

# Witham Archaeology

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A Report To Mrs J L Hinchliffe  
December 2005

Conservation  
Services

24 JAN 2006

Highways & Planning  
Directorate



**14, THE CRESCENT, WRAGBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*R Trimble*



acknowledged receipt 24/1/06

## 14, THE CRESCENT, WRAGBY, Lincs.

Site Code: WCRS05  
LCCM Accession No.: 2005.129  
Planning Application No.: S/216/01594/04  
NGR: TF 1340 7785

### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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## 14, THE CRESCENT, WRAGBY, Lincs.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### SUMMARY

*This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to a house extension at No. 14, The Crescent, Wragby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. The work, commissioned by Mrs J L Hinchliffe, was carried out in response to a condition of planning permission issued by East Lindsey District Council.*

*The watching brief resulted in the discovery of a number of undated pits and ditches/gullies. The location of the site, in close proximity to known medieval earthworks, and the recovery of a small assemblage of unstratified pottery from the same period, would appear to support a medieval date for the features. There was, however, some evidence of Romano-British activity in the area, in the form of a single abraded sherd and a possible fragment of Tegula.*

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension to No. 14, The Crescent, Wragby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. The work, commissioned by Mrs J L Hinchliffe in response to a condition of planning permission issued by East Lindsey District Council, was carried out during the period 28-30 June 2005.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)

The village of Wragby, in the parish of Wragby and in the administrative district of East Lindsey, lies c. 18km northeast of Lincoln. The site, at No.14, The Crescent (NGR 1340 7785), is located on the southern periphery of the southeastern part of the village. The topography of the area is generally level, with the site located upon drift geology of Pre-Devensian glacial till (British Geological Survey, England & Wales Sheet 103, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000).

#### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Wragby is mentioned in the Domesday book of c. 1086 AD, where is referred to as *Waragebi*. Subsequently referred to as *Wraghebi*, *Wragebi*, and *Wraggebi* in 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century documents, the name appears to derive from Wraggi's farmstead or village (Cameron 1998).

The Domesday Book of 1086 mentions two manors in Wragby, belonging respectively to Erenis of Buron and Waldin the Artificer. Earthwork remains of a moated site (NGR TF 1350 7774), believed to represent the remains of the manorial complex associated with Erenis of Buron, lie immediately south of properties fronting onto The Crescent. The site of the former parish church of All Saints, which was originally attached to the manor, lies immediately southeast of the moated site.

The earthworks (known as the 'Rout Yard') and All Saints church form a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 31624). The monument encompasses two moated islands, associated ditched



enclosures and the buried remains of the former church and churchyard. The islands - approximately rectangular in plan and aligned north-south - are surrounded by a broad, dry moat. There is a possible paddock or yard to the north, which is partially described by a ditch projecting from the north-west corner of the moat. Another ditch leading to the north-west and in the general direction of No. 14, The Crescent could represent the remains of a further enclosure (information obtained from relevant scheduling entry - County Historic Environment Record).

The former Church of All Saints lies within a ditched enclosure to the southeast of the manorial complex. Largely dismantled in 1836 when a new church was established in Wragby, the church contained elements dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries with a 15<sup>th</sup> century tower and 16<sup>th</sup> century porch.

A survey of the earthworks at the 'Rout Yard' was carried out in 1979 by *The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. A survey of the surviving brick chancel (built c. 1755) of All Saints church (prior to demolition) and a hedgerow survey were carried out at the same time (White *et al* 1981).

The Historic Environment Record refer to three rings (2 silver and one gold), all of early 16<sup>th</sup> century date, which were found in the garden of No. 7, The Crescent in 1980. These were declared Treasure Trove.

#### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 26 May 2005, were to:

- ♦ *produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme and the particular development dign.*
- ♦ *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- ♦ *provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.*

#### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

Foundation trenches were approximately 600mm wide, varying in depth between 0.95m to the southeast and 0.75m to the northwest. Ground level in the area to be covered by the new extension was reduced by c. 200mm prior to excavation of the foundation trenches.

