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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT LAURELS FARM,
WEST ROAD,
OSBOURNBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OWR 04)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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INTERVENTION REPT: L19980
EXCAVATION REPT: L19981

PRN 63566 undated.

Quality Control
Laurels Farm, West Road,
Osbourne
OWR 04

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**AT LAURELS FARM,
WEST ROAD,
OSBOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OWR 04)**

Project Manager	Mark Williams
Supervisor	Aaron Clements
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Report	Sue Harcourt
Post-excavation Analysis	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by

**Work Undertaken For
Clive Wicks Associates**

March 2005

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 0661 3796
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.270
Planning Application No: N/48/0637/04

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 37/05



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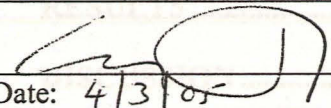
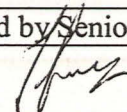
Quality Control
Laurels Farm, West Road,
Osbournby
OWR 04

1. SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION

Project Coordinator	Mark Williams
Supervisor	Aaron Clements
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

3. METHODS

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 - Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 4/3/05	Date: 22-03-05

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communication only the final two plots were monitored. The watching brief was carried out on the 21st December 2014 and 18th February 2015.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The site is situated 3km south of ... and 1.5km west of ... in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 350m southwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Peter and Paul at Nossall. The site is bounded to the north and west by ... Road, to the east and south-west by ... Lane at a height of ... The site is a low-lying area with a gentle slope towards the slight valley of ...

The geology of the site is ... (Cottingham, 1984, 153). These ... are ... of Jurassic ... (Cottingham, 1984, 153).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site is located in an area of ... archaeological remains ... (Cottingham, 1984, 153). These ... are ... of Jurassic ... (Cottingham, 1984, 153).

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Laurels Farm, West Road, Osbournby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for two new residential buildings.

Osbournby lies in an area where there is known evidence of Romano-British (AD 43-410) and Early Saxon (AD 410-650) settlement. The site lies southwest of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil development along with a single pit. The pit remains undated due to a lack of artefactual evidence. No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

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. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Clive Wicks Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Laurels Farm, West Road, Osbournby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/48/0637/04. Due to a breakdown in

communication only the final two plots were monitored. The watching brief was carried out on the 21st December 2004 and 18th February 2005.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Osbournby is situated 8km south of Sleaford and 16km east of Grantham in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 350m southwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul at National Grid Reference TF 0661 3796 (Fig. 2). The development area lies on the south side of West Road, to the south and southeast of Laurels Farm at a height of c. 22m OD on land that slopes gently down to the southeast towards the slight valley of a watercourse.

Local soils are of the Curdrige Association, typically argillic and cambic gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 153). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Osbournby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Bronze Age pottery and stone and flint tools, including an arrowhead, are known from the vicinity of the site.

To the northwest of the village are areas from which Romano-British pottery and other finds are known, including discrete scatters of building stone, perhaps representing settlement.

Excavations in 1974 to the west of the village revealed an Early Saxon post built building, perhaps part of a larger settlement (Mahany 1977, 26). Pottery of this date extends several hundred metres to the south of this building, perhaps indicating the size of this settlement.

Osbourne is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Esbernebi* and *Osbernedebi* the name is derived from the Old Danish and means 'the village or farmstead (*by*) of *Osbeorn*' (Cameron 1998, 95). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Gilbert de Gand and Guy de Craon and contained 24 acres of meadow and a church (Foster and Longley 1976).

The most extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul which largely dates from the 13th and 14th centuries, though does contain a 12th century font. To the south of the site lies Hall Close which preserves earthworks of a possible medieval fishpond complex.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the development area. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix

produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural/Subsoil deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural/Subsoil deposits

In Plot 1, natural was identified as a grey sandy silt (003) that was in excess of 0.25m thick. This was sealed by a subsoil of mixed mid yellow and light grey sandy silt (002). The subsoil was 0.4m thick.

This subsoil was also encountered in Plot 4 (005) where it was sealed by a second subsoil deposit of yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel (004).

