

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF MONITORING WORKS:  
PLOT 3, THE OLD VICARAGE,  
NORBECK LANE,  
WELTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Site Code:** OVWL 08  
**NGR:** TF 010 795  
**LCNCC ACC. NO:** 2008.61  
**PCA 447 08 - 01 Rev A**

Report prepared for Daniel Kirk Ltd

by  
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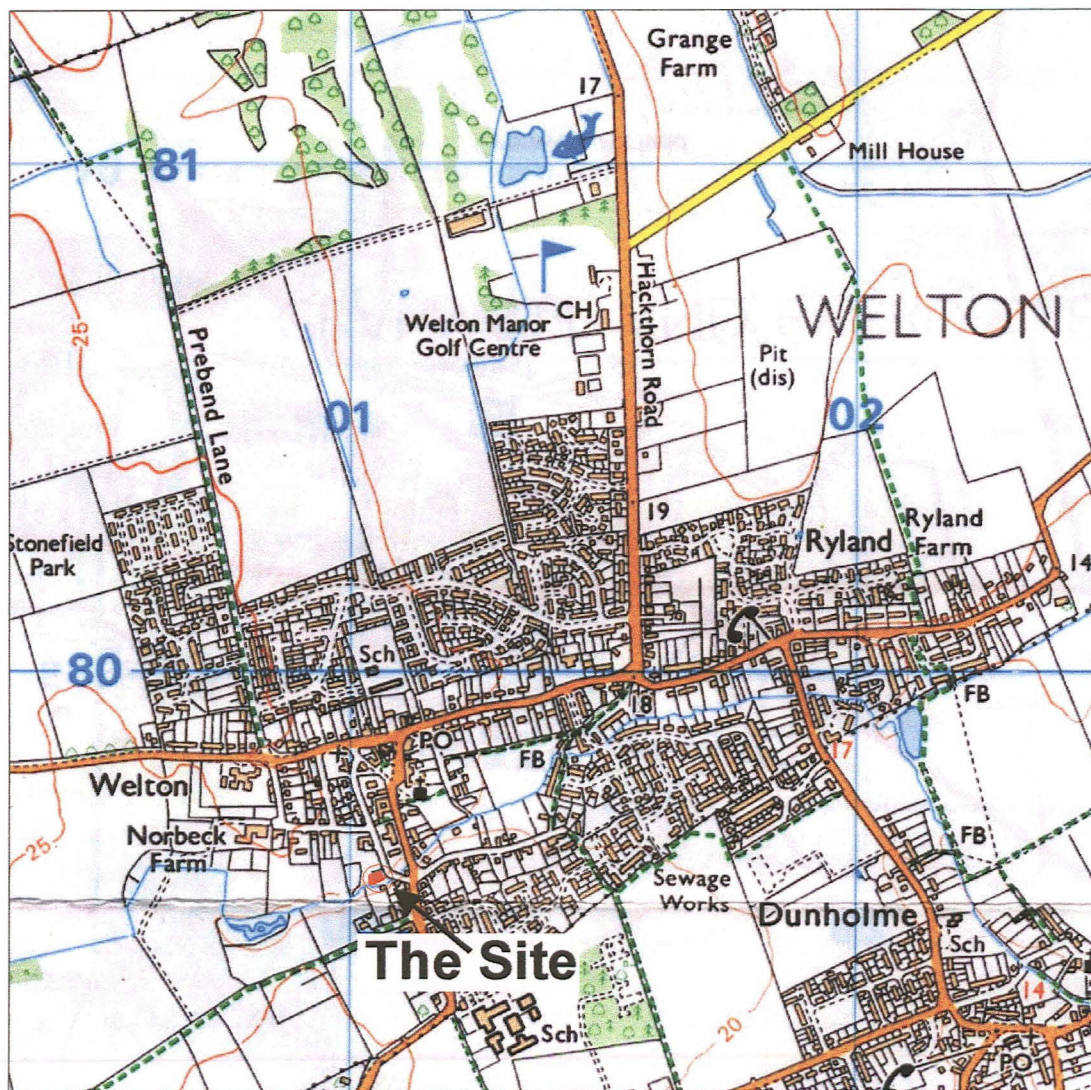
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### Summary

- An archaeological scheme of monitoring works was undertaken during the ground works associated with the construction of a domestic dwelling at Plot 3, The Old Vicarage, Welton, Lincolnshire.
- Despite the location of the development site within the medieval core of the village and in an area where past human activity has been evidenced since the Neolithic period, no archaeological finds or deposits of any great significance were recorded.
- The remains of stone foundations (probably boundary walls) almost certainly pre-date the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, although by how much is uncertain.