Three site visits were made, coinciding with the main phases of groundwork. All trenches were visually inspected, with selected areas and potential features then hand-cleaned, photographed and drawn in section (Scale 1:20). Written context descriptions were made for each unit of stratigraphy.

#### **6.0 RESULTS (see Figs.2 & 3)**

Excavations for the foundations of the new extension revealed a number of undated features, cut into a geology of sandy clay (012) and sandy silt (013).

##### *Breakfast/Dining Room*

A broad cut (004), probably linear and orientated at approximate right angles to the foundation trench, was revealed at the easternmost corner of the extension (Section 1). The cut, interpreted as a probable ditch, was at least 2.3m wide and extended below the lower limit of the foundation trench. Southwest of 004, a broad shallow cut (010), of indeterminate shape and function (possibly part of a



ditch or pit), was observed. The feature had a gradually sloping northeastern side and a fill of yellowish brown silty sand (009). Fill 009 was sealed by a loosely compacted layer (008) of flint (80%) and silty sand (20%), which may be interpreted as a fill of 010, alternatively as a layer of metalling. This was, in turn, sealed by a layer/fill of greyish brown sand/silt (007).

A broad, shallow cut (016), visible over a distance of *c.* 6.6m in the northeast facing trench side (Section 2) may represent a continuation to the northwest of 004, albeit cut at an extremely oblique angle. The feature contained a greyish brown silt (015). To the northwest of 016 lay another possible ditch (018). At least 1.10m wide and slightly greater than 0.35m in depth, it had a concave profile and contained a brownish grey sandy silt (017).

A layer of greyish brown sand (002), 0.18m thick, sealed all features on the southeastern side of the extension. It was sealed by a *c.* 0.25m depth of topsoil (001), which extended across the entire footprint of the extension, thickening to the north to 0.40m in depth.

#### *Utility Room/Garage Area*

A linear ditch or gully (021), 0.55m wide (max) and at least 0.25m deep (extending below the lower limit of excavation), was found at the western corner of the utility room (Section 3). It was filled by mixed grey-brown and orange-brown sandy silts (020), which were in turn sealed by a layer of grey-brown sandy silt (019). Further to the northeast, a small ditch or gully (023) was observed, running southeast to northwest (Section 4). The ditch was steep sided with a concave base, and was filled by moderately compact sandy silt (022). Immediately northeast of 023, lay a steep sided-pit, or possibly ditch terminal (026) extending below the lower limit of excavation (Section 5). It contained sandy silt 025 and silty clay (024). Yet further to the northeast, within the foundation trench for the garage door, at least one pit (possibly two) was partially revealed in plan (Plan 1, see also Section 6). The pit(s) was filled by sandy silts (030 and 029). A clayey silt (028) sealing the latter may be interpreted as a further fill or possibly a layer sealing the pit.

Topsoil in this area was largely removed as part of initial ground reductions.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

Although none of the features described in the foregoing section were securely dated, the presence of a small assemblage of unstratified medieval pottery and proximity to earthworks of this date (the 'rout yard') to the southeast would appear to indicate a medieval date for the activity. One element of the complex of earthworks, a southeast – northwest ditch was clearly visible as a broad hollow extending at right angles through the gardens of No. 14 and the adjacent property to the northwest. The presence of several features interpreted as pits provides some evidence for domestic occupation on the site itself or in the immediate vicinity.

A single abraded sherd of pottery and a possible fragment of tegula hint at possible Romano-British activity in the area.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank the owners of the property, Mr and Mrs Hinchliffe, for their interest and support; also, the groundwork contractor Mr G Dixon and his staff for their co-operation in ensuring the successful completion of the project. Thanks are also due to pottery specialist Jane Young, and to Ed Lewis (Historic Environment Record, Lincolnshire County Council) for assistance in locating background information for the site.