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Located towards the centre of Plot 4 and cut through the subsoil was a feature identified as a pit (007). This was 2m wide and over 0.5m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). The pit contained a single fill of brown silty clay (006).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing deposits in both Plots 1 and 4 was a 0.5m thick topsoil comprising brownish grey clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprised a silt

which may represent the upper weathered surface of the underlying geology. A subsoil had then formed, perhaps by prolonged agricultural activity at the site.

A single pit (Phase 2) remains undated due to a lack of artefactual evidence. However, it post-dated the subsoil and must, therefore, be relatively later in date. The function of this pit could not be determined, particularly as the full depth was not exposed.

No finds were retrieved during this investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at West Road, Osbournby, as the site lay within an area of prehistoric, Saxon and medieval remains.

However, only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered along with an undated pit. No artefacts were observed or collected during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Wicks of Clive Wicks Associates for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams
 Site Supervisors: Aaron Clements
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

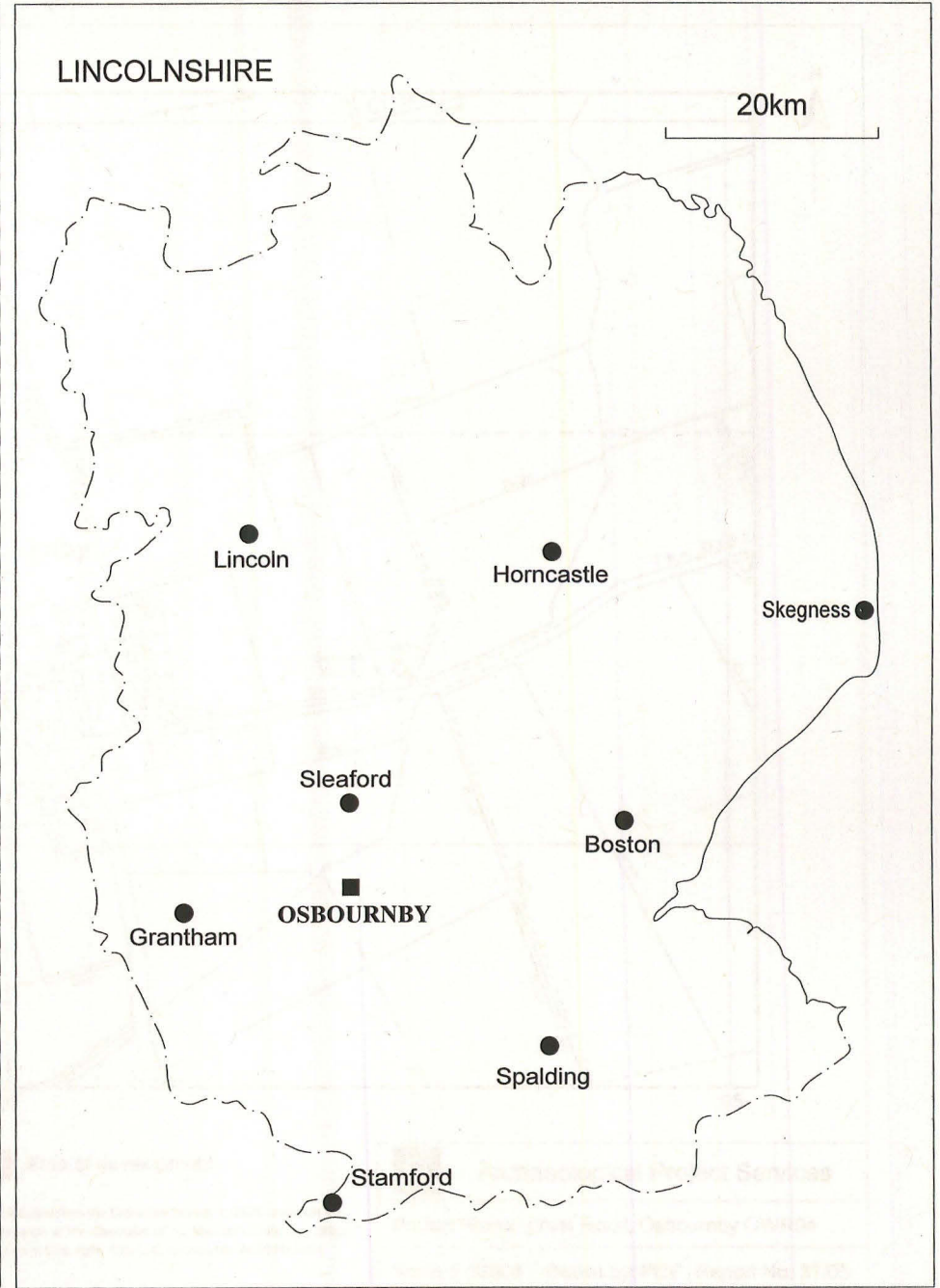
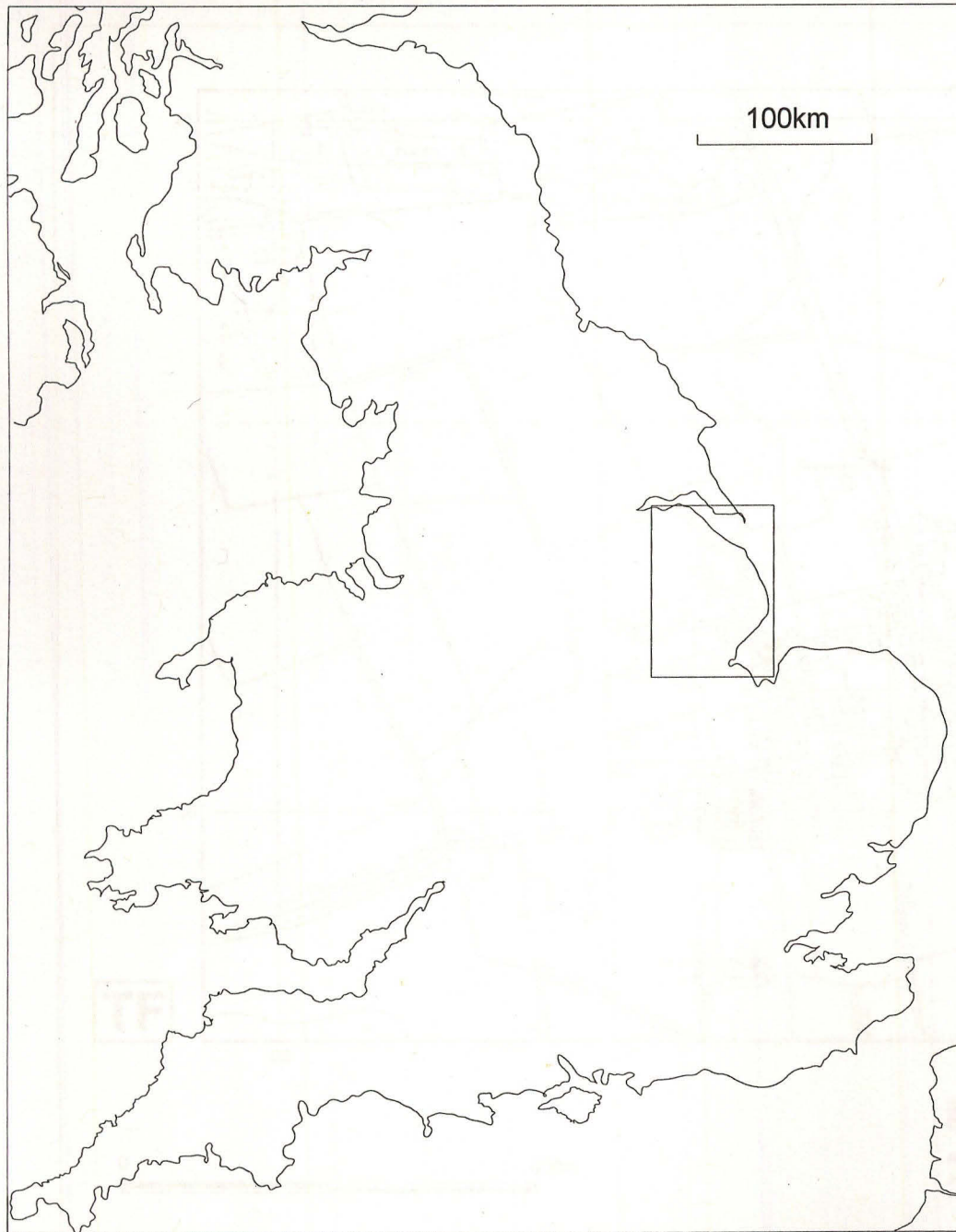
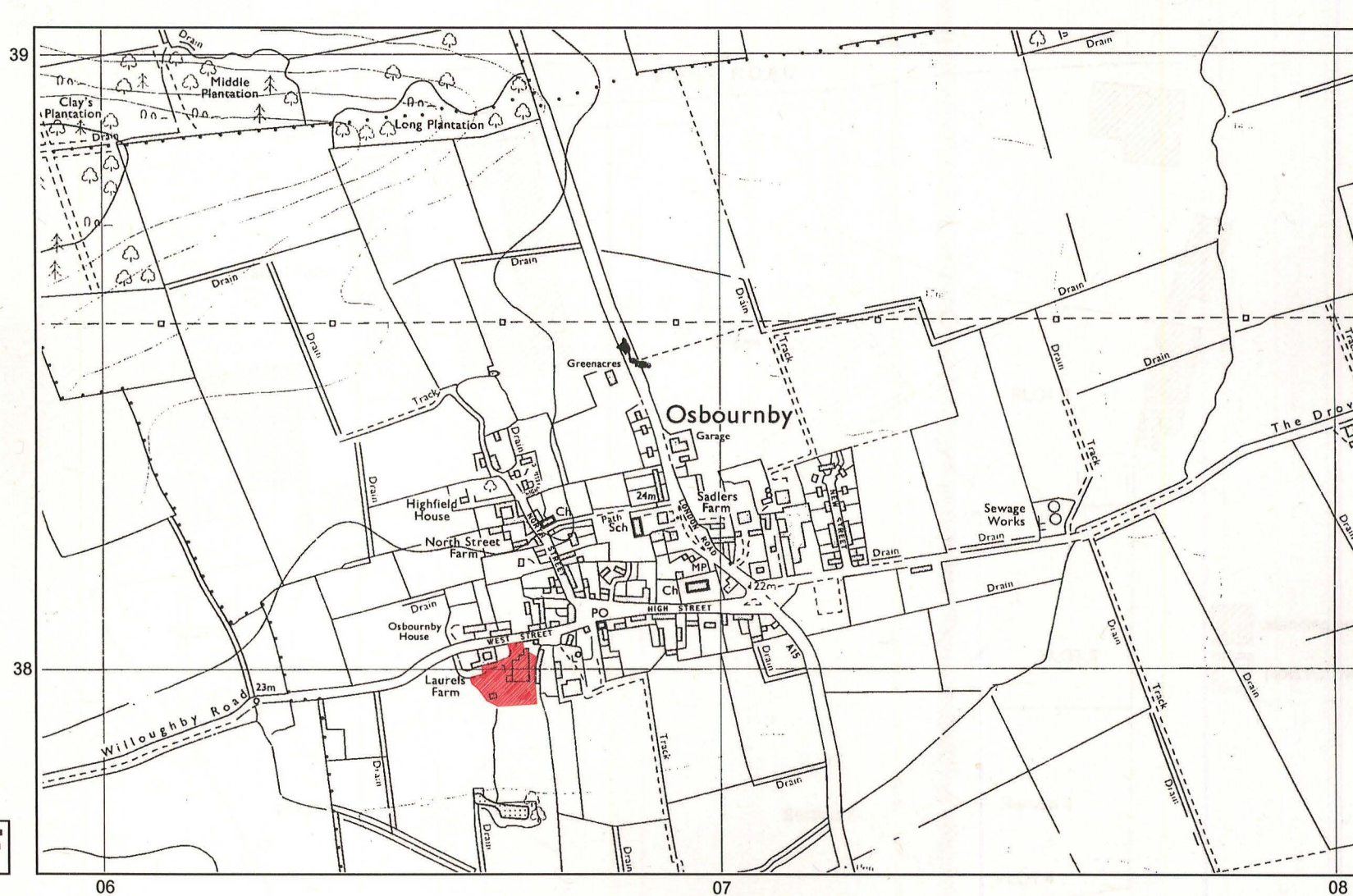