**Fig 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000**  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Daniel Kirk Ltd to carry out an archaeological scheme of monitoring during all ground works associated with the construction of a domestic dwelling at Plot 3, The Old Vicarage, Welton, Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to fulfill the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by West Lindsey District Council. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999) and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

## **2.0 Site location and description**

Welton is situated 9.5km north-east of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The development site covers an area of approximately 0.1ha and is located to the immediate west of Vicarage Lane, south of the Old Vicarage, and east of the Old Man's Head Spring (a stream bordering the south of the site).

Site mean elevation is *c.*20.00m AOD and it is centred on NGR TF 01074 79593 (Figs. 1 and 2). The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Snitterby Limestone (BGS, 1998).

## **3.0 Planning background**

Full planning permission for this development (planning ref's M01/P/1185 and 120923) was granted by West Lindsey District Council subject to the undertaking of archaeological observation and recording during all intrusive ground works; to preserve by record any archaeological remains, if exposed or disturbed.

## **4.0 Archaeological context**

Welton has been some kind of focus for human activity since the prehistoric period. A Neolithic axe head was discovered during the 1950's immediately northeast of the current site, where there are crop marks that are presumed to be Bronze Age round barrows.

The construction of the Welton to Glentham Water Pipeline in 1991 identified an Iron Age ditch and a Romano British inhumation burial immediately north of the site, with further evidence for Romano British occupation being recorded in the form of pottery scatters, a road surface and a ditch located on land off Heath Road. The remains of a stone building, pottery and roof tiles also pertaining to this period have been reported *c.*2km west of the development.

In 1971, an Anglo Saxon cemetery (dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> century) was recorded during excavations at West Yard, to the west of the development. Associated grave goods included annular brooches, shield bosses and beads. At Chapel Yard, a further cemetery (presumed to be medieval) was excavated in 1963. Of 13 excavated inhumation burials, several were beneath stone slabs.

An evaluation in 1998 on land off Norbeck Lane identified an early medieval building, believed to be of 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> century date. Earthworks also pertaining to this period and believed to represent fishponds have been recorded immediately to the west of the present development.

The village is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey as *Wellestone* meaning farmstead or village with a spring, derived from the Old English *wella* and *tun*. The large parish church of St Mary's retains much of its 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century fabric despite extensive rebuilding between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The current development is relatively close to the church and is therefore likely to have been situated within the medieval core of the village.

An archaeological watching brief carried out on Plot 1 of the Old Vicarage (northwest of the present development (Fig 2)) revealed a single undated pit (Williams 2008 ).

## **5.0 Methodology**

The development scheme involved topsoil stripping, the excavation of footing and drainage trenches, and a single geotechnical test pit.

The topsoil strip was carried out using a mini-digger fitted with 0.60m wide smooth blade; all other excavations using a 0.50m toothed bucket.

The archaeological methodology was put in place to ensure that any significant deposits or structures exposed as a result of the ground works would be recorded using recognized archaeological techniques.

### **5.1 Recording methodology.**

All deposits observed were recorded using standard context record sheets. Sample sections at scale 1:20 were drawn at intervals, and located on the developer's site plan. The spoil heaps were examined for stray finds following the topsoil strip, and again following trenching. A colour photographic record of all groundworks was also maintained: a selection from which is reproduced in Appendix 1.



## **6.0 Results**

### **6.1 Footing Trenches (Figs 2 & 3)**

The earliest deposits revealed by the groundworks were of natural origin. In several foundation trenches a sterile stratum was encountered at 0.40m below the modern ground surface (Fig 3 Sections C-D and G-H), comprising a layer of light grey silty sand (007).