## 9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cameron, K & Insley, J 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society
- Pevsner, N & Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England. Lincolnshire*. Penguin (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Revised by N Antram)
- White, A J *et al* 1981 'The Moated Site, Churches, and Hedgerow Survey at Wragby, 1979' in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* Vol. 16

## 10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

### 10.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

SITE CODE: WCRS05

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: S/216/01594/04

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 1340 7785

CIVIL PARISH: Wragby

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 28-30 June 2005

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mrs J L Hinchliffe

### 10.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 65 Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7NG

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2005.129

ACCESSION DATE: -

#### *The Site Archive Comprises:*

Context Records	35
Plans at Scale 1:20	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	6
Colour Print Photographs	24
Set of Site Notes	1

*It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.*



## COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 - View showing breakfast/dining room area, looking south.



Plate 2 - View showing utility room and garage area, looking east.



## APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil	Mod comp mid grey silty sand
002	Layer	Mod comp – comp mid greyish brown sand/silt
003	Fill of 004	Mod comp – comp mid brown clayey sand
004	Probable ditch	At least 2.3m wide and 0.5m deep (partially revealed) with steep SW side.
005	Fill of 004	Soft light yellowish brown sandy silt
006	Fill of 004	Mod comp light yellowish brown silty sand
007	Layer or fill of 010	Mod comp – comp mid greyish brown sand/silt cont l/s frags to 50mm and occ cc flecks
008	Metalled surface/ fill 010?	Loose, flint nodules/fragment (80%)/light brown silty sand (20%)
009	Fill of 010	Mod comp mid yellowish brown silty sand cont occ ang stone, occ cc, occ chalk frags
010	Uncertain (Pit or linear?)	Extend 2.00m+ SW-NE x 0.50m (max deep). Gradually sloping NE side and concave base.
011	Layer or fill of 010	Mod comp mid yellowish brown silty sand cont occ stone to 10mm
012	Geological	Comp orange-brown sandy clay cont freq iron-pan and mod stone to 15mm
013	Geological	Soft light orange-brown sandy silt
014	UNUSED CONTEXT NO	
015	Fill of 016	Mod comp mid greyish brown sandy silt cont occ sm stone
016	Ditch ? Oblique view ?	Extends c.6.6m SE-NW x 0.50m max deep. Concave profile
017	Fill of 018	Soft light brownish grey slightly sandy silt cont occ sm stone
018	Ditch ?	At least 1.10m wide and 0.35m deep with sides sloping at 45° to a concave base
019	Layer	Soft mid grey-brown sandy silt
020	Fill of 021	Soft mix light grey-brown and orange-brown sandy silt
021	Ditch or Gully	0.55m wide (max.) x 0.25m+ deep. Has steep sides and probably orientated N-S
022	Fill of 023	Mod comp sandy silt
023	Ditch or Gully	0.50m wide x 0.50m deep. Steep sided and concave base. Orientated SE-NW
024	Fill of 026	Mod comp – comp mid greyish brown silty clay with freq lighter patches
025	Fill of 026	Soft to mod comp mid brownish grey sandy silt cont occ cc flecks and occ stone to 20mm
026	Pit (or ditch terminal?)	0.70m wide x 0.45m + deep with steep sides
027	Layer or fill of 031	Soft – mod comp mid brown clayey silt cont occ sm l/s
028	Layer or fill of 031	Soft to mod comp mid brown clayey silt cont occ sm l/s and patches of orange-brown
029	Fill of 031	Soft sandy silt cont occ cc flecks
030	Fill of 031	Soft mid-dark grey sandy silt cont occ cc, bone, shell flecks
031	Pit or pits?	Irregular shape in plan (visible part seen in trench base)
032	Unstratified finds	
033	Unstatified find	
034	Finds from SE of plot	

### List of Abbreviations:

ANG                      ANGULAR



*Witham Archaeology Report No. 2: 14, The Crescent, Wragby, Lincs.*  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*

