



Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Church Street, Crowle  
Assessment report

Report 2021/17 v1

ArcHeritage 2021



**Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Street, Crowle, North  
Lincolnshire**

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## Key Project Information

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Report status	Final
ArchHeritage project no.	2722
Type of project	Watching brief
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## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief on construction groundworks at Church Street, Crowle, North Lincolnshire was required as a condition of planning consent for residential development within the site (Planning reference PA/2020/1077). The fieldwork was undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The watching brief was undertaken in two stages in December 2020 and April 2021 due to the construction schedule and waterlogging of part of the site.

The archaeological watching brief on the excavation of foundations for five houses did not reveal any features of archaeological significance. No evidence was encountered for any medieval activities associated with the nearby church and manor house. The only feature encountered that pre-dates the mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century was a land drain of brick construction, that crossed the western part of the site (Plots 1 and 2). This could be of late 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, and was truncated by the foundation trenches. The archaeological monitoring also confirmed that the western part of the site had suffered more substantial modern disturbance than the eastern side, with substantial quantities of modern rubble in the topsoil, overlain by a made ground layer. These may be associated with recent use of the site as a storage area for materials and plant associated with residential construction to the north.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at Church Street, Crowle, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief on construction groundworks was required as a condition of planning consent for residential development within the site (Planning reference PA/2020/1077). The fieldwork was undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER), and according to the principals and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) and industry best practice. The WSI is contained in Appendix 3.

## 2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located to the south of the St Oswald's Church, Crowle, in the Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire (centred on NGR SE 7714 1293). It is approximately 1200m<sup>2</sup> in area, and is accessed via Church Street. To the north, the site is separated from St Oswald's churchyard by a private lane accessing Manor House and new housing. The western edge of the site is bounded by the grounds of Crowle Primary Academy school, and the south is marked by an access lane for modern housing at Manor Gardens. The junction of Church Street and Vicar's Walk is at the eastern side of the site (Figure 1). At the time of the fieldwork, the site was a strip of vacant land in rough grass coverage, sloping slightly down from northeast to southwest.

The bedrock geology is mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed during the Triassic period. Superficial deposits are recorded as fine-grained silty sands of the Sutton Sand Formation, deposited through aeolian activity during the Quaternary period (BGS 2020; Gaunt 1994). The site is situated at approximately 6m above Ordnance Datum.

## 3 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Aims

A trial trench evaluation at the site (MAS 2018a) indicated that there was the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the development site, although some modern disturbance was encountered at the western end of the site. The NLHER officer recommended that a watching brief should be undertaken to monitor groundworks and record any archaeological remains exposed.

The general aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological remains exposed during the development work. The specific aims were:

- To identify and record all archaeological features and artefacts exposed during the construction work;
- To determine the form and function of archaeological features encountered, and to recover dating evidence where present;
- To establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on site;
- To retrieve environmental evidence relating to the environment and economy of the site;

- To establish whether artefacts, features and deposits associated with the medieval manor house or medieval settlement are present within the site; and
- To interpret the archaeological features and finds within their local, regional and national context and assess their significance.

### 3.2 Methodology

A continuous watching brief was maintained on the excavation of house foundations. The watching brief was undertaken in two stages due to the contractor's programme. The footings of the two western houses monitored on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 by Rowan May, while the three eastern house foundation trenches were monitored on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021, by Richard Jackson. The two stages were due to waterlogging of the eastern part of the site, which prevented groundworks in this area during the winter.

Details of the methodologies for the watching brief and recording are contained in the WSI in Appendix 3.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological interest of the site is summarised from a heritage statement (Simmonds 2018) and the evaluation report (MAS 2018a), as well as information from the HER officer and online research.