Overlying (007) was a 0.20m thick layer of mid orange-brown silty clay colluvium (003). Cutting this and evidenced in four sections was the remnant of a linear wall foundation (009). This was aligned north east - south west with a remnant wall fabric made up of flat limestones overlying a degraded limestone rubble foundation (plan/section I-J; Plates 7 & 8). The average foundation width was in excess of 0.50m.

Sealing the foundation and forming the modern ground surface was a 0.25m thick layer of dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (001).

### **6.2 Test pit (Section A-B)**

The test pit was adjacent to the southwest corner of the building plot (Fig 2).

The exposed stratigraphy included two natural deposits. The earliest (006) occurred at a depth of 1.40m below the modern ground surface and comprised a layer of light grey course sand. Overlying (006) was layer (005). This was analogous to layer (007), evidenced in footing trenches.

Sealing (005) was a 0.10m layer of dark brown-black desiccated peat (004), suggesting that that at some point in time this area of the site had been subject to water-logging.

Overlying (004) was the colluvial layer (003), which in this area was sealed by a 0.10m thick deposit of fine limestone brash (002) (Fig 3, Section 1).

### **6.3 Drainage trenches (Sections E-F & K-L)**

The two drainage trenches were located at the southwest of the development (Fig 2). The earliest deposit exposed in both at a depth 0.70m below the modern ground surface was layer (003). Cutting this were the remains of two limestone foundations (008) and (010).

The location of foundation (008) suggested that it could have been a continuation of foundation (009) although this was only encountered at the far west of the drainage trench and there was no evidence that (009) extended into that area (Fig 2).

The second foundation (010) appeared to be a return of (008) and probably followed a north/south alignment.

Both (008) and (010) were broadly similar in size and fabric to (009), suggesting that they were possibly components of a foundation for a boundary wall or walls although it cannot be discounted that the foundation may have been part of a structure (possibly a barn) albeit a large one.

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the development being situated within the core of the medieval village and in an area where past human activity has been evidenced since the Neolithic period, no finds or deposits of any great archaeological significance were recorded.

There was no evidence to date the purported boundary wall foundations, where the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 4) and later Ordnance Survey maps show no indications of a boundary (or structure) at this location, suggesting that the foundation pre-dates the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of the ground works. It allowed an appraisal of the impact of the development to be established and an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation to be implemented.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Daniel Kirk Ltd for this commission.

