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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP ASSESSMENT AND PHASE I FIELD 60569
EVALUATION

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MOUNT LANE, KIRKBY LA THORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY (Lincoln)

Site Code: MLK95 CCM Accession Number: 51.95 LINCOLNSHIPE
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MUSEUM

MOUNT LANE, KIRKBY LA THORPE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND PHASE I EVALUATION REPORT

FOR

STRUTT & PARKER (Chartered Surveyors)

BY

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Appendix 1: information derived from the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) held by the City & County Museum, Lincoln and records held at Heritage Lincolnshire

Appendix 2: Finds identification/assessment (H. Healey)

Appendix 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition

I.0 Non-technical summary

In July 1994, Pre-Construct Archaeology were invited by Strutt & Parker to tender for an archaeological desk top assessment and field evaluation at a proposed development site on the west side of Mount Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire. A detailed specification and full tender was then submitted and copies of the specification were received by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven.

In April 1995, the proposed development site was field walked (under less than ideal conditions) and the results of that survey are incorporated within this combined assessment/evaluation phase 1 report.

This report has concluded that the archaeological potential of the site **may** be high, though actual quantification of archaeological potential (and the consideration of development strategies which may be employed to minimise disturbance to archaeological remains) must await the results of small-scale archaeological trenching in advance of development.

