

98/3

roy



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

PP 98/3 A 0

**The New Vicarage, Church View,  
Penny Gardens, Kirton, Boston  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Planning Application No: B14/0086/97  
NGR: TF ~~30573848~~ 3048 3857  
LCNCC Museum Acc No. 22.98**

for

**the Lincoln Diocesan Trust**

**January 1998**

**LAS. Report No. 275**

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

0 4. MAR 98

12 Friars Lane  
LINCOLN LNCSHAL

Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530734

Event LI 4918  
Source LI 9364  
LI 9365

Mon 6181656 13589

## Contents

<b>Summary</b>	1
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Site Location</b>	1
<b>Planning Background</b>	1
<b>Archaeological and Historic Background</b>	2
<b>Results</b>	3
<b>Discussion</b>	3
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	3
<b>References</b>	3
<b>Appendix 1: Contents of Site Archive</b>	4
<b>The Figures and Plates</b>	

## Figures

Fig 1: a) Location of Kirton (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:250 000 map). O.S. crown copyright reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A. b) Location of development site based on a plan supplied by the developer.

Fig. 2 Plan of the excavated foundations

## Plates

Pl.1 Southern most wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing west.

Pl. 2 Eastern wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing south.

Pl. 3 Western wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing north.

Pl. 4 Section of the Northern trench, facing south.

**The New Vicarage, Church View, Penny Gardens,  
Kirton, Boston**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Planning Application No: B14/0086/97**  
**LCNCC Museum Accn No. 22.98**  
**NGR: TF 30573848**

**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to The New Vicarage, Church View, Penny Gardens, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire.*

*No archaeological features were recorded in the trenches. The finds included a modern cat burial, two sherds of medieval pottery and a small quantity of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems which were recovered from the topsoil.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) on behalf of Lindsey Archaeological Services during the groundworks for an extension to The New Vicarage. These works were carried out for the Lincoln Diocesan Trust as a condition of the planning consent issued by Boston Borough Council (planning reference B14/0086/97). The work was carried out in accordance with *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council 1997) and the Brief set by the Boston Community Archaeologist dated September 1997.

Copies of this report will be deposited with the client, the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the City and County Museum and Lincoln and Boston Borough Council. A short summary of results will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

**Site Description**

Kirton lies approximately 3.5km south-west of Boston, 7.5km west of the Wash in the fens of South Lincolnshire. The modern settlement occupies an area of c. 2km<sup>2</sup> on land approximately 3m AOD. Its main road link is the modern A16 trunk road, which connects Boston with Gosberton.

The geology which underlies Kirton is dominated by the Snargate Series: coarse silty gleyic brown alluvial soils (Robson 1990).

The vicarage site lies in the centre of the village in Penny Gardens approximately 70m north of St Peter & St Paul Church.

**Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted subject to a programme of observation and recording being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction. An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

*a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (IFA 1994)*

### **Archaeological and Historic Background**

The earliest known find in the vicinity of Kirton is an isolated Bronze Age axe head which was recovered by a schoolboy from a ploughed field between Kirton Holme and Kirton End in the 1950s. Ordnance Survey records indicate the site of a *tumulus* (a burial mound) have not been authenticated archaeologically.

The evidence for Roman occupation in the Fens may be seen as cropmarks and scatters of pottery in the ploughsoil, often on linear islands or roddons. It has been suggested that the exploitation of salt was a major stimulus to settlement expansion during the Roman period, in this part of the county.

Kirton is a hybrid name, from the Old Scandinavian *kirkja* + the Old English word *tun*, which means village with a church (Mills 1989, 200). It has been suggested that a church may have existed at Kirton in the pre-Viking period (Stocker 1993,114). The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that part of Kirton, including a church and two salt pans, belonged to a large estate at Donington. This, together with a manorial estate centred on Kirton itself was held by Count Alan. A second manor at Kirton was held by Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1924, 12/71,88; 57/29). Late Saxon pottery has been found on the site of the Youth Centre in the High Street. The potential for Saxon or medieval remains being found on the site was considered to be high because of its proximity to the church.

