

Witham Archaeology

A Report to the National Trust
March 2018



LAND AT WOOLSTHORPE MANOR, WATER LANE, WOOLSTHORPE BY COLSTERWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

V Mellor

LAND AT WOOLSTHORPE MANOR, WATER LANE, WOOLSTHORPE BY COLSTERWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: WTWM17
Planning Reference: NA
NGR: SK 924 244
OASIS ID: withamar1-310617

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)	1
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	2
5.0 METHODOLOGY	2
6.0 RESULTS	3
7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	3
8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPY	4
10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS	5
10.1 Project Information.....	5
10.2 Archive Details.....	5

Colour plates

<i>Plate 1: General view of turf removal at north end of cable trench, looking southwest towards Manor and outbuildings</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Plate 2: Stone surface 003 following cleaning, looking northwest, scale 1m</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Plate 3: Feature 002 beneath turf, possible wall or edge of surface, looking south, scale 1m ..</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Plate 4: Stone surface 004, to east of possible wall 002, looking northwest, scale 1m.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Plate 5: Probable southern extent of stone surface 004, looking northwest, scale 1m</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Plate 6: General view of trench excavation approaching farmyard, looking southeast</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Plate 7: General view of trenching between manor house (to right) and farm buildings, looking south</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Plate 8: General view showing south of trench in farmyard, looking northeast.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Plate 9: Trench adjacent to manor house, showing make-up deposits of farmyard, as Section 3, looking north</i>	<i>10</i>

Illustrations

Fig. 1 Site Location Maps
Fig. 2 Site location Scale 1: 1500
Fig. 3 Site plan Scale 1: 500 and 1:20
Fig. 4 Sections Scale 1:10

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX B – THE FINDS

APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

LAND AT WOOLSTHORPE MANOR, WATER LANE, WOOLSTHORPE BY COLSTERWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during installation of a fibre optic cable on land at Woolsthorpe Manor, Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by the National Trust, owners of the site.

The site lies immediately adjacent to Woolsthorpe Manor, an early 17th to early 18th century Grade I Listed Building and birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton. Various 17th to 19th century Grade II Listed Buildings directly associated with the house are also located on the site. Groundworks associated with the installation of a new fibre cable were subject to archaeological monitoring.

A plan of the site dating to 1797 depicts a kitchen garden in the area of the site crossed by the cable route. The groundworks revealed a 19th century layer possibly representing the demolition of the kitchen garden in the 19th century, sealed by a metallised surface possibly also laid down at this time.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during installation of a fibre optic cable on land at Woolsthorpe Manor, Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by the National Trust to mitigate the impact of the installation of a fibre cable at the site. Fieldwork was carried from the 15th to the 23rd November 2017.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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

The site is located in the grounds of Woolsthorpe Manor which lies to the north of Water Lane at the southern edge of the settlement of Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincolnshire. The village lies in Colsterworth Civil Parish and in the administrative district of South Kesteven.

The area is located on an east-west aligned outcrop of Northampton Sand Formation ironstone, with outcrops of Grantham Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone immediately to the north. Deposits of Whitby Mudstone lie immediately to the south (BGS Online Geology of Britain Viewer).

The site lies on the periphery of the settlement of Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth in a gently undulating landscape of agricultural land, on a gentle south facing slope, towards Water Lane.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth is first recorded in 1185 as *Wolestorp*, and probably derives from the Old English personal name *Wulflāf* and Old Danish *thorp* (Cameron 1998, 143). The suffix 'Thorpe' is thought to denote a secondary settlement, in this case presumably of Colsterworth.

Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth is not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, but the entries for nearby Colsterworth detail lands of the Archbishop of York held by Earl Morcar, and further lands there held by a thane of the Queen. These entries detail land for seven ploughs, two mills, meadow, woodland and pasture (Morris 1986).

