slight depression along the hedgeline and the ground to the south is slightly lower.

The trench was dug within 0.30m of the boundary cutting across the headland. (Pl. 13). Beneath the topsoil was a thick band of light brown clay loam overlying the chalky boulder clay. There were also patches of orange sand in the boulder clay (Pl. 14).

Trench 5

Trench 5 was near the centre of the field on its east side and was dug along the top of a ridge (Pl. 15). There was however, no great depth of subsoil over

the chalky boulder clay, a maximum depth of 0.58m being recorded, giving a total depth of 0.80m from the turf to natural clay.

TABLE 1

TRENCH	1	2	3	4	5
length	9.70m	12m	9.70m	9.50m	10.30m
topsoil depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.22m
subsoil depth					
below ridge	0.50m	0.50m	0.30m	0.70m	0.58m
below furrow	0.13m	0.17m			
natural	ochre clay	ochre clay	blue grey clay	ochre clay	ochre clay

Discussion

The five excavated trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds, but showed a slight variation in soil conditions across the site. In particular, the stiff grey boulder clay in Trench 3 suggests the possible presence of a small stream which may have been connected with the pond in the field to the west.

Subsoil cover appears to have been marginally greater on the west side of the field.

Apart from the scraps of tile and the single piece of nineteenth century pottery found in Trench 3 there was no indication of any archaeological remains. It is quite common to find scatters of medieval and post-medieval pottery on fields which indicate manuring of arable land. Such finds were almost entirely absent at Welton. There were no finds of Roman or prehistoric date and no indication of any activity during these periods.

The ridge and furrow was well preserved in this field and may never have been ploughed in recent times, whereas the fields to either side showed only vestigial traces of ridge and furrow, probably indicating later ploughing before becoming pasture.

Conclusions

The proposed development will cover land to the rear of medieval settlement along Sudbeck Lane. The results of the evaluation suggest that the land was never part of any settlement.

Naomi Field
November 18th 1994.

Reference

Everson, P. L. , Taylor, C.C. and Dunn, C.J., 1991. *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*. HMSO.

SITE ARCHIVE

Plan Site plan Scale 1:50
Section Trench 2 Section drawing of north side (1:50)
Photographs 94/64/7-28 (22 photos)

