

# **Witham** Archaeology

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A Report to Mr Michael Kingsley, Architect, on behalf of Mrs P Arliss  
November 2009



## **LAND ADJACENT TO NO. 5 VENOM ROAD, MANBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

*R Trimble*

# LAND ADJACENT TO NO. 5 VENOM ROAD, MANBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: MAVR09  
LCCM Accession No.: 2009.123  
Planning Application No.: N/113/01871/06  
OASIS ID: withamar1-45192  
NGR: TF 39891 89646

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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# LAND ADJACENT TO No. 5 VENOM ROAD, MANBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### SUMMARY

*This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to No. 5 Venom Road, Manby, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Kingsley, Architect, on behalf of Mrs P Arliss, and was carried out in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by East Lindsey District Council.*

*The site lies in close proximity to earthworks representing probable remains of the shrunken medieval village of Manby. These earthworks are visible on aerial photographs and have been partially investigated through a survey on land to the north of Church Lane.*

*The project resulted in the identification of a broad, linear feature aligned approximately north to south, which may be interpreted as a drainage and/or boundary ditch associated with medieval settlement in the area. Two fragments of North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly Ware pottery from a single vessel were recovered from the uppermost fill of the feature, together with an animal (cattle) bone.*

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a house and garage on land adjacent to No. 5 Venom Road, Manby, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Kingsley, Architect, on behalf of Mrs P Arliss, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by East Lindsey District Council. All excavations for the foundations of the house and garage were carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

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 Figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Manby, in the parish of Manby and the administrative district of East Lindsey, lies at a distance of approximately 7km east of Louth. The building plot (site centre at approximately NGR TF 39891 89646), is located immediately north of the house at No. 5 Venom Drive, being bounded by Venom Drive to the west, paddocks to the east and a neighbouring residential property to the north.

The superficial geology of the area is Devensian Marsh Till overlying glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, England & Wales, Sheet 103, Louth, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000), while the topography of the site and surrounding area is generally level.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Domesday Book of c. 1086 records the king as holding three carucates of land in Manby, while twenty freemen had four ploughs (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The place-name is believed to have derived from the Old Norse personal name *Manni* and the Old Danish *by* denoting a farmstead or village (Cameron 1998, 85). St Mary's church (HER No. 41306) is mostly 15<sup>th</sup> century, in the perpendicular style (Pevsner and Harris, with Antrim 1989, 130).

Earthworks, almost certainly relating to the shrunken medieval settlement of Manby, are present in pasture fields immediately east and southeast of the site. The remains include a linear boundary, visible on aerial photographs and plotted as part of a national mapping programme by RCHM(E), while a ditch, ponds and possible building platforms (HER No. 43500) were recorded through an earthwork survey on land to the north of Church Lane (Pre-Construct Archaeology 1996). A walkover inspection by the author of this report, on land immediately east of the current site, revealed a broad, linear hollow, running east to west and aligning with the garden on the south side of No. 5. To the east, the hollow met with a similar feature aligned north-south, which defined the edge of an apparent headland and an area of low ridge and furrow running in an east-west direction.

A trial trench evaluation on the site at Church Lane (Pre-Construct Archaeology 1997), c. 250m southeast of No. 5 Venom Road, located middle to late Iron Age features (HER No. 43633), including a possible drip gully (the drainage gully surrounding a round house of the period). There was evidence of continued activity into the Roman period (HER No. 43634) and of late Saxon activity in the form of a pit (HER No. 43636). A scraper of Mesolithic type was also recovered from the site (HER No. 43638).

### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 6 April 2007, 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 appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record.*

### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

Following an initial phase of clearance, ground level within the footprint of the house and garage was lowered by 350mm. Subsequent excavation within the foundation trenches was carried out to a depth of 900-1000mm below existing ground, with the exception of the garage footings, which were excavated to a slightly greater depth.

Apart from a small area at the southwestern corner of the plot (unseen due to logistical problems in attendance and excavation), all excavations were intensively monitored for evidence of archaeologically significant features and/or deposits. Where clear evidence was encountered, of features of archaeological origin, more intensive investigations were carried out, involving hand cleaning of the trench sides and the production of section drawings and context records.