The central National Grid Reference is TF \$69860 3/45260

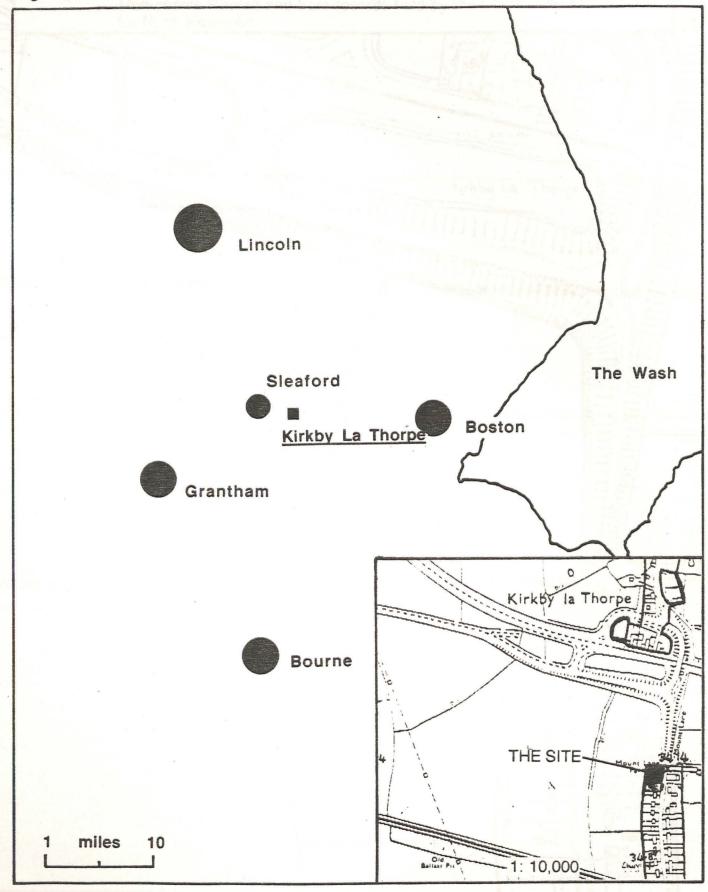
2.0. Introduction

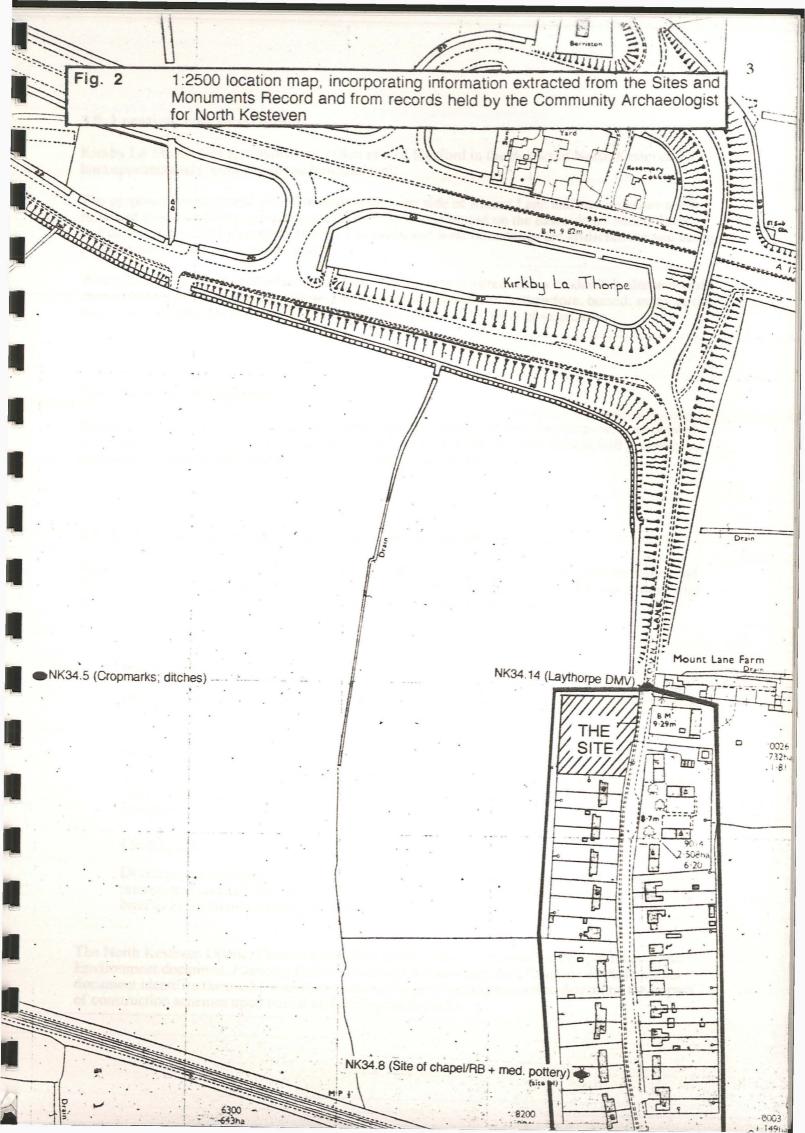
This desk-based and field walking report was commissioned by Strutt & Parker on behalf of their Client in advance of possible housing development on land on the west side of Mount Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire (Figs 1 and 2). The commission was requested to fulfil a planning requirement issued by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven.

The report was researched and written between April 14th and April 20th, 1995, by Colin Palmer-Brown of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Research included a visual inspection of the site; inspection of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at the City & County Museum, Lincoln; records held by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven; the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the local studies library. Aerial photographic cover-searches were requested from Cambridge University Dept. of Aerial Photography, and were requested at the Sites and Monuments Record, Lincoln. Relevant published and unpublished records held by Pre-Construct Archaeology were also consulted as part of the assessment. Some sources of information which would normally be consulted (eg aerial photographic cover searches at the National Monuments Record) have not been referenced. This follows consultation with the Community Archaeologist, who suggested that future archaeological resource management would be based largely on the results of preliminary field survey.

As noted, in addition to the normal range of data consulted during the course of this study, the site was field walked in 10.0m grids; the results of which are considered in section 7.0 below.

Fig. 1 General location plan





3.0 Location and description

Kirkby La Thorpe lies approximately 2.0km east of Sleaford in the district of North Kesteven on land approximately 9.0m above modern sea level.

The proposed development site is located on the west side of Mount Lane and encompasses a subsquare of land measuring approximately 50m x 50m. It is bound on the east side by Mount Lane and on the south side by property fences. The north and west boundaries are artificial, the site being part of a much larger agricultural unit.

When the site was field walked on April 13th, 1995, it was covered with a moderately dense cereal crop, standing to approximately 20cm. The finds sample collected is, therefore, biased; many of the finds were picked from tractor wheel ruts - the only areas totally clear of vegetation.

4.0. Planning background

Planning permission has been granted in outline for the erection of four dwellings with associated access and infrastructure. An existing agricultural access is to be retained, though will probably be relocated. No detailed development plans are currently available.