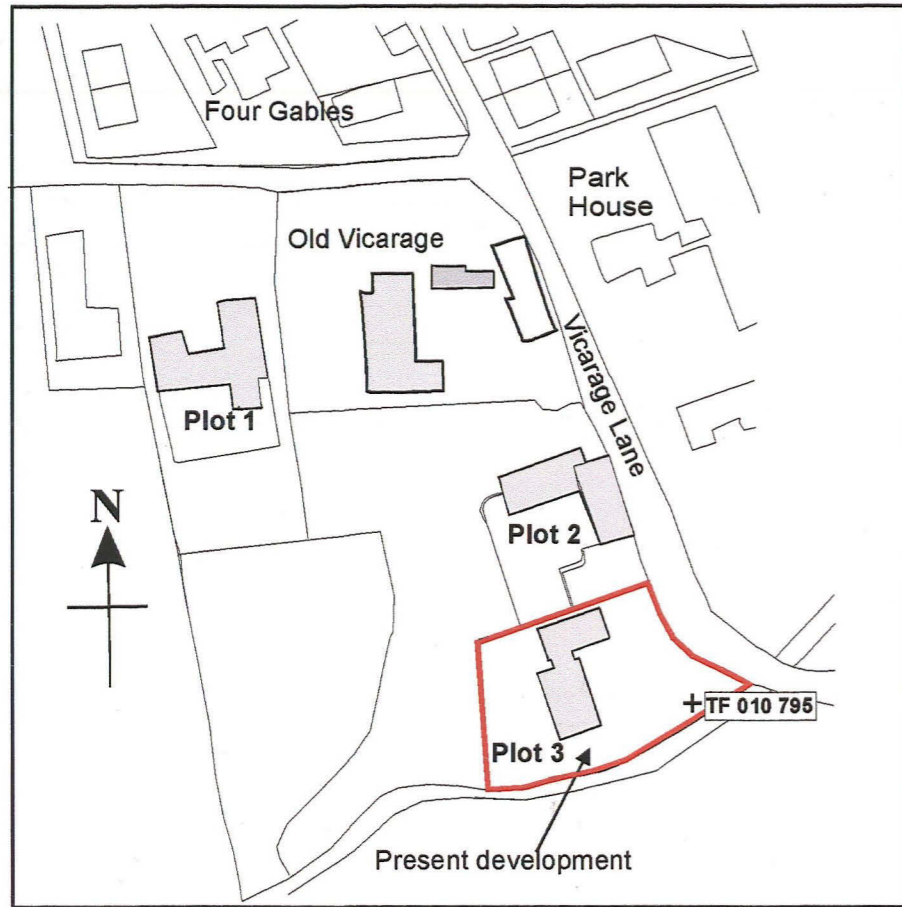
## 10.0 References

- Archaeological Data Service (ADS) 2008 <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/search/fr.cfm?rcn=EHNMR-1311615>
- Brett A., 2005, *The Manor Vicarage Lane, Welton, Lincolnshire.*, (Archaeological Watching Brief Report) Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
- British Geological Survey, 1998, *Market Rasen 102, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50 000 Provisional Series.* Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.
- Hardwick A.M., 2003, *Land off Heath Road and Lincoln Road, Welton,* (Archaeological Watching Brief Report) Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
- Snee J., 1999, *Welton Phase 1 Water Mains Replacement Scheme,* (Archaeological Watching Brief Report) Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
- Williams S., 2008 *Plot 1, The Old Vicarage, Norbeck Lane, Welton, Lincolnshire,* (Archaeological Watching Brief Report) Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)



## **11.0 Site Archive**

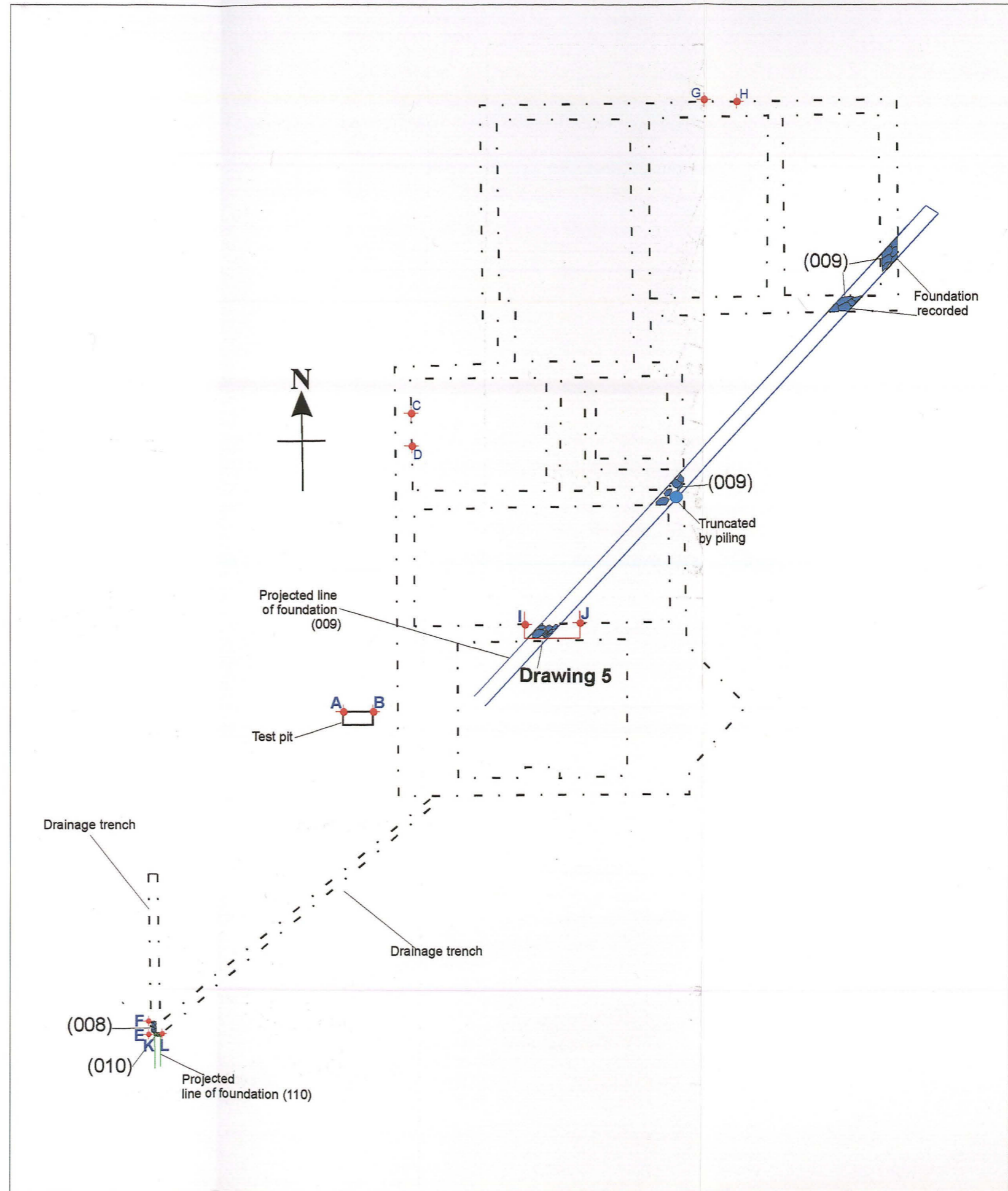
The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months. The global accession number for this scheme is LLN CC: 2008. 61