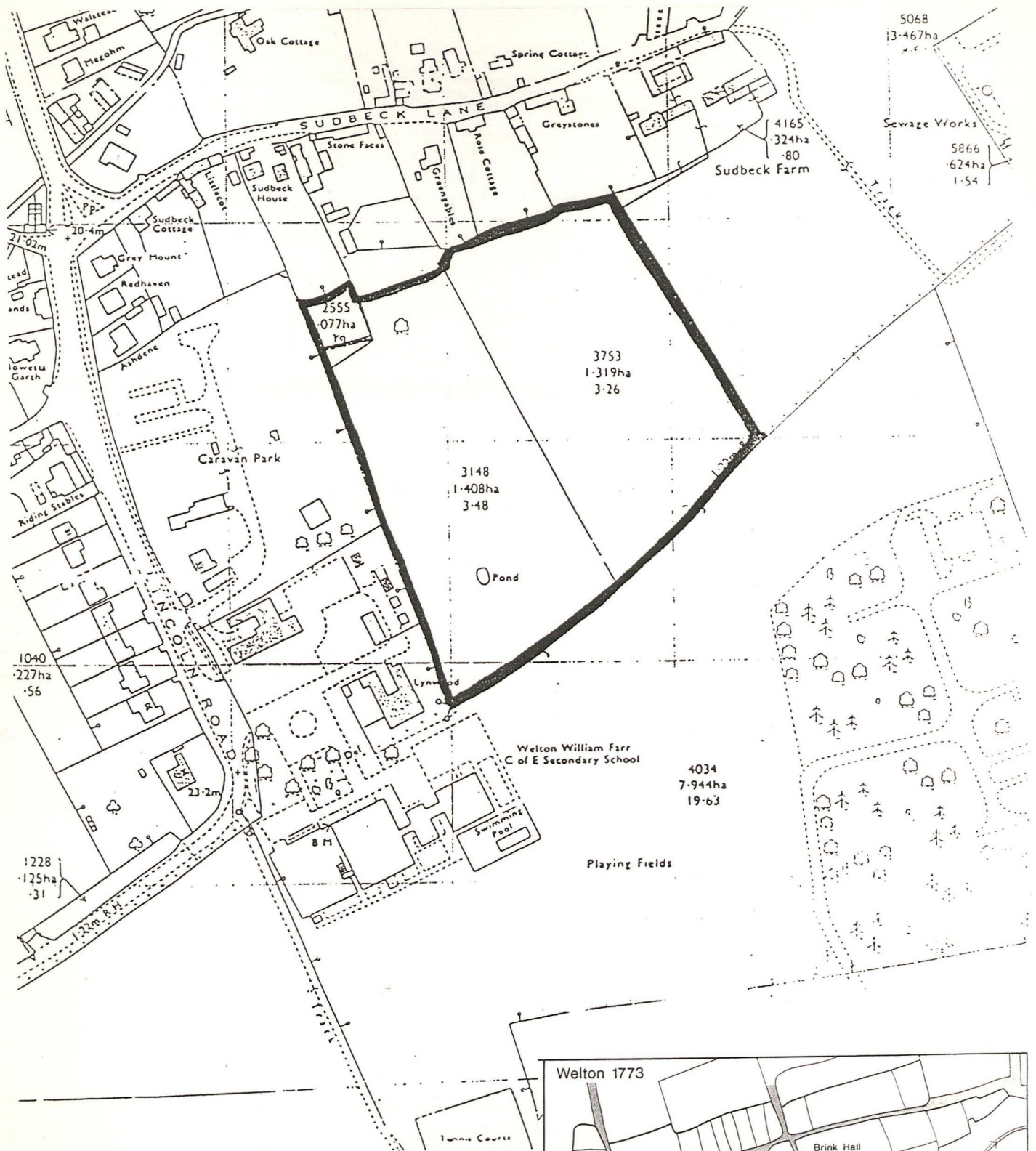
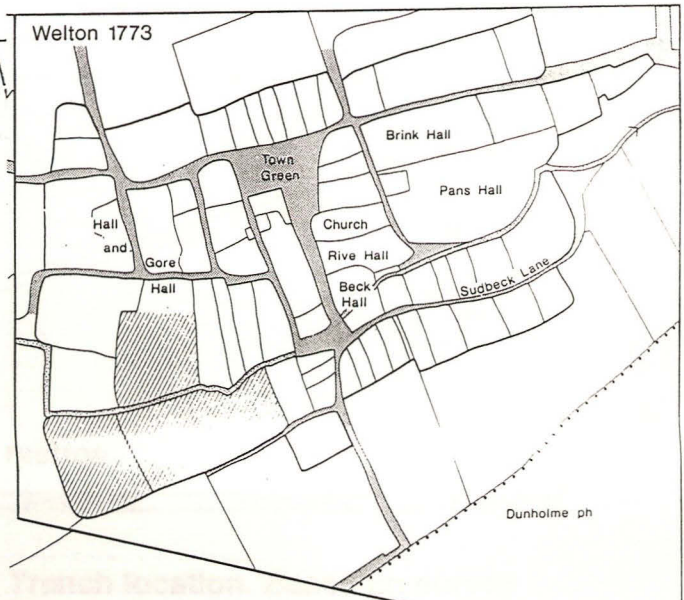


Fig. 1 Sudbeck Lane Welton. Site location. Reproduced from the O.S. 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. (Licence no. AL50424A)

Fig. 2 Welton village layout, based on survey of 1773; reproduced from Everson et al. 1991.