4.1 Archaeology in North Kesteven and the Local Plan

North Kesteven District Council recognises the importance of buried archaeological resources and has included within the Local Plan (1992) various conditions regarding the protection or otherwise of buried deposits prior to planning permission being granted (Sections C4 - C6).

Policy C4

Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument will not normally be approved.

Policy C5

Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect a site of archaeological interest will normally be subject to a condition of planning permission requiring archaeological investigations to take place before and/or during development.

Policy C6

Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect a site of potential archaeological interest will normally be subject to a condition of planning permission allowing a watching brief to be maintained during development.

The North Kesteven District Council Local Plan mirrors advice contained in a Department of the Environment document, *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology And Planning* (PPG16). This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of construction schemes upon buried archaeological deposits.

This assessment/evaluation forms an initial stage in a process of elimination. Using the results of this study and, where necessary, follow-up evaluation procedures, an informed decision on the requirement (or otherwise) for further archaeological intervention may be taken. Where archaeology remains a requirement, beyond assessment stage, further management strategies for safeguarding the archaeological resource may be developed, including; preservation in situ (usually the preferred option by all interested parties), excavation (preservation by record), or a watching brief.

4.2 Report Objectives

The report aims to identify and assess archaeological deposits which may be threatened by construction works associated with development at Mount Lane. It has, in essence, gathered sufficient information to provide interested parties with a set of data from which a reasoned judgement may be taken regarding future archaeological resource management. Desk-based assessments (in this case, incorporating limited field survey) represent the first stage in a common process of archaeological investigation and may be procedurally followed by further assessments, exploratory trial work or a watching brief within a defined development area.

4.3 Methods

The assessment is based largely on data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at the City & County Museum, Lincoln, and records held by the Community Archaeologist. Other data has been derived from records held by the Lincolnshire Archives Office and published/unpublished accounts held by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

5.0 Geology and topography

The site is located within an area of widespread drift deposits comprising fen sand and gravel which extends (north-south) from Dorrington to Old Sleaford and, east-west, from Anwick to Sleaford. These gravels produce well-drained soils, attractive to farmers and settlers from early prehistoric times until the present day. The older geological formation is Oxford clay, which outcrops on the north side of the village in the area of The Grange.

The closest major natural water course is the River Slea, approximately 2km north-west of the site. A small beck traverses the centre of the village on an east-west alignment.

The site lies at a point approximately 9.0m above modern sea level.

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric remains (usually surface finds) have been identified on the east, west and north sides of the village. The earliest of these finds are two flint axes; one which was not provenanced, the other being located on the south side of Asgarby village.

There is evidence for the former existence of a Bronze Age 'ceremonial landscape': a cremation burial is reported as coming from fields south-west of the village and a so-called 'food vessel' was discovered on the north side of the modern settlement (the cord-ornamented bowl contained cremated human remains (May, 1976, 83)).

Iron Age pottery has been recorded on the north-east fringes of the parish and further ceramics of this period are noted closer to Sleaford. This is not altogether surprising as the area now known as Old Sleaford was occupied by an extensive late Iron Age settlement (*Oppidum*), incorporating possibly the largest mint thus far identified in Europe.

Kirkby Mount, which lies approximately 1.0km south-south-west of the proposed development site, has tenuously been described as a hillfort. However, as there appears to exist little evidence to substantiate this suggestion, and as hillforts (or defended hilltop enclosures) are uncommon in Lincolnshire, it is possible that some other function/origin may be attached.

In the Roman period, there continued to exist a substantial settlement at Sleaford. Clusters of surface finds have been reported on the east fringe of the modern town. Occasional finds close to Kirkby La Thorpe have also been noted, including material that was picked-up c. 200m south of the proposed development site.

The closest known Roman road is King Street/Mareham Lane which extends possibly from the Roman settlement at Water Newton (*Dvrobrivae*), through Bourne, Sleaford and then on to Lincoln (*Lindum*), where it meets with Ermine Street - it has been suggested that both routes were important policing/supply routes during the early Roman Conquest period (Whitwell 1992). It would seem infinitely possible that a minor road or track connected King Street/Mareham Lane with a settlement(s) at Kirkby La Thorpe, though the nature of Romano-British settlement in this area has not been addressed.