Crowle is situated on a slight ridge within the Humber Wetlands area, one of a series of ridges that form the Isle of Axholme. In the last glaciation, this area was within the area covered by Lake Humber. Following the lake's retreat, the ridges formed islands of higher ground within a landscape of surrounding fens. These islands formed a focus of human activity in the area from the prehistoric period onwards. The Isle of Axholme was formerly surrounded by several rivers, including the River Don, which ran just to the west of Crowle prior to its rerouting as part of Cornelius Vermuyden's drainage project in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (Lord & MacIntosh 2011).

Crowle is recorded in the Domesday Survey, indicating an early medieval origin to the settlement. The name was recorded in 1086 as 'Crule', believed to refer to a winding river or stream, possibly the Don (Eminson 1934, 98-99; Mills 1993). The manor belonged to the Abbot of Selby in 1086, and the settlement is thought to have developed around the Church of St Oswald. The current church is largely 12<sup>th</sup>-century in origin, but an earlier church is recorded in the Domesday Survey and an early medieval stone cross with Anglo-Scandinavian motifs and a runic inscription is reset within the nave of the current church. The settlement appears to have been relatively large in 1086, with 15 villages and 19 smallholders recorded (Powell-Smith n.d.).

The town was still in the ownership of Selby Abbey in 1305, when it was awarded a market charter. References to a 'Dun Staithe' suggests the settlement had a wharf on the River Don for trade and transport links. The stump of a medieval stone cross stands in the churchyard. The town was particularly prosperous in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, following the creation of rich and fertile agricultural land due to Vermuyden's drainage scheme. Although the connection to the Don was lost by its diversion, the Stainforth and Keadby Canal was constructed nearby at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, providing a new transport link. Other important local industries were fishing, peat extraction, hemp and flax cultivation and the manufacture of sackcloth.



The 1886 and 1893 OS 1:2500 maps showed the eastern three-quarters of the site as a field that appeared to form part of the Manor House grounds, crossed by the access land to the house and barns. The western tip was within a larger field west of the Manor House complex. By 1907, the two fields had been merged and the site formed the southeast end of the larger field. Between 1956 and 1971, a small, narrow rectangular building was constructed within the western part of the site, along the edge of a boundary defining a new field covering the area to the east. This is likely to have been created when new buildings at Manor Gardens, and their access lane, were constructed to the south of the site.

The site is within an area of high archaeological sensitivity, given its proximity to the medieval church and the presumed site of the medieval manor house. It is possible that the site was within the grounds of the manorial complex in the medieval period. The manor house is believed to have been located in the area around the modern building known as Manor House, a short distance to the north of the site; however a recent evaluation in this area did not recover any medieval material or evidence for a building (MAS 2018b).

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken within the site in 2018 (MAS 2018a). This comprised the excavation of a rectangular trench (T1) across the eastern part of the site, and an L-shaped trench (T2) towards the western side (Figure 2). Modern disturbance associated with a brick building foundation was recorded in Trench 2, possibly associated with the structure shown on the 1971 OS map. Two modern post holes likely associated with a former fence line were also recorded in this trench. Within Trench 1, three shallow pits or post holes were recorded, located in close proximity, one of which contained post-medieval tile and brick. The other two features did not contain any dating material and samples from their fills were very limited in composition, with no potential for further analysis. The features were overlain by an imported sand layer, and it was concluded that this was likely to be associated with the site's former use as a small holding.

Archaeological evaluation comprising six trenches was undertaken around the Manor House and barns to the north of the site (MAS 2018b). One of the proposed trenches intended to investigate the likely area of the medieval manor house had to be relocated due to the presence of services. The trenches recorded two pits or post hole features adjacent to the churchyard boundary, of possible early date, and demolition deposits presumed to be related to either the former 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century manor house or agricultural structures. No evidence for medieval structures was encountered, and no medieval artefacts were recovered.

In 2012, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for the construction of new housing at Manor Gardens, to the south of the site (ELS3880, APS 2012). This recorded two large ponds, possibly retting pits, filled with late medieval and post-medieval deposits, including brick, tile and pottery, and 17<sup>th</sup>-century shoes. Assessment of environmental deposits was inconclusive, and could not corroborate the theory that the pits were used for flax processing.