By the 13th century Woolsthorpe was treated as a separate manor (Field and Williams 1997). Robert Newton bought a farm at Woolsthorpe in 1623 which included the Manor House (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). The Manor is an early 17th century building with early 18th century alterations and additions. As well as being the birthplace of Robert's son, Sir Isaac Newton, the house is historically significant as it was here where Newton formulated his law on gravitational attraction and developed his theories regarding the refraction of light. At the time Newton was away from Trinity College, Cambridge and using Woolsthorpe as a refuge from the plague (Historic England online The Heritage List, entry 1062362).

Previous archaeological investigations at the site include several episodes of monitoring during groundworks. Traces of a stone wall were recorded along Water Lane (Field and Williams 1997) and the probable remains of a dovecot were recorded in the southern part of the site (Angus and Tann 2001). Both investigations confirmed the presence of features depicted on J C Barrows' plan of the site dated 1797. Exploratory trenching was carried out in 1999 to establish if the remains of a kitchen garden and cart shed depicted on the 1797 plan (Guilbert 1999) survived in the area north of the manor house. The trenching confirmed the presence of walls and possible robbed walls which were thought to represent parts of the cart shed and kitchen garden, although any remains in the northern part of the investigation area were thought to have been truncated by the construction of a now-demolished 20th century Dutch barn.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project were to:

- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the National Trust Archive, together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project comprised the monitoring of all sensitive groundworks associated with installation of a new fibre cable within a narrow, 0.3m wide trench which averaged 0.4m deep.

An archaeological record was made of any remains revealed by the excavations. The record comprises written context descriptions on pro forma recording sheets, together with monochrome print and colour digital photographs. The latter included overall views detailing general site circumstances as well as specific views of individual archaeological deposits and/or features. Section drawings, showing the general stratigraphic sequence were produced at a scale of 1:10.

6.0 RESULTS

The route of the fibre optic cable trench followed a northwest to southeast alignment, extending from the western boundary of the site adjacent to Water Lane and crossing the grassed area to the north of the manor house, Thereafter the course of the trench turned to the south and ran through the farmyard between the manor house and adjacent outbuildings (Fig. 3).

The earliest recorded deposit at the northwest end of the cable trench route was (005), a mixed layer of silty sand and stone rubble. Pottery fragments retrieved from this deposit were variously of 17th to 18th century, 18th to 19th century and 19th century date, with a single sherd of 13th century Stanion Lyveden ware (Appendix B).

Two rough limestone surfaces were recorded and (004) (Figs 3 & 4, Plates 2-5), apparently sealing layer (005). They were divided by (002), which may have been a continuation of these surfaces, but appeared to include a single straight edge on its west side, possibly indicating the edge of a wall (Fig. 3, Plate 3). However, the narrow cable trench prevented conclusive interpretation and (002), (003) and (004) are therefore more likely to represent a single metalled surface, possibly constructed in the 19th century.

This stone deposits were overlain by a 100mm thick layer of topsoil and turf, which formed the latest deposit in this part of the cable trench.

To the south of the stony deposits the topsoil overlay mid yellowish silty sand and limestone (011) and mid orange clay and iron pan (012), which are both likely to represent natural layers (Plate 6). Elsewhere natural mid reddish-brown stone (006) was recorded.

Where the cable trench passed to the east of the house and across the existing farmyard (Fig. 3, Plates 7 & 8) the only deposits encountered were modern surfacing, make-up and levelling layers, one of which (010) apparently formed a base for the extant farmyard surface (Plate 9, Fig. 4). The earliest of these layers (009) included fragments of Tarmac, and traces of a possible former Tarmac yard surface were recorded within overlying deposit (008).

Unstratified finds retrieved from the site (007) were restricted to small quantities of 17th to 20th century pottery and a single fragment of possible 18th to 19th century pantile (Appendix B).

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording of the excavation of the fibre optic cable trench revealed a layer containing limestone rubble near to the northern end of the route, from which pottery of 19th century or later date was recovered. This layer may incorporate stone from structures demolished at some time during or after the 19th century. The kitchen garden and adjacent cart shed marked in this area on Barrows' 1797 plan are not shown on late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps, and may have been demolished during this period. The overlying metalled surface may have also been laid down in the 19th century, after the kitchen garden fell into disuse.