Ditched and enclosure sites, recorded as cropmarks during high summer, could date within the late prehistoric, the Roman or later periods. One of these sites (NK34.5) lies approximately 120m west of the proposed development site.

Kirkby La Thorpe is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086); the settlement then being known as *Cherchebi* (Morris 1986).

"In Kirkby (la Thorpe) Earl Morcar had five carucates of land taxable, land for 4 ploughs. Now the King has 1 plough there. 14 freemen [with 2] ploughs [and] 5 villagers and 5 smallholders with 1 plough"

The proposal site lies within the shrunken medieval village (SMV) of Laythorpe, much of which must now lie obscured beneath relatively modern buildings. Remains of a deserted medieval village (DMV) lie close by at Bargate Hill (Burgh DMV).

An inspection of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (Appendix 3), as compared with Fig.'s 1 and 2, illustrates the extent to which the ancient settlement has been carved-up in recent times, principally by the construction of access roads leading to/from the modern A17.

Originally, Laythorpe possessed two churches. That dedicated to St Denis remains; its earliest architectural feature is its Norman south doorway (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 416). The site of the other church, St Peters, can be identified as a series of green mounds close to the grounds of the C19th rectory. A third ecclesiastical site, thought to be a chapel-of-ease, is recorded c. 200m south of the proposed development site. Clearly, a settlement of some considerable size existed during the medieval period.

During the medieval period, portions of tithes at Kirkby La Thorpe belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 records that amongst lists were named Sleaford and Kirkby Laythorpe (Hill 1965, 71): a boundary between Old Sleaford and Kirkby Laythorpe was established following tithe disputes (Owen 1971, 31).

Stray finds and clusters of medieval pottery have been recorded widely within the parish and there are extensive cultivation remains of the period (ridge and furrow) east of Mount Lane. Anglo-Saxon pottery has been reported north-west of the village and has occurred (unprovenanced elsewhere).

7.0 Archaeological field walking

Agreement was reached between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the Client, and the Community Archaeologist that the results of field walking be incorporated within a wider desk-based report.

7.1 Methodology

The entire proposed development area was systematically walked (working within 10.0m grids) on April 13th, 1995 by two experienced field archaeologists. Their brief was to establish a base line, divide and number the whole site into 10.0m grid squares, and to collect and bag surface finds. It should be noted that the entire site was obscured (up to 70% in places) by vegetation. As such, the sample of finds collected is biased and under-represented. The material does, however, give a general overview of the fact that there exists on the site a potentially dense scatter of, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval, pottery. Late post-medieval/modern finds were not collected for the purpose of this study.

7.2 Results

The grid sequence is presented in Fig. 3, incorporating find counts and types.

Subsequent to the collection of field data, all finds were washed and/or processed, and then presented for specialists appraisal and comment. Specialists considered were as follows:

H. Healey (independent): Medieval and post-medieval pottery
J. Cowgill (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit): slag ID/small finds