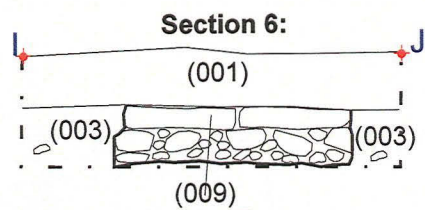
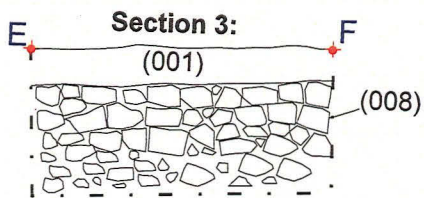
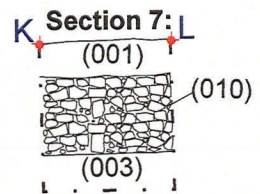
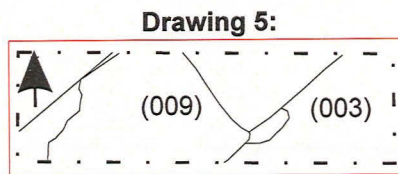
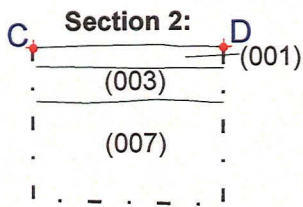
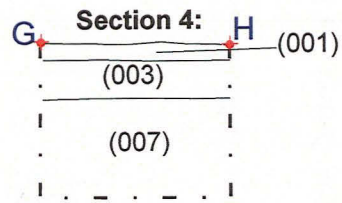
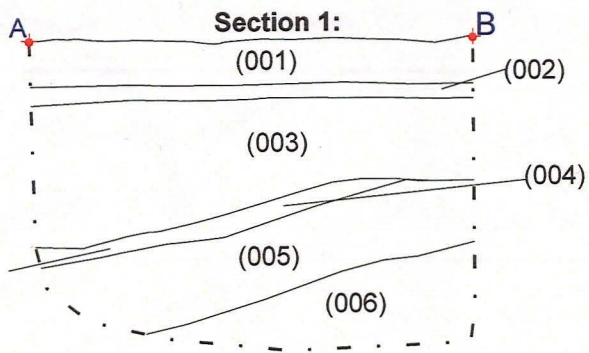
**Fig 2**

Plan of Plot 3 showing location of drawn sections and drawing 5 at scale 1:100

Inset plan of site location with present development outlined in red at scale 1:1250