The single straight edge of stonework (002) recorded during the monitoring, lies in the vicinity of a building marked on 1970s Ordnance Survey plans (presumably the 20th century Dutch Barn noted by Gilbert in 1999), and one of Gilbert's excavation trenches (Fig. 3). Both were on the same alignment as (002), and truncation by either could account for the apparent straight edge of this feature. A sequence of probable natural layers sealed by topsoil was recorded in the grassed area to the south of the metalled surfaces. The findings of the 1999 archaeological trenching indicated some terracing cut into the natural bedrock. It may be that some of the apparently natural layers recorded in the cable trench were actually redeposited during these terracing events.

Where the monitored cable trench passed to the east of the manor house and across the existing farmyard, the only deposits encountered were modern surfacing, make-up and levelling layers, one of which (010) apparently formed a base for the extant farmyard surface.

A single sherd of residual 13th century pottery, along with a handful of medieval sherds retrieved during Gilbert's excavations, attest to medieval activity at the site.

Seven sherds of residual and unstratified 17th to 18th century pottery may conceivably be contemporary with Sir Isaac Newton's time at the Manor.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Rosalind Buck of the National Trust for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPY

Angus, C. and G. Tann, 2001, *Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished Lindsey Archaeological Services Report No. 460

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*

Field, N. and M. Williams, 1997, *Woolsthorpe Manor: An Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished Lindsey Archaeological Services Report

Gilbert, G., 1999, *Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Excavations on site of an 18th Century Kitchen Garden and Cart-shed, June 1999*, Unpublished Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit Report No: WTM4'rep'1299

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: WTWM17

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: n/a

FIELD OFFICERS: D Trimble and R Trimble

NGR: SK 924 244

CIVIL PARISH: Colsterworth

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 15th to 23rd November 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: The National Trust

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: National Trust Archives

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	10
Sheets containing scale drawings	3
Digital Photographs	33
B&W Photographs	22 (7 different shots)
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: General view of turf removal at north end of cable trench, looking southwest towards Manor and outbuildings



Plate 2: Stone surface 003 following cleaning, looking northwest, scale 1m



Plate 3: Feature 002 beneath turf, possible wall or edge of surface, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 4: Stone surface 004, to east of possible wall 002, looking northwest, scale 1m



Plate 5: Probable southern extent of stone surface 004, looking northwest, scale 1m



Plate 6: General view of trench excavation approaching farmyard, looking southeast