### **Results**

The groundworks involved the excavation of trenches to carry the walls of a rectangular extension at the rear of the property, and a small straight trench across the front (Fig. 2) to move the front wall of the property outwards. The excavation of foundation trenches was carried out using a mini-excavator fitted with a 0.62m wide toothed bucket. Trenches were excavated to a depth c.0.7m below the modern ground surface.

In both trenches, the deposits were identical. Topsoil (01) was a dark silty clay garden-type soil, 0.26m deep, which contained much modern pottery, some animal bone, a quantity of clay pipe fragments and a few sherds of residual medieval pottery. The topsoil sealed (02): a mid-grey fine silt, extending to the base of the excavation.

The foundation trench at the front of the Vicarage was hand-dug because lack of access prevented the use of a machine. Two sherds of 12-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found in the topsoil (01), together with modern pottery and clay pipe stems and can be regarded as residual (See Appendix 1). The only other find in this area was the corpse of a cat, presumed to be the remains of a household pet of recent date.

### **Discussion**

Although within the historic core of the medieval settlement, the groundworks associated with this scheme did not disturb remains of any archaeological significance.

### **Acknowledgements**

Rob Schofield undertook the watching brief and prepared the report and archive. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) wish to thank the contractors on site for their co-operation and the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council for their advice. Naomi Field and Mark Williams. (Lindsey Archaeological Services) edited the report which was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

### **References**

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T., 1924 (reprinted 1976) *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey* Lincoln Record Society vol. 19

IFA 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Mills, A.D. 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names.*

Robson, J.D. 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding District*, Soil Survey and Land Research Centre

Stocker, D. 1993, 'The Early Church in Lincolnshire', in A. Vince (ed.) *Pre-Viking Lindsey*

White, W. 1882, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Lincolnshire (4th edition)*

R. Schofield  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1998

## APPENDIX 1

### Contents of Site Archive

The site archive consists of :

#### *Paper Archive*

- 1 General account sheet
- 1 Context record sheet
- 1 Site drawing
- 1 Development plan

#### Photographs

#### *Finds*

- 7 sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 5 19th century pipe stem fragments.
- 1 18th century pipe stem fragment.
- 1 sherd of Stamford ware.
- 1 12th -13th century splashed ware base.
- 2 sherds of stoneware.