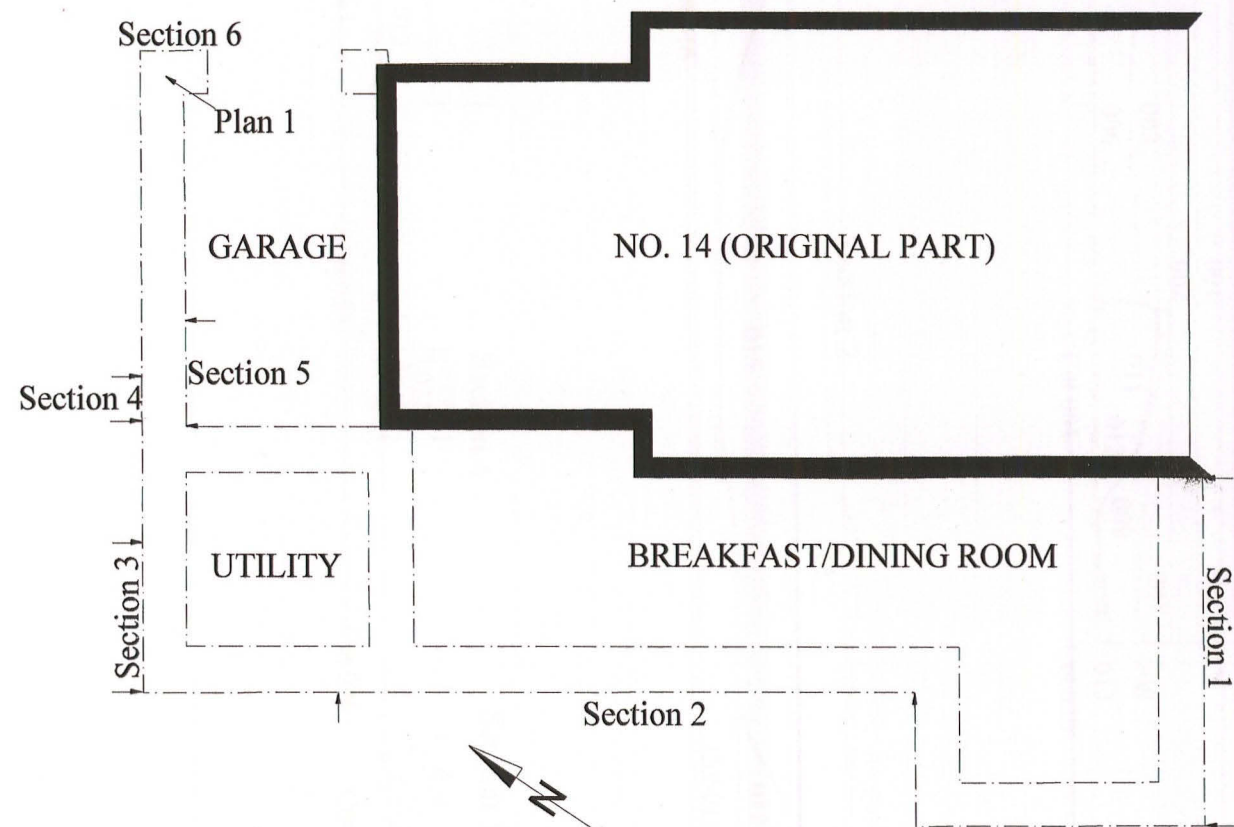
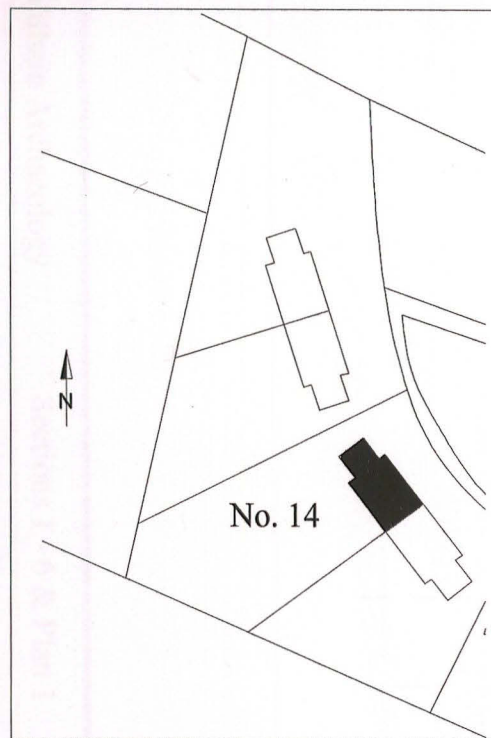
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CONT	<i>CONTAINING</i>
CC	<i>CHARCOAL</i>
COMP	<i>COMPACTION</i>
FRAG	<i>FRAGMENT</i>
FREQ	<i>FREQUENT</i>
L/S	<i>LIMESTONE</i>
MOD	<i>MODERATE</i>
OCC	<i>OCCASIONAL</i>
SM	<i>SMALL</i>