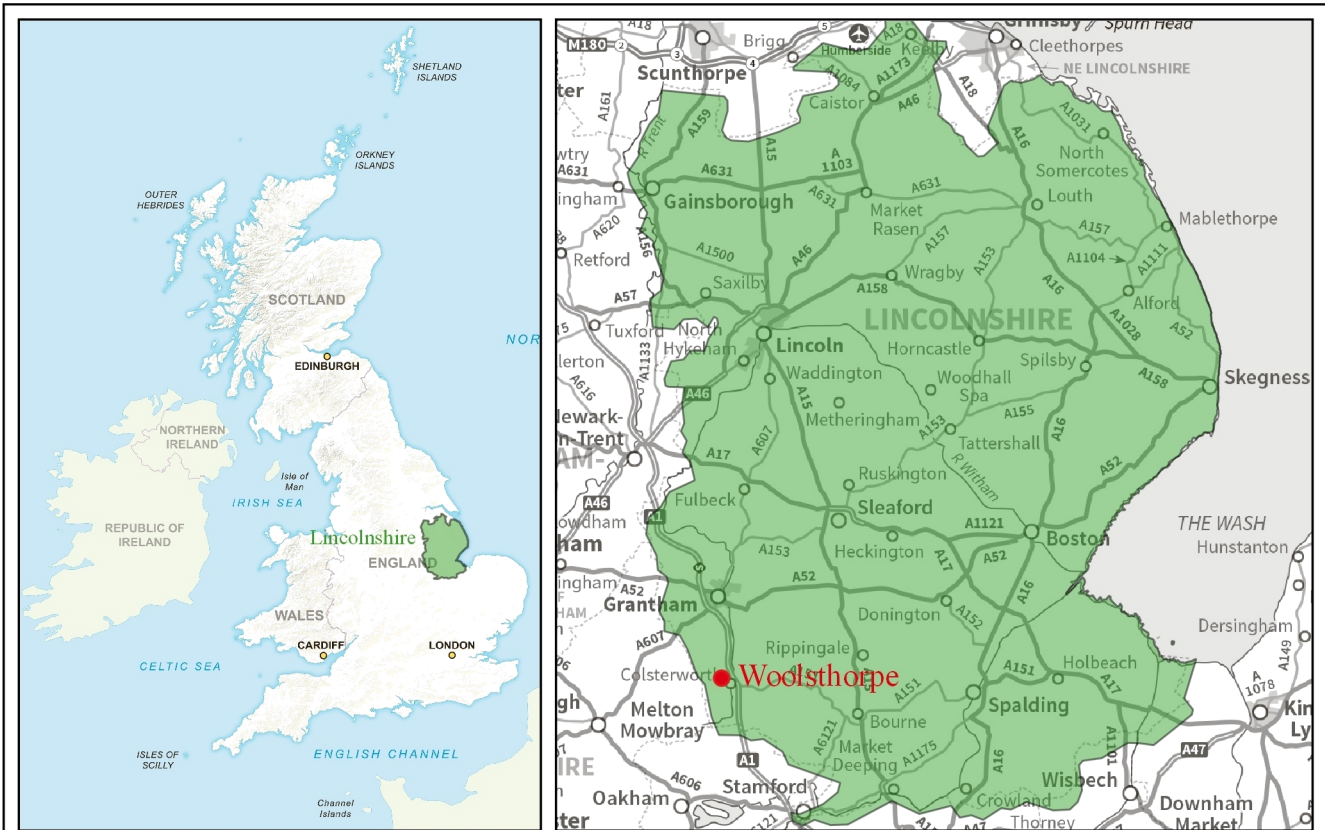
Plate 7: General view of trenching between manor house (to right) and farm buildings, looking south