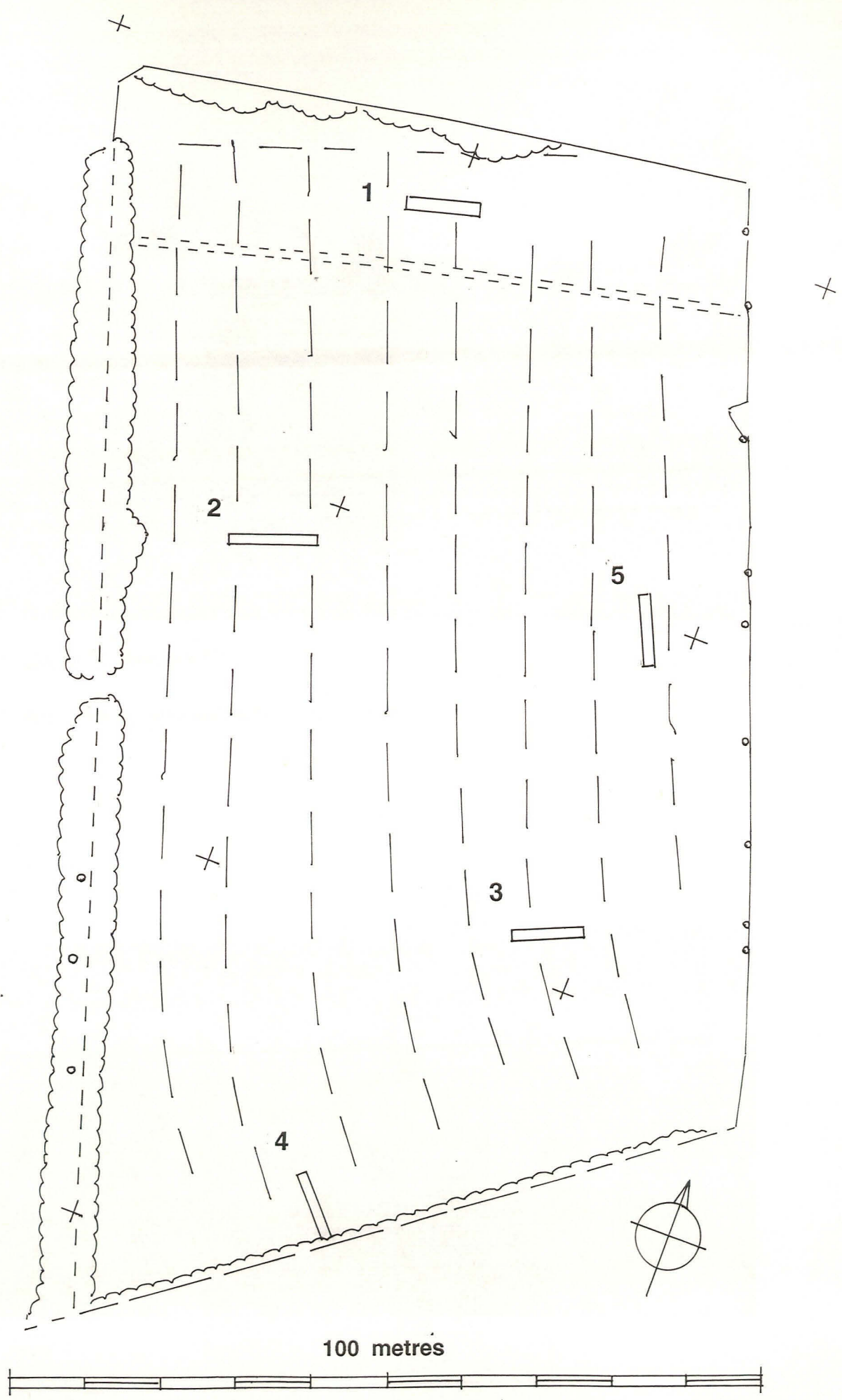


Fig. 3 Sudbeck Lane, Welton. Trench location. Based on survey supplied by D.Wilson Homes Ltd



Pl. 1 General view south

Pl. 2 West field, general view south-west





Pl. 3 West field, south end, view east

Pl. 4 East field. North end





Pl. 5 East field, north end. Trackway cutting through earlier ridge and furrow.

Pl. 6 Trench 1, cutting through furrow





Pl. 7 Trench 1, view west



Pl. 8 Trench 2, full profile of ridge



Pl. 9 Trench 2 , view south

Pl. 10 Trench 3, view east





Pl. 11 Trench 3, view north

Pl. 12 East field, south end showing curving ridge and furrow





Pl. 13 Trench 4, cutting through headland

Pl. 14 Trench 4, view south





Pl. 15 Trench 5, view south.