A series of colour photographs (35mm print) details the recorded stratigraphy, as well as the progress of groundwork operations. Section drawings were produced at scale 1:20, while written context descriptions on *pro forma* context sheets were made for each unit of stratigraphy.

## **6.0 RESULTS (see Fig 3)**

A deposit of mid reddish brown clay, (009), presumed to be geological in origin, extended throughout the lower levels of the foundation trenches.

On the western side of the plot, the clay had been truncated by a linear feature, [007], approximately 3.5m wide and at least 0.25m deep (only the upper levels were encountered), which was interpreted as a probable ditch. The earliest visible fills were stiff clays (008 and 013), which were overlain by clayey, sandy silt (006) from which two fragments of early twelfth to early thirteenth century pottery belonging to a single vessel were recovered, along with a piece of cattle bone.

A sandy clay deposit (005 and 012) extended over the ditch and across the site in general, beneath greyish brown silty sand topsoil (002). At the north-west corner of the plot a shallow depth of topsoil-like material (011) was sealed by clayey silty sand (010), the latter perhaps deriving from activity associated with the construction of houses on the estate.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

Despite intensive monitoring of the excavations, the only feature of potential archaeological significance encountered during the watching brief was the probable ditch [007]. The feature lay at right angles to an earthwork hollow noted in the adjacent field (see 3.0 above) and might, therefore, have performed a boundary and/or drainage function within the formerly more extensive medieval village. The absence of other indicators of settlement (for example, pits and structural features such as postholes) implies a remote location, away from areas of habitation, where the feature may have defined the limits of a croft or paddock.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Kingsley, Mrs Arliss and all of the construction staff for their assistance in ensuring a successful conclusion to the project. Thanks are also due to Anne Boyle and Paul-Cope Faulkner at Archaeological Project Services for the production of finds reports, and Jan Allen (archaeological advisor to East Lindsey District Council) for the provision of advice and information.

## **9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Cameron, K & Insley, J 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society
- Morgan, P & Thorn, C (Eds.) 1986 *Domesday Book, A Survey of the Counties of England: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore
- Pevsner, N & Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England. Lincolnshire*. Penguin (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Revised by N Antram)
- Pre-Construct Archaeology, 1996 *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report (Part 1): Land North of Church Lane, Manby*. Unpublished Report
- Pre-Construct Archaeology, 1997 *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report (Part 2): Land North of Church Lane, Manby*. Unpublished Report

## **10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **10.1 Project Information**

SITE CODE: MAVR09

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: N/113/01871/06

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 39891 89646

CIVIL PARISH: Manby

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 8-9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr M Kingsley, Chartered Architect on behalf of Mrs P Arliss

### **10.2 Archive Details**

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

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2009.123

ACCESSION DATE: -

OASIS ID: withamar1-45192

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	13
Plans at Scale 1:50	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	2
Colour Print Photographs	21
Set of digital photographs	1
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 Section 1, looking northeast with 1m scale