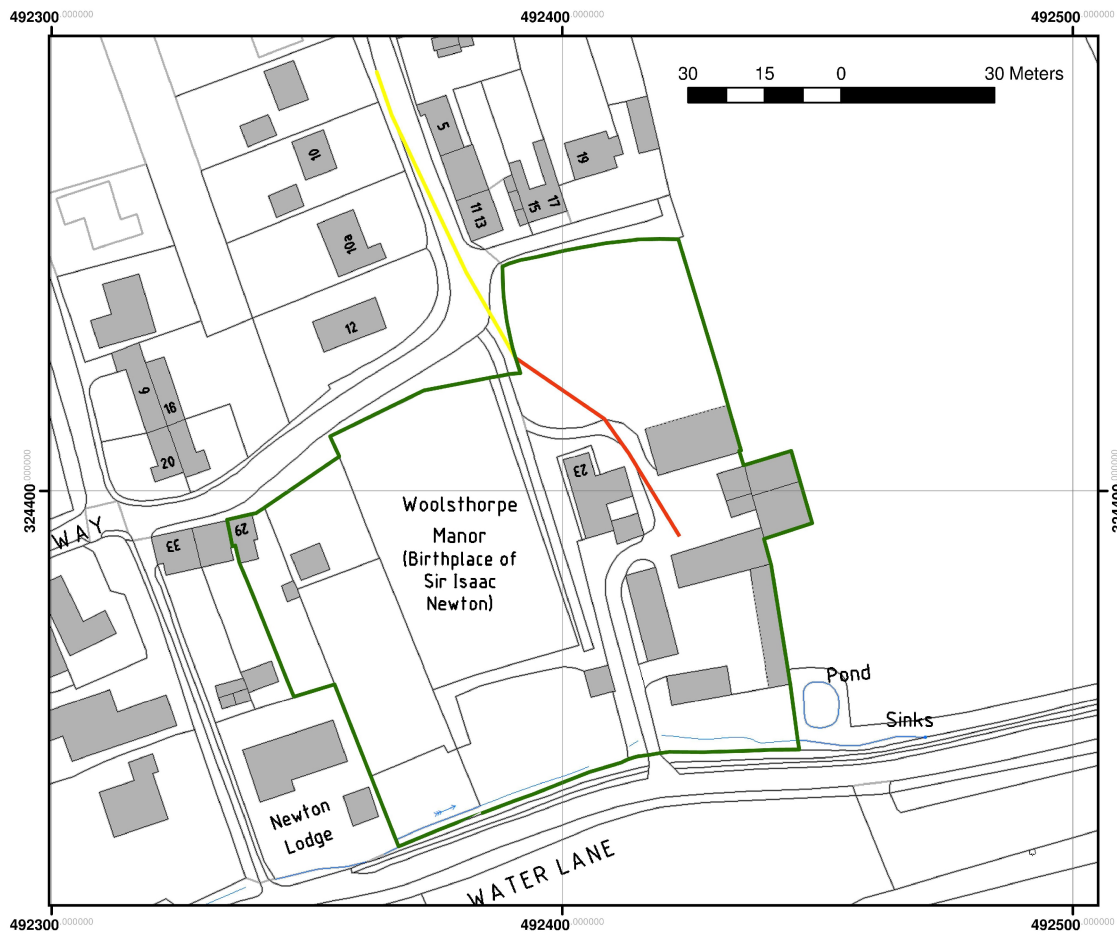
Plate 8: General view showing south of trench in farmyard, looking northeast