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



TF



Area of development

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Archaeological Project Services

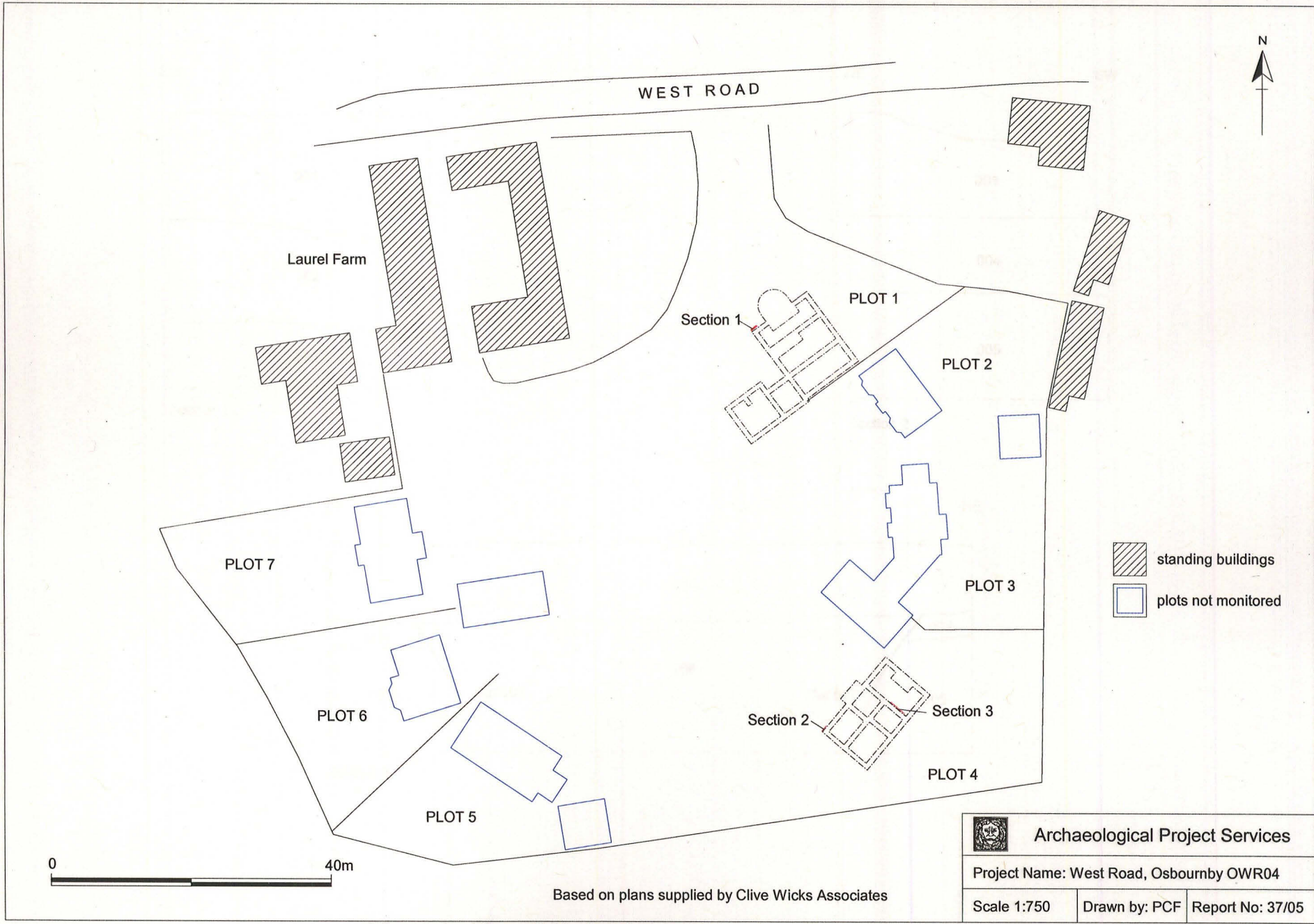
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Report No: 37/05