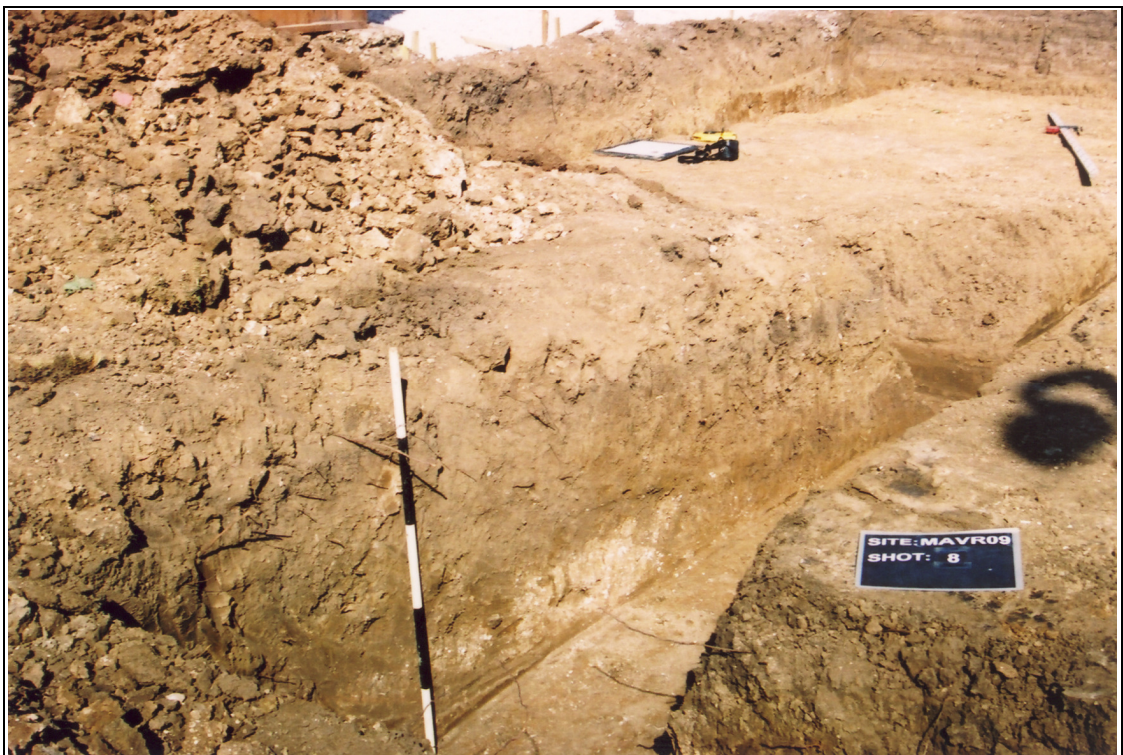