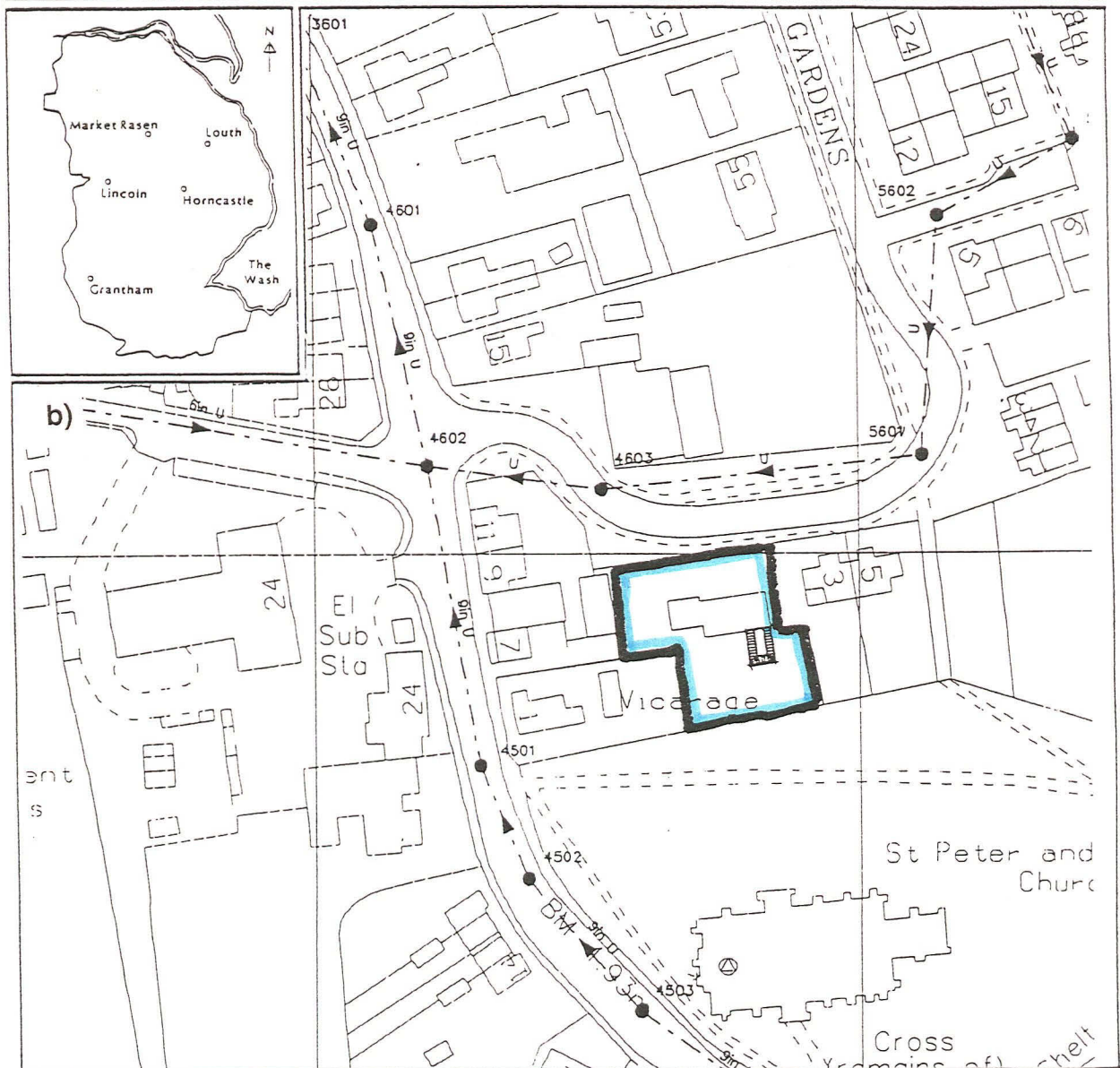
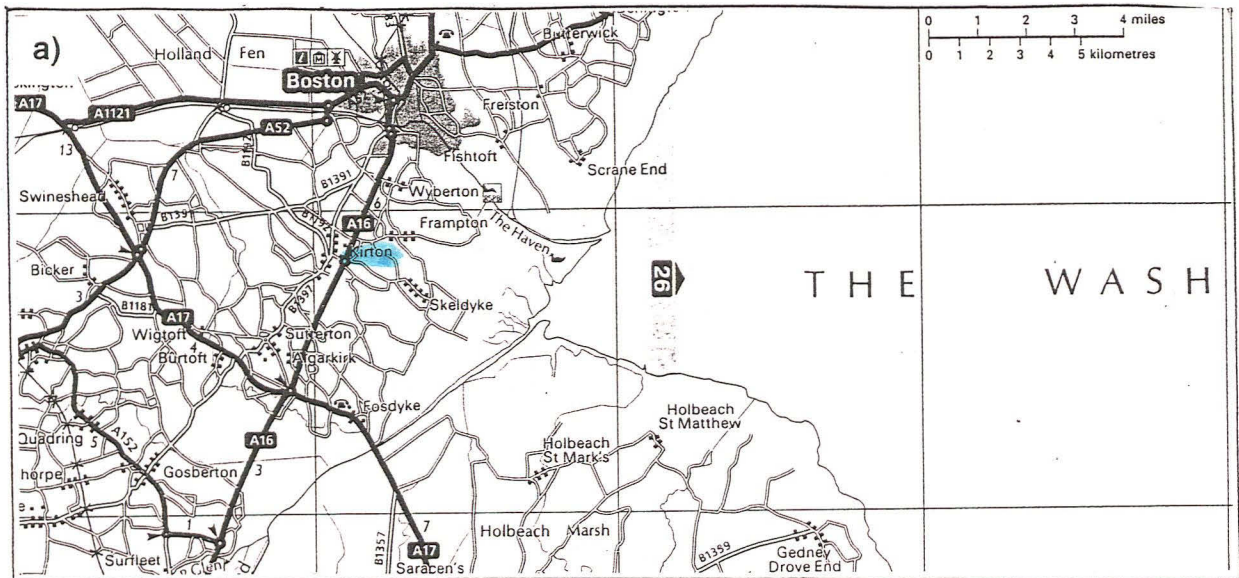


Fig 1: a) Location of Kirton (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:250 000 map). O.S. crown copyright reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A. b) Location of development site based on a plan supplied by the developer.