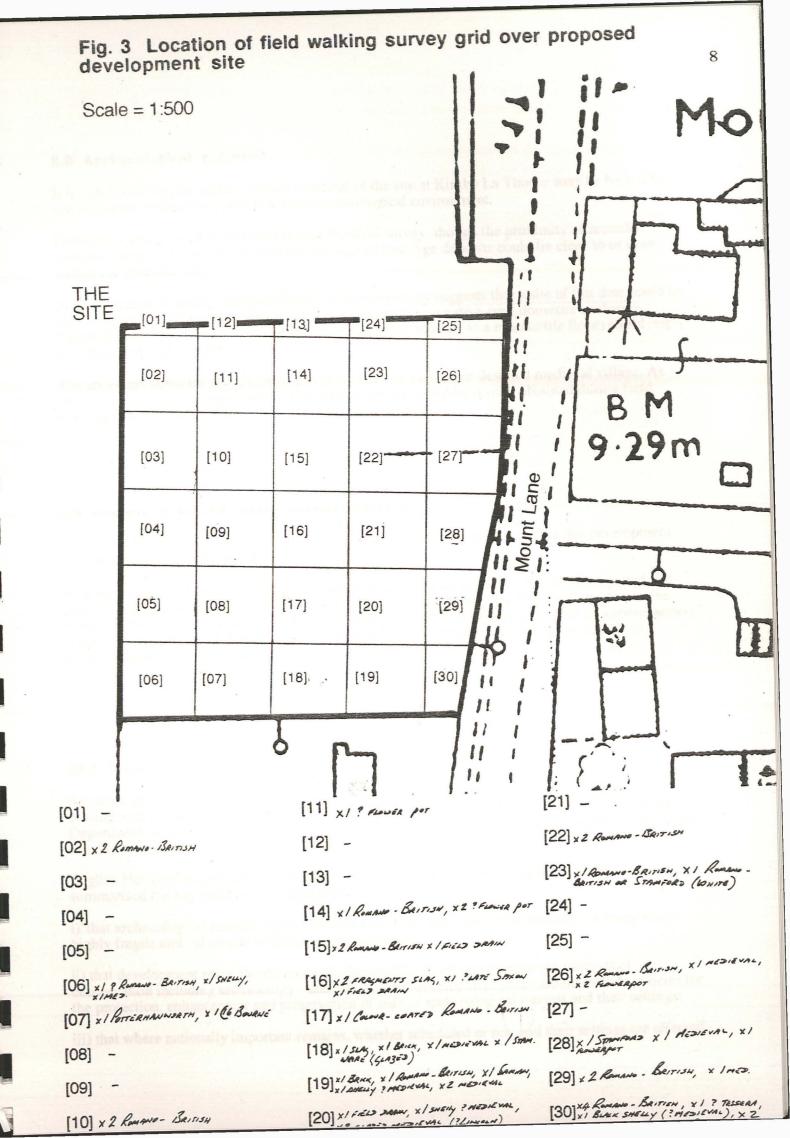
M. Darling (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit): Roman/Iron Age pottery.

At the time the survey was completed, staff based at the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit were not available for consultation due to the Easter break. Therefore, all finds were assessed by H. Healey.

A total of 60 finds were collected, processed and retained for specialist appraisal (Appendix 2). Given that these figures are relatively low (under-represented due to dense vegetation cover), no attempt has been made to present the data in graphical/statistical format.

Upon inspection, it was established that a small number of the finds collected were fragments of modern flower pots or land drains (grids 11, 14, 15, 16, 20, 26, 28). However, sherds of Romano-British pottery (and a single piece of tessera) were found in grids 02, 06, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 26, 29 and 30. Medieval sherds were collected in grids 06, 07, 18, 19, 20, 26, 28, 29 and 30. Early medieval/Saxon sherds were found in grids ?16, 18, ?23, 28 and 30.

Some of the pottery on the site was in an abraded condition and has therefore been present on the surface of the field for a considerable period of time. When in small numbers, the deposition of such material is often interpreted as the results of manuring or similar activities - where domestic waste is intentionally or unintentionally incorporated. However, some of the sherds appeared freshly-broken, implying the presence of *in-situ* archaeological remains.



8.0 Archaeological potential

It is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site at Kirkby La Thorpe may be high. The site is located within a complex historical/archaeological environment.

Prehistoric artefacts were not found during the field survey, though the proximity of recorded remains suggests the possibility that Bronze Age or Iron Age deposits could lie close to or even within the proposal site.

The occurrence of widely-scattered Romano-British pottery suggests that a site of this date could lie near to or on the proposed development area. This could be a native-type domestic enclosure, though the occurrence of a fragment of tessera (possibly relating to a mosaic/tile floor) **could** imply occupation of higher status.

The area considered for development lies in the heart of Laythorpe deserted medieval village. As such, it is suggested on topographical grounds (and supported by results obtained during field walking) that *in-situ* deposits of this period may be present.

9.0 Impacts to buried archaeological resources

Impacts to buried archaeological deposits may already have been caused within this development site, principally from ploughing.

As a significant body of surface material has been recorded on the site, it has been suggested that important archaeological deposits **may** exist within the site boundaries. If present, such remains would probably be affected by development. The proposed housing scheme, with its various access points, services and other features associated with ground disturbance could pose a threat to archaeological resources.