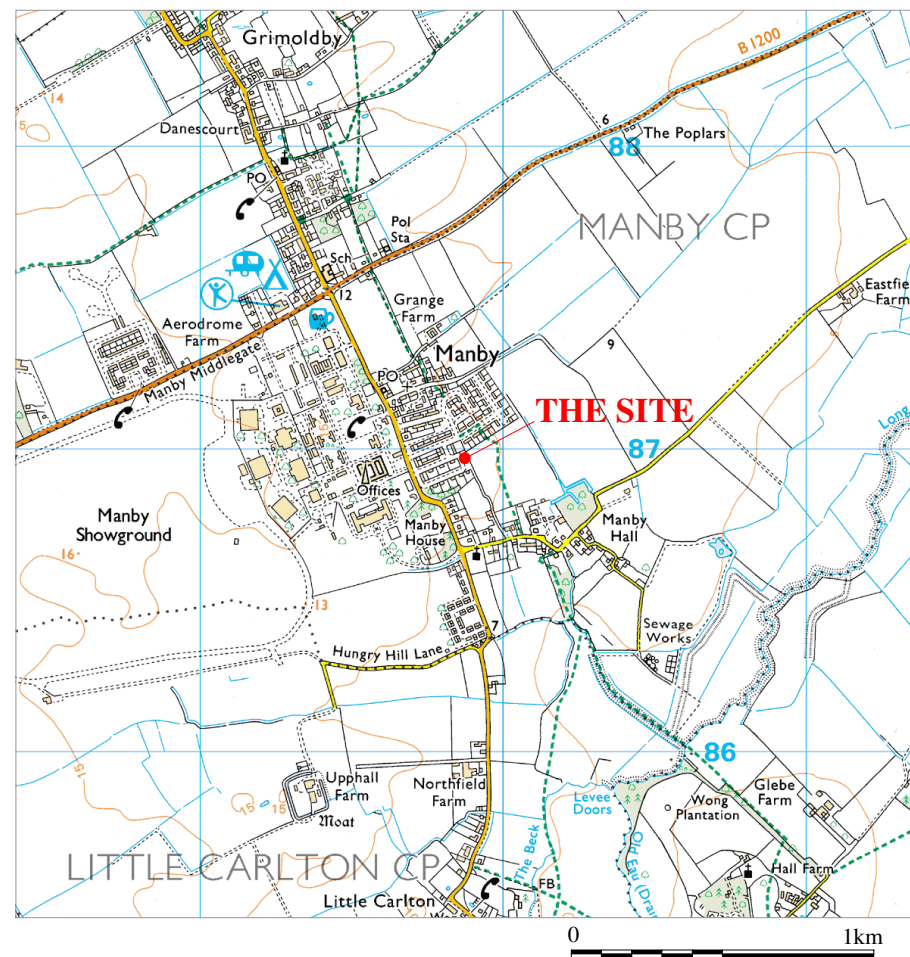
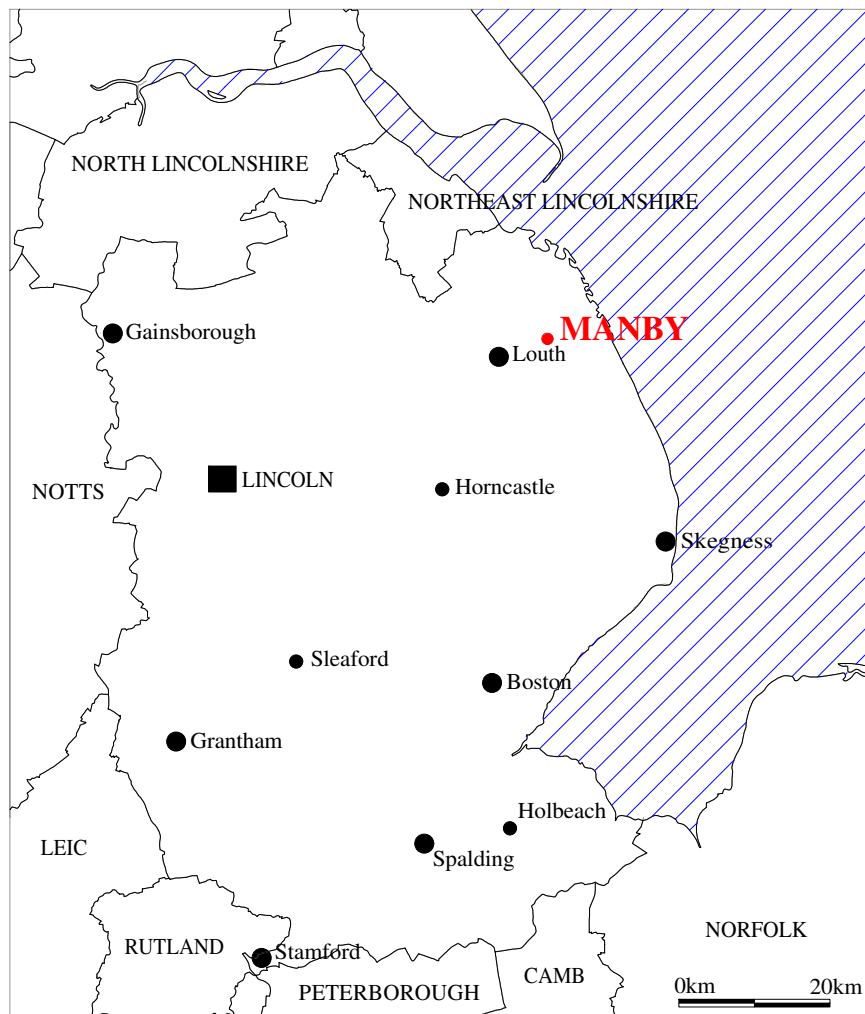