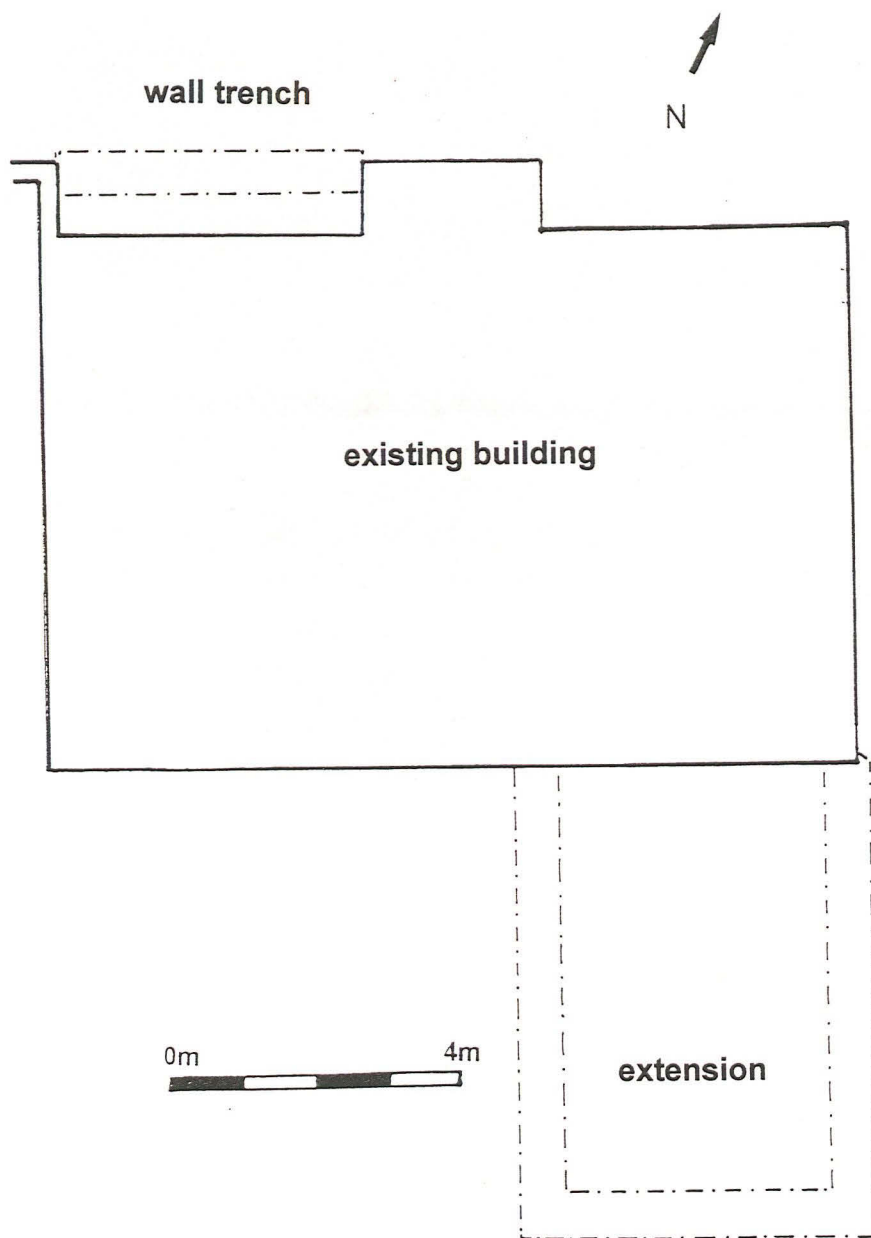


Fig. 2 Plan of the excavated foundations



**PI.1 Southern most wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing west.**



**PI. 2 Eastern wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing south.**



PI. 3 Western wall footing at the southern side of the building, facing north.

PI. 4 Section of the Northern trench, facing south.