Plate 9: Trench adjacent to manor house, showing make-up deposits of farmyard, as Section 3, looking north



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NATIONAL TRUST


**HISTORIC BUILDINGS, SITES
AND MONUMENTS RECORD**

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION
CONSERVATION DIRECTORATE

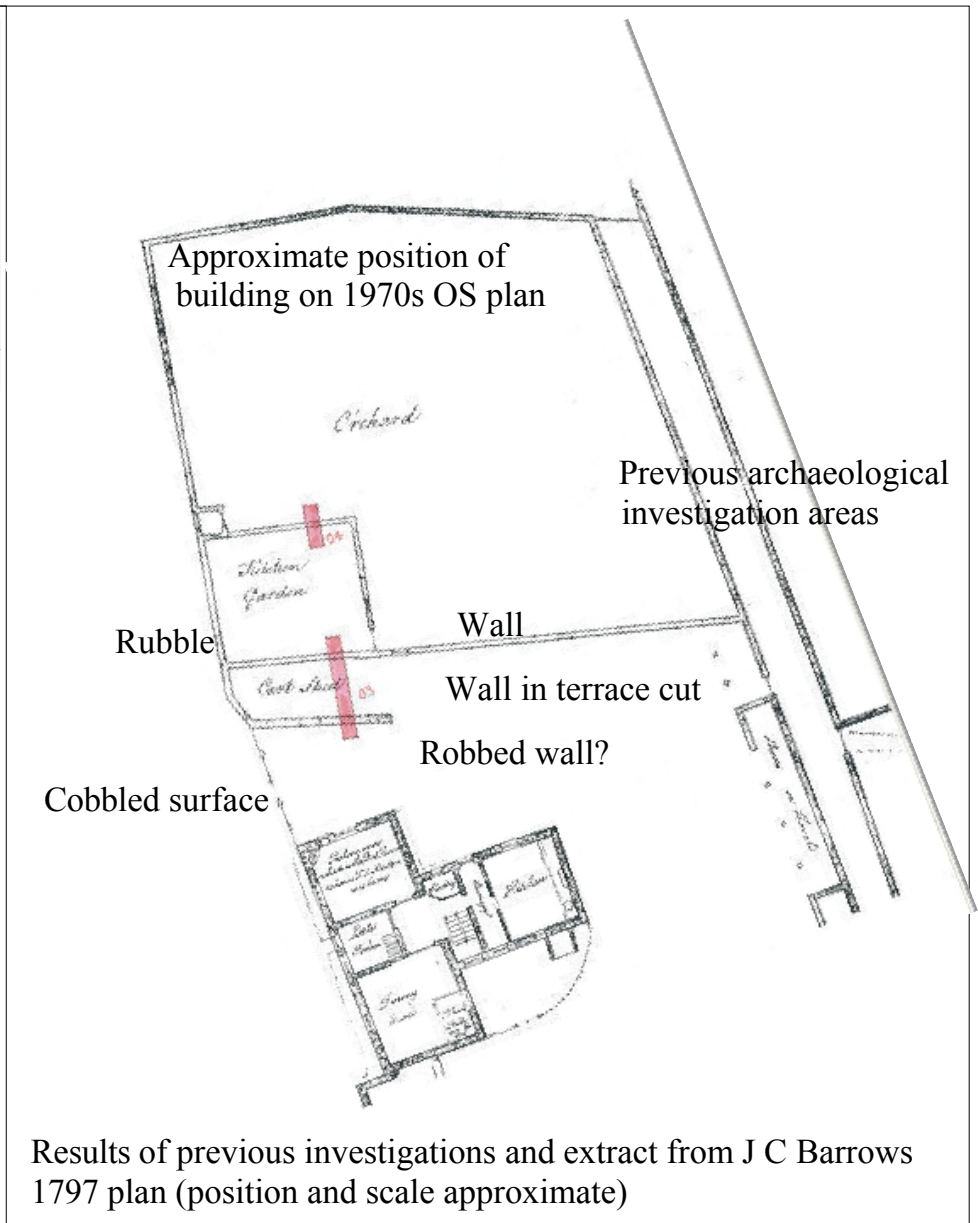
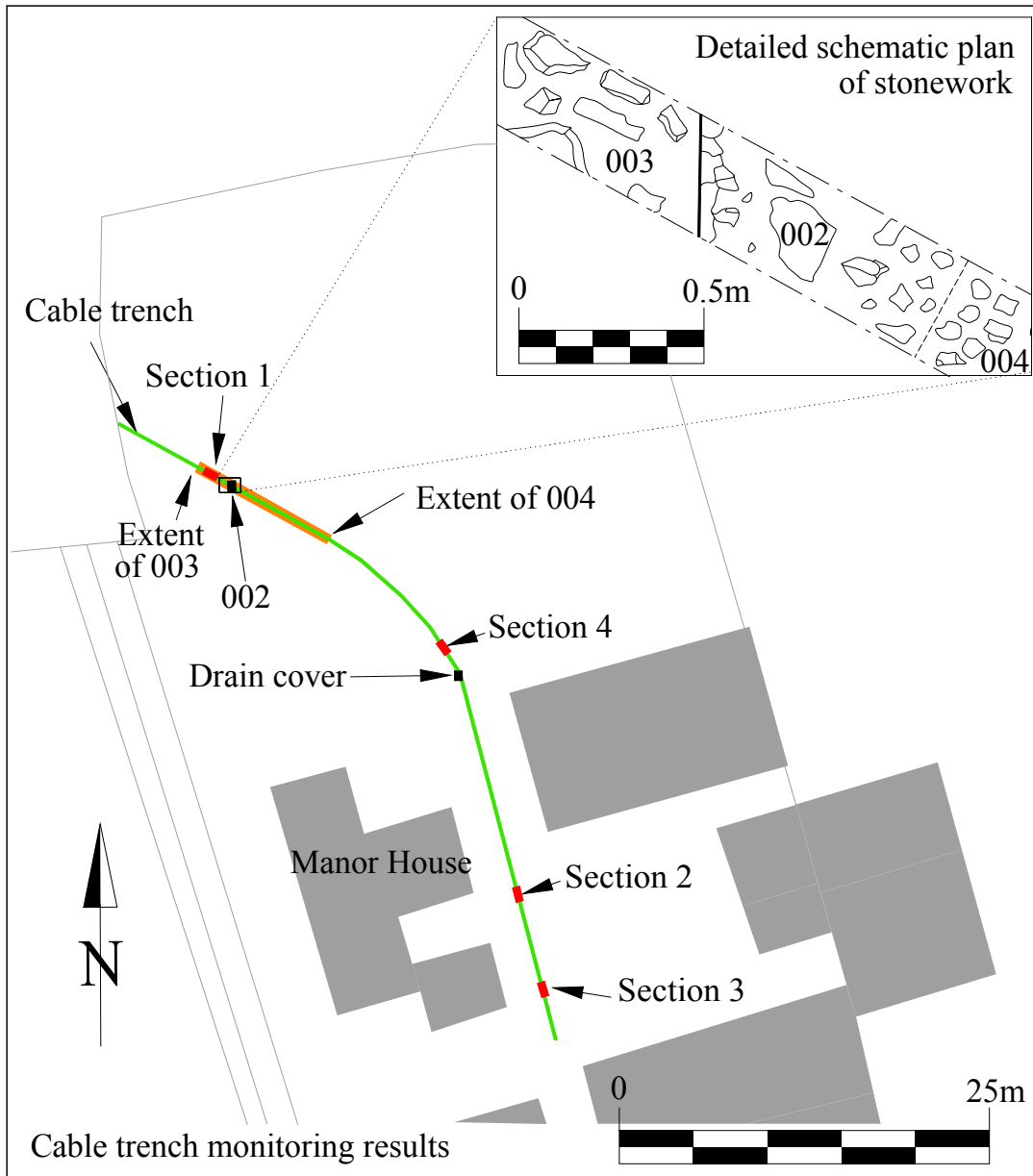
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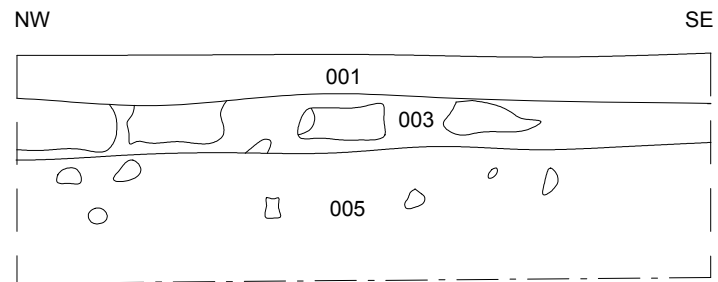
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- Section**
- New BT Duct section outside NT Woolsthorpe
- New BT Duct section within NT Woolsthorpe