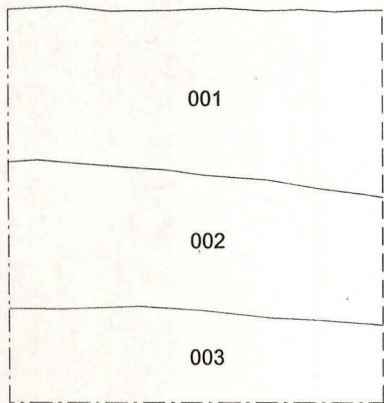
Figure 2 - Site location plan



Based on plans supplied by Clive Wicks Associates

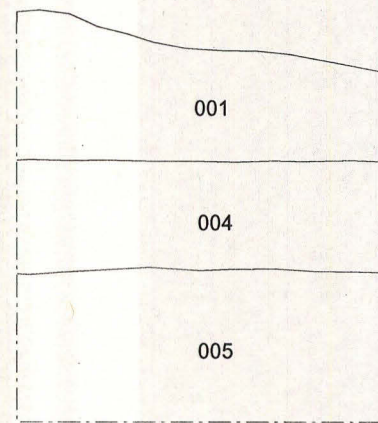
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

SW NE



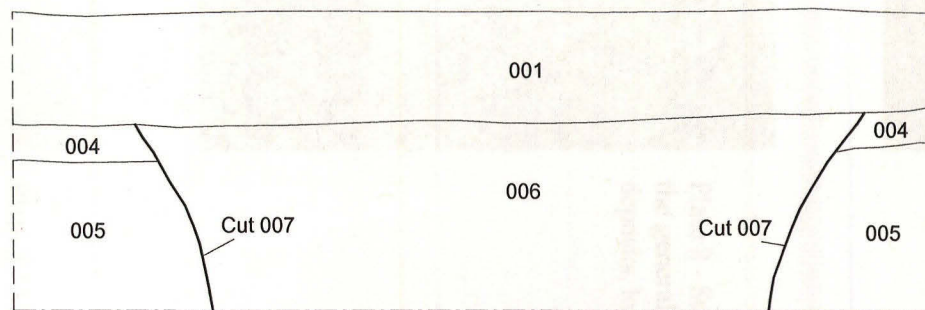
Section 1

NE SW



Section 2

SE NE



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: West Road, Osbournby OWR04

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 37/05

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 - View across Plot 1,
looking south



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing
the general sequence of
deposits, looking northwest

Plate 3 - Section 3 showing
the undisturbed pit (06.7), looking
northwest



Plate 3 - View across Plot 4,
looking north



Plate 4 - Section 2, looking east

DESCRIPTIONS

DESCRIPTION	DATE
1. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
2. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
3. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
4. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
5. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
6. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
7. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
8. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
9. 1/2' thick	1/20/04
10. 1/2' thick	1/20/04



Plate 5 - Section 3 showing the undated pit (007), looking southwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Loose dark brownish grey clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Friable mixed mid yellow and light grey sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Firm light grey sandy silt, >0.25m thick	Natural deposit
004	4	Friable dark yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
005	4	Friable mixed mid yellow and light grey sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
006	4	Mid dark brown silty clay	Fill of (007)
007	4	Feature, 2m wide by 0.5m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 2

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.
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).
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.
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 1 st 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 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	Sheets of Scale Drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records 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: 2004.270

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: OWR 04

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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