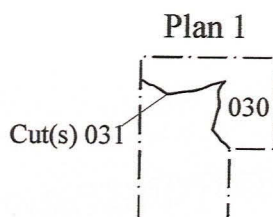
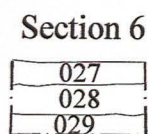
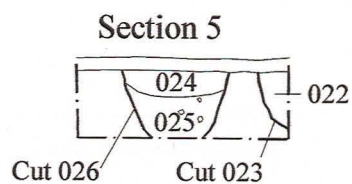
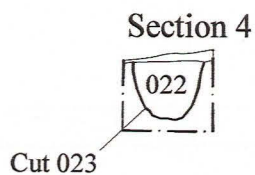
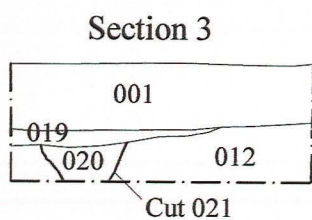
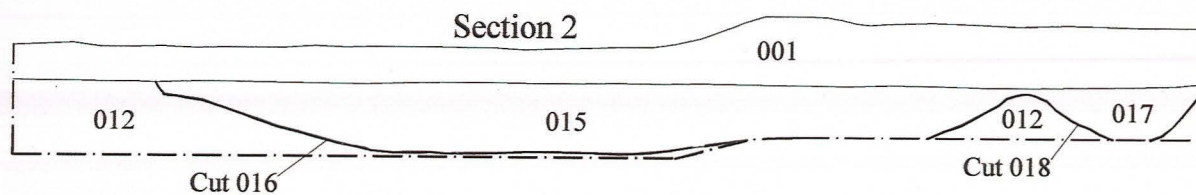
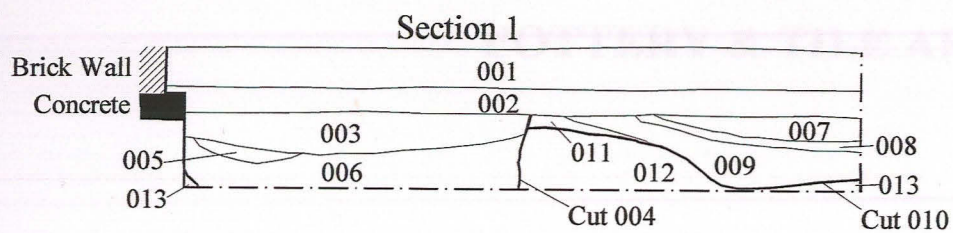


Site Location Plan

Scale 1:100

Fig. 2







**APPENDIX**  
**POTTERY & TILE ARCHIVES**



# Pottery Archive WCRS05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
032	LSW4	15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	C	jug	1	1	34	BS	overfired/burnt ext glaze;? ID or LLSW	late 15th to mid 16th
032	R	Roman pottery	greyware	jar	1	1	9	BS	very abraded	Roman
033	WEMS	Wheelthrown Early Medieval Shell-tempered	B	small jar	1	1	7	rim	EVERA;? ID	11th to 12th
034	WEMS	Wheelthrown Early Medieval Shell-tempered	F	jar	6	1	27	BS	part int soot;? ID	11th to 12th
034	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	2	BS		13th



# Tile Archive WCRS05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
08	RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	OX/R/OX;m edium sandy	1	97	missing 1 surface;probably Tegula	Roman ?