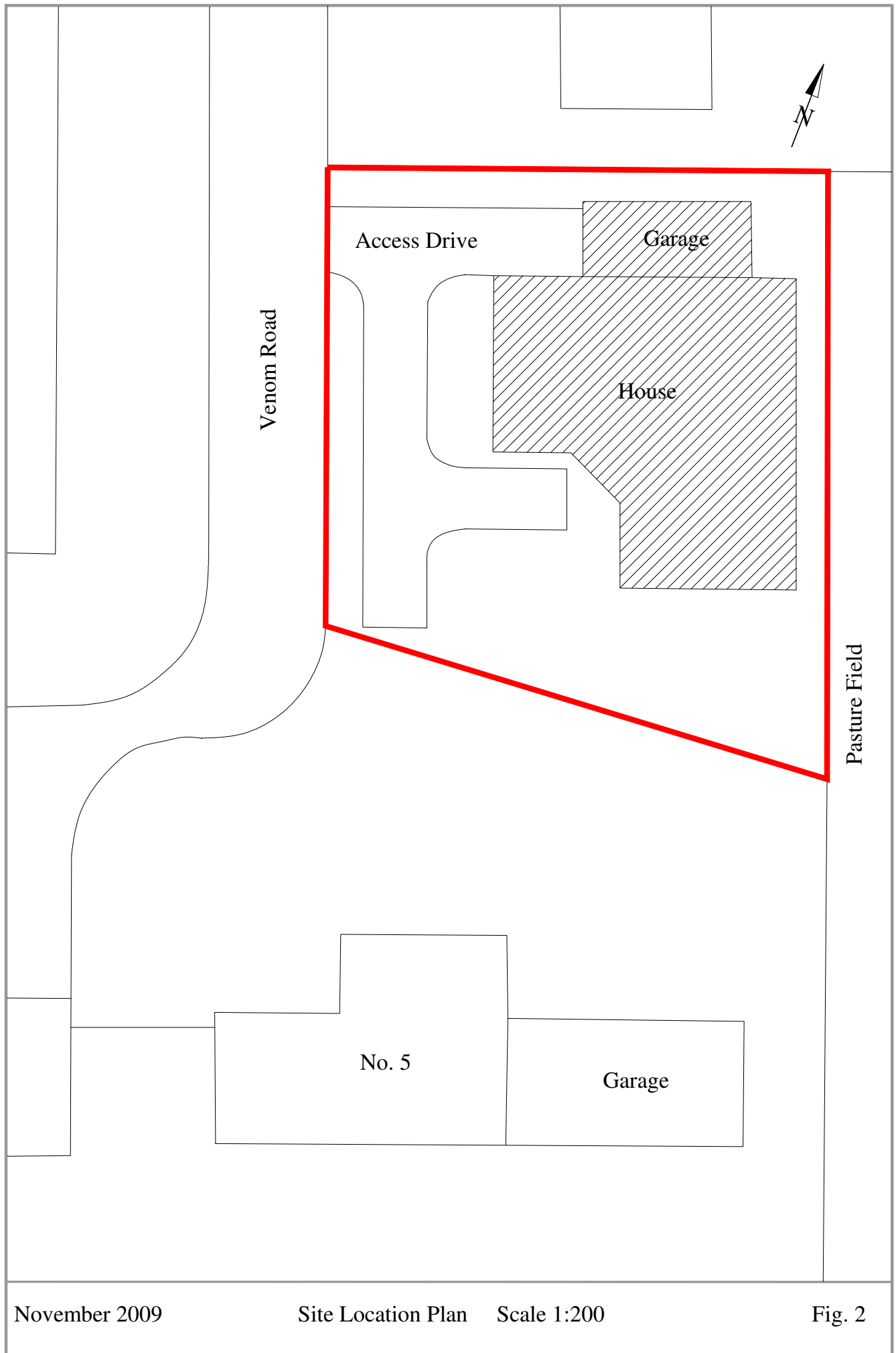