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SCALE	1:1,000
COMPILED BY	RBuck
DATE	02/10/2017

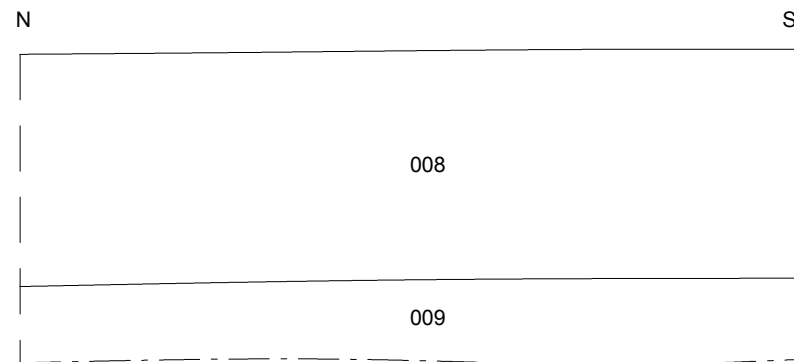


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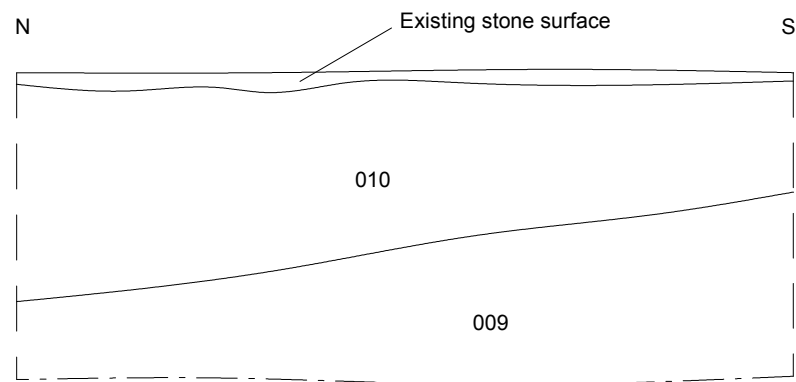




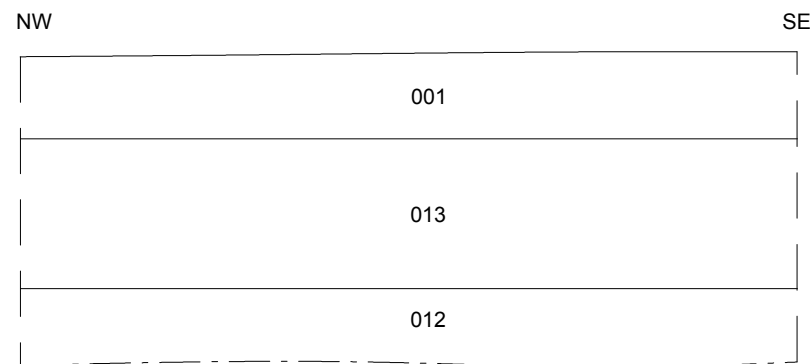
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil and turf, possibly formed over a surface	Soft dark greyish-brown silty sand with roots, grass and small pieces of limestone, 100mm thick
002	Possible edge of wall or continuation of surface 004	Loose limestone fragments with apparent straight edge on western, possibly 0.60m wide
003	Possible surface	Large fragments of limestone, 80mm thick
004	Possible surface	Large fragments of limestone
005	Layer, possible make-up or demolition	Loose mixed silty sand and stone rubble, 0.20m thick
006	Natural bedrock	Solid mid reddish-brown stone
007	Unstratified finds	
008	Mixed deposit comprising make-up for modern farmyard and traces of former tarmac farmyard surfacing	Loose irregular stones and coarse light grey mortar with patches of yellowish-brown stone and tarmac, 0.30m thick
009	Layer, probably make-up for modern farmyard	Light yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone and occasional tarmac fragments, at least 0.25m thick
010	Layer, probably make-up for modern farmyard	Crushed stone, 0.30m thick
011	Natural	Mid yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent limestone, 0.20m thick
012	Natural	Mid orange clay and iron pan

APPENDIX B – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: withamar1-310617

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Woolsthorpe Manor, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during installation of a fibre optic cable on land at Woolsthorpe Manor, Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by the National Trust, owners of the site. The site lies immediately adjacent to Woolsthorpe Manor, an early 17th to early 18th century Grade I Listed Building and birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton. Various 17th to 19th century Grade II Listed Buildings directly associated with the house are also located on the site. Groundworks associated with the installation of a new fibre cable were subject to archaeological monitoring. A plan of the site dating to 1797 depicts a kitchen garden in the area of the site crossed by the cable route. The groundworks revealed a 19th century layer possibly representing the demolition of the kitchen garden in the 19th century, sealed by a metallised surface possibly also laid down at this time.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2017 End: 23-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WTWM17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	STONE SURFACE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN COLSTERWORTH Woolsthorpe Manor, Woolsthorpe by Costerworth
Postcode	NG33 5NR
Study area	0.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 92397 24431 52.809166248772 -0.629077167287 52 48 33 N 000 37 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Russell Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Physical Archive ID	TBC
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Archive ID	TBC
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Archive ID	TBC
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Woolsthorpe Manor, Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincolnshire
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