10.0 Mitigations

As stated above, the North Kesteven District Council Local Plan contains procedural details for dealing with archaeological heritage. These procedures are based on advice contained within the Department of the Environment's *Planning and Policy Guidance*; *Archaeology and Planning*. (PPG 16), November 1990.

English Heritage in their publication Exploring Our Past (Wainwright, et al. 1991) have summarised the key points of this document:

- i)"that archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction;
- ii) that development plans should reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology and that detailed development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and their settings:
- iii) that where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected

by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their preservation - and that in such cases preservation by record (excavation) should be regarded as the second best option after physical preservation *in situ*;

- iv) that the needs of archaeology can be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, if developers discuss their preliminary plans for development with the planning authority at an early stage (the PPG gives detailed guidance on how this can be achieved);
- v) that decisions by planning authorities on whether to preserve archaeological remains in situ in the face of proposed development are to be taken on merit, taking account of development plan policies and all other material considerations including the importance of the remains and weighing these against the need for development;
- vi) that planning authorities, when they propose to allow development which is damaging to archaeological remains, must ensure that the developer has satisfactorily provided for excavation and recording, either through voluntary agreement with the archaeologists or, in the absence of agreement, by imposing an appropriate condition on the planning permission."

Where archaeological features, as identified by the desk top study, are likely to be encountered, strategies should be developed to deal with them. These may include preservation in situ, by limiting the archaeological impact, redesigning building plans or raising floor levels, or preservation by record. If the latter is the favoured or apposite course for sub-surface deposits, archaeological trial excavations to assess the nature, depth, level of survival etc. may be conducted. This would usually involve the cutting of archaeological trenches in one or more locations, usually not exceeding 10% of the area to be developed.

The Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 states that, where preliminary research suggests survival of important archaeological remains,

"it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken. This sort of evaluation is quite distinct from full archaeological excavation. It is normally a rapid and inexpensive operation, involving ground survey and small scale trial trenching, but it should be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or archaeologist. Evaluations of this kind help to define the character and extent of the archaeological remains that exist in the area of a proposed development, and thus indicate the weight which ought to be attached to their preservation. They also provide information useful for identifying potential options for minimising or avoiding damage. On this basis, an informed and reasonable planning decision can be taken."

It continues,

"Local planning authorities can reasonably expect developers to provide this information as part of their application for sites where there is good reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance. If developers are not prepared to do so, the planning authority may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to direct the applicant to supply further information under the provisions of Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988".

11.0 Conclusions

11.1 Summary of potential

This report has identified that the site at Kirkby La Thorpe is **potentially** one of high archaeological significance. The fundamental conclusion reached is that the archaeological potential is greatest for the Romano-British and late Saxon/medieval periods. The evidence is based largely on the results of recent field walking, though it is acknowledged that, for reasons outlined above, the field walking record is incomplete.

No cropmarks or soil stains have been identified (ie aerial photographs) on the site, though cropmarks have been recorded close by.

11.2 Further work.

The Community Archaeologist, having inspected finds collected during recent field walking, has substantiated her requirement for small-scale archaeological trenching and has requested that six trial trenches (as opposed to the four proposed by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)) be sited within the proposed development site. The purpose of trenching would be to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and to assess their date, depth, state of preservation and significance; in local, regional and national terms. Such information would be used in conjunction with development plans and discussions would take place with the developer regarding methods of construction which may be employed to minimise or eliminate the possibility of disturbance to archaeological remains. The applicant would be required to satisfy the planning authority that he has made suitable provisions to ensure the long-term preservation of the archaeological resource (*in-situ* or by record).

12.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr Charles Ashby of Strutt & Parker for commissioning this report on behalf of his Clients. Thanks are expressed to Nicola Nuttall, the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven, for allowing access to her parish files, and to Mark Bennet, SMR Officer at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Thanks also to Hilary Healey for finds assessment. Finally, thank you to Robert Schofield and Malcolm Otter for undertaking the field work.

13.0 References

Department of the Environment. 1990: Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)

Hill, JWF 1965 Medieval Lincoln

May, J 1976 Prehistoric Lincolnshire

Morris, J (Ed.) 1986 Domesday Book, Lincolnshire

Owen, D 1971 Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire, Hist. of Lincolnshire V

Pevsner, N & Harris, J 1989 The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire (2nd edition).