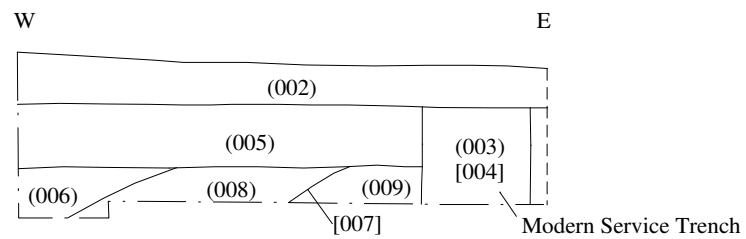
Plate 2 – View showing Section 2, looking northeast with 1m scale



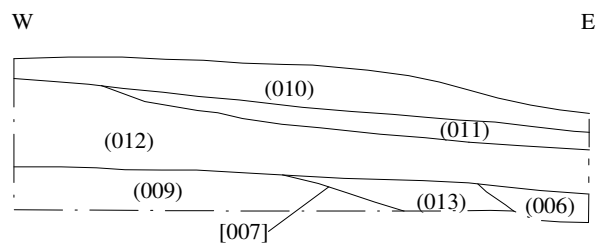


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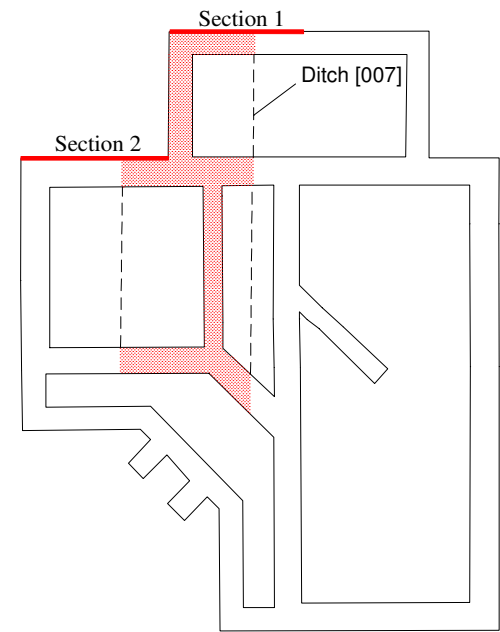




Section 1 Scale 1:50



Section 2 Scale 1:50



Plan at Scale 1:200

## APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>
001	Unstratified	No finds
002	Topsoil	Moderately compact/friable, mid greyish brown silty sand (topsoil) containing occasional small angular stones.
003	Fill of [004]	Moderately compact to compact, brown-grey silty clay containing frequent chalk flecks and fragments, and frequent mid grey clay lumps.
004	Service trench	Vertical sides; full extent and depth not revealed.
005	Layer	Moderately compact to compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay containing occasional chalk flecks.
006	Fill of [007]	Moderately compact/malleable clayey, sandy silt containing very occasional chalk flecks, round pebbles and small clay lumps.
007	Ditch	Only the uppermost extent revealed; gradually sloping sides (visible part)
008	Fill of [007]	Stiff clay, overall mid yellowish brown containing moderate chalk flecks
009	Natural	Stiff, mid reddish brown clay containing very frequent chalk fragments and flecks; deposit occurs throughout the site.
010	Layer – redeposited?	Compact/slightly friable, yellowish brown sandy clay with mid grey mottling, containing frequent chalk fragments to 100mm and occasional small pebbles
011	Layer – topsoil?	Moderately compact/slightly friable, grey-brown, clayey silty sand containing occasional small angular flint
012	Fill of [007] = (005)?	Same as (005)
013	Fill of [007] = (008)?	Same as (008)

# APPENDIX B – THE FINDS

## POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005).

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1.

### Condition

The sherds are slightly abraded, however both come from a single vessel.

### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
006	NLEMS	North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	Jar	2	1	14	BS	Slightly abraded	Early 12th to early 13th

### Potential

North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly ware (NLEMS) is common in assemblages from this area. The pottery poses no problems for long-term storage and should be retained. No further work is required.

### Summary

Two sherds from an early medieval vessel were recovered from a single context.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

### Introduction

A total single fragment of animal bone was recovered from context (006).

### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

### Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
006	Cattle	Phalange		1	21	

### Summary

A single cattle phalange was retrieved from context (006).

## SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
006	Early 12th to early 13th	Date on a single sherd.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BS                      Body sherd



CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

## REFERENCES

- ~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>
- Lyman, R. L., 1996, *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

## APPENDIX C – OASIS INFORMATION

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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**OASIS ID: withamar1-64937**

### Project details

Project name	Watching brief on land adjacent to No. 5 Venom Road, Manby, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a house and garage on land adjacent to No. 5 Venom Road, Manby, Lincolnshire. Earthworks of probable medieval date are present in the adjacent field. The only evidence of archaeologically significant activity was a linear feature, probably a ditch. This feature may relate to the earthwork. Finds were limited to a single potsherd and a fragment of animal bone, both from the uppermost fill of the ditch.
Project dates	Start: 08-09-2009 End: 09-09-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MAVR09 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2009.123 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Environmental (unspecified schedule)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY MANBY 5 Venom Road, Manby
Postcode	LN11 8UE
Study area	1000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 39891 89646 53.3848168737 0.103580213795 53 23 05 N 000  
06 12 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Russell Trimble
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Russell Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs P Arliss

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC 2009.123
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC 2009.123
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Entered by	Russell Trimble (russell.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	30 September 2009

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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