**Fig 3:**

Drawn sections at scale 1:50  
Plan of wall (009) at scale 1:50

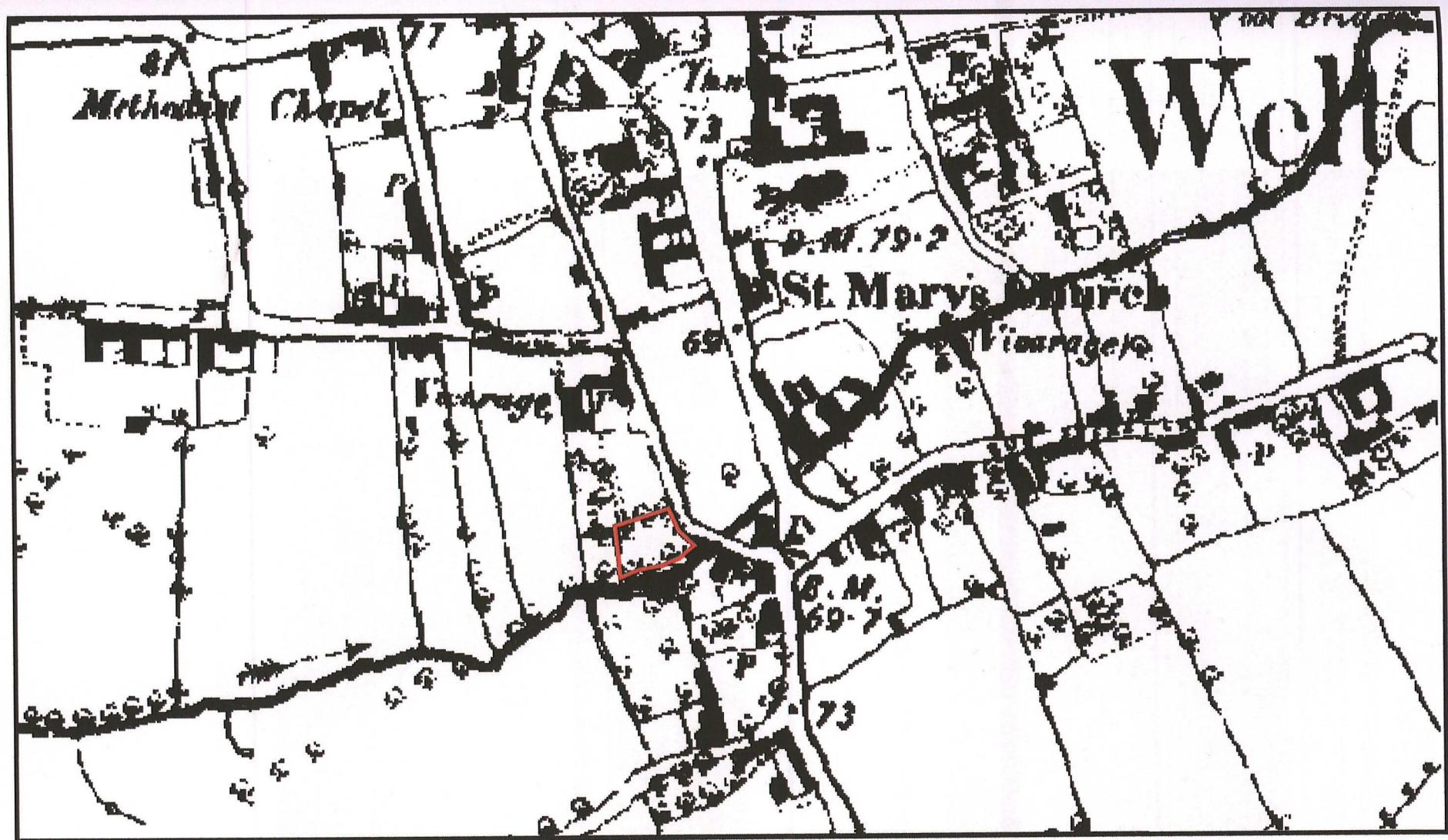


Fig 4: 1891 First Edition Ordnance Survey of Welton. Development site outlined in red. (not to scale)