Wainwright, G. et al. 1991: Exploring Our Past. Strategies For The Archaeology Of England.

Whitwell, J.B. 1992: Roman Lincolnshire. (Revised Edition)

14.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Mount Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe: information derived from the Lincoln City & County Museum Sites & Monuments Record and from records held by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven

CCM ref.	HTL ref.	SGR	Description
BP	NK34.1	TF0784 4587	Romano-British brooch/pottery
AT	NK34.2	TF0791 4593	Iron Age pottery
CI	NK34.3	TF081 457	Roman coin
G	NK34.4	TF094 440	'Thinghow'/Hillfort? (Kirkby Mount)
?	NK34.5	TF095 453	Cropmarks: ditches
CO	NK34.6	TF098 463	St Peters Church (site of)
??	NK34.7	TF097 464	Earthworks
CM	NK34.8	TF09874505	Site of chapel; Roman + medieval pottery
В	NK34.9	TF099 459	Bronze Age food vessel
??	NK34.10	TF0995 4622	Medieval pottery sherd
Α	NK34.11	TF114 449	Flint axe
??	NK34.12	TF115 465	Roman coin + pottery
J	NK34.13	TF115 467	Iron Age pottery
C	NK34.14	TF099 453	Laythorpe DMV
??	NK34.15	TF09 45	Bronze Age cremation
??	NK34.16	TF104 453	Cropmarks; Roman + medieval pottery
CR	NK34.17	TF100 460	Extensive ridge and furrow
??	NK34.18	TF101 447	Ridge and furrow
??	NK34.19	TF0995 4360	Boundary stone
??	NK34.20	TF078 458	Roman pot handle
??	NK34.21	TF0778 4565	Stone footings
CN	NK34.22	TF098 462	The Grange (Hall); C17th
??	NK34.23	TF079 459	Roman coin + pottery

??	NK34.24	TF091 453	Cropmarks; enclosures
??	NK34.25	TF085 454	Cropmarks
??	NK34.26	Unprovenanced	Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds
CR	NK34.27	TF106 465	'Burgh' DMV
??	NK34.28	TF091 459	Roman coin
CP	NK34.29	TF09 45	Roman coins
??	NK34.30	TF092 461	Anglo-Saxon finds
??	NK34.31	TF082 459	Roman finds (by metal detector)
??	NK34.32	Unprovenanced	Flint axe
BX	??	TF099 459	RB pottery
СН	??	TF099 450	Roman coin
CL	??	TF0990 4609	Anglo-Saxon cross fragments

Aerial photographs consulted

Ref. No.	Grid ref.	Lib. ref.
EAO39	TF098452	Cambridge 20.7, 1949
EAO40	TF100 460	??
EAO41	TF097 464	??

Appendix 2

Identification of surface finds collected at Mount Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire (Hilary Healey)

Grid square Description

02	x1 Romano-British sherd
06	x1 ?Romano-British, 1 shell fabric, 1 medieval
07	x1 Potterhanworth (medieval), x1 C16th - Bourne ware
10	x2 Romano-British
11	x1 ?flower pot
14	x1 Romano-British, x2 ?flower pot
15	x2 Romano-British, white?, x1 frag. field drain
16	x2 fragments slag, x1 field drain frag., x1 shelly (?late Saxon)
17	x1 colour-coated Romano-British
18	x1 fragment slag, x1 ?brick frag., x1 medieval, x1 Stamford ware (glazed)
19	x1 brick flake, x1 Romano-British greyware base, x1 Samian (Roman), x1 shelly (probably medieval), x2 medieval
20	x1 ?field drain flake, x1 shelly, probably medieval, x2 glazed medieval (?Lincoln)
22	x2 Romano-British
23	x1 Romano-British, x1 Stamford ware or Romano-British (white)
26	x2 Romano-British, x1 medieval, x2 flowerpot
. 28	x1 Stamford ware, x1 medieval, x1 flower pot
29	x2 Romano-British, x1 medieval
30	x4 Romano-British, x1 ?tessera (tile floor square), x1 black shelly (probably medieval), x2 medieval glazed, x2 Stamford ware