**Appendix 1: Colour plates**



**Plate 1:** General view of the area after the topsoil strip looking northwest



**Plate 2:** General view of the topsoil strip looking west





**Plate 3:** Sample section of test pit looking north



**Plate 4:** Sample section of footings trench looking east





**Plate 5:** Drainage trench showing foundation (008) and foundation (110) at the left of the photograph, looking west.

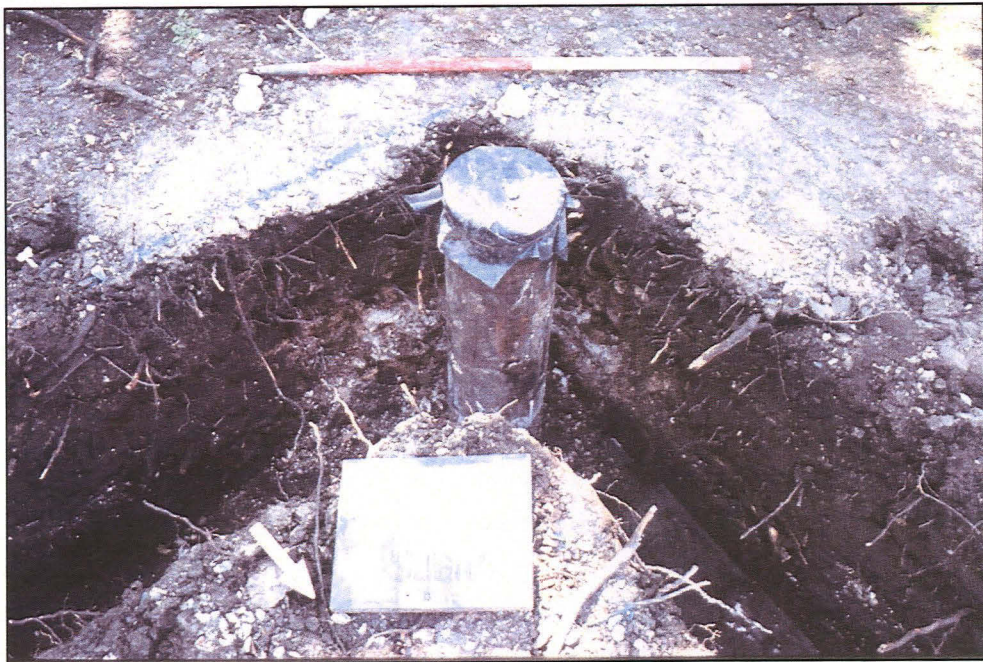


**Plate 6:** Sample section of footings trench looking north





**Plate 7:** Foundation (009) in plan looking north



**Plate 8:** View of piling truncating foundation (009) looking southwest



## Appendix 2: Context list

Context	Type	Description
001	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty clay top-soil (0.25m. thick)
002	Layer	Light creamy yellow lime stone brash ( - 0.10m. thick)
003	Layer	Mid orange-brown silty clay colluvial layer (0.20m.)
004	Layer	Dark brown- black desiccated peat (0.10m thick)
005	Layer	Light grey silty sand natural = (007)
006	Layer	Light grey coarse sand natural
007	Layer	Light grey silty sand = (005)
008	Structure	Possible foundation of a boundary wall = (009)
009	Structure	Possible foundation of a boundary wall = (008)
010	Structure	Possible return of foundation (008)

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**OASIS ID: preconst3-55761**

### Project details

Project name	Plot 3 Old Vicarage Norbeck Lane Welton
Short description of the project	Archaeological scheme of monitoring works on a single house plot within the medieval core of the village of Welton. Nothing of archaeological interest was recorded. A possible boundary ditch may pre-date the Late 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2008 End: 28-08-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LLNCC.2008.61 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	OVWL 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 10 - Orchard
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY WELTON Plot 3 Old Vicarage Welton
Postcode	LN2 3JP
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 010 795 53.3025276373 -0.484204441304 53 18 09 N 000 29 03 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown



Height OD / Depth    Min: 19.00m Max: 21.00m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation            Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Project brief originator        Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator       Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Project director/manager       Will Munford

Project supervisor              Linda Hamilton

Type of sponsor/funding body    Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?        No

Digital Archive Exists?        No

Paper Archive recipient        The Collection, Lincoln

Paper Contents                 'none'

Paper Media available         'Diary','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Entered by                        Linda Hamilton (linda@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on                         23 February 2009

**OASIS:**

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