## 5 RESULTS

The locations of the monitored areas are shown in Figure 3, with a plan of features in Figure 4.

### 5.1 Plots 1 and 2

Foundation trenches for two detached houses were machine-excavated in the western part of the site, with Plot 1 to the north and Plot 2 to the south, close to the southern boundary. Both plots were 8.7m east-west by 7m north-south, with trenches 0.9m wide. There were some differences in the soil stratigraphy for these plots, so they are discussed separately.

Within the foundation trenches of Plot 1, the uppermost deposit was a loose orange silty sand (101), up to 0.4m deep, that appeared to be a recently laid levelling deposit. This is likely to be associated with recent use of the site as a storage area during activities associated with construction of houses to the north, as reported by the contractors. It may represent a reinstatement of ground impacted by works vehicle movements and possible turf stripping. This deposit was thickest towards the northern, higher end of the plot. It overlay a dark grey-brown, humic sandy silt (102) that varied in thickness between 0.25 and 0.5m from the northwest to the southeast of the plot. This appeared to be the former topsoil, and in places contained moderate quantities of bricks (mostly frogged) and stone fragments. The buried topsoil overlay a firm, mid-orange-brown slightly clayey sand subsoil (103), that was present to the base of the trenches at around 0.8m below the ground level (BGL), c.4.5m AOD (Plate 1).

The only feature identified within Plot 1 was a brick-built land drain (104), that crossed the eastern edge of the plot on a northeast to southwest alignment, and continued into Plot 2. The drain was present at the base of the trench (c.0.75m BGL), and the brick capping was removed by the excavation (Plate 2). Water from the drain rapidly filled the base of the trench, so observations were restricted, but it appeared to be constructed of plain, unfrogged red bricks, with edge-set bricks forming the sides and brick capping. The base was not seen.

Within Plot 2, the spread of the orange-brown sandy deposit (101) was present at the northern end, but tapered out towards the south. It overlay a thick dark-grey-brown humic clay-silt (205), which appeared to be largely the same as former topsoil (102; Plate 3). Towards the south end of the plot, this appeared to merge with the backfill (201) of a wide cut (204) for a sunken boundary/revetment wall at the south edge of the site (203). The material of both deposits was very similar, though fill (201) was slightly paler than topsoil 205, and the division between them was difficult to distinguish. As with 102, deposits 201 and 205 contained significant quantities of modern dumping material, including brick, suggesting that the topsoil deposit was heavily disturbed during previous construction works. In the northern foundation trench, a mortar spread was visible at the base of 205, but it could not be ascertained if this related to an *in situ* modern structure or a dump of building rubble (Plate 4). It may have been related to the building shown on the 1971 OS map and encountered in the previous evaluation trenching (MAS 2018b). The topsoil 205 overlay subsoil 202, identical to that in Plot 1 (103).

The base of fill 201 was not reached at the southern edge of Plot 2, at a depth of 1.10m, but it tapered upwards to the north, where it merged with 205. The cut for the wall (204) through subsoil 202 was visible in plan and section at in the base of the eastern foundation trench (Plate 5), where its edge was 1.8m north of the wall, but was difficult to distinguish in section. The boundary wall (203) was truncated at ground level, but continued down to at least 1.1m below

the ground surface. It was constructed of modern frogged bricks bonded with a yellow cement mortar, and was only exposed where the soil fell away from it, as it technically lay just outside the area of the foundation trench (Plate 6). The wall appears to be associated with the road accessing modern housing to the south of the site, which was laid out between 1956 and 1971.

The land drain (104) continued across Plot 2, and again caused the trenches to rapidly fill with water. Due to the depth of the trenches at the south end of the plot and the instability of the wall backfill, the southern part of the trench was immediately infilled with concrete to prevent further collapse.

## 5.2 Plots 3 to 5

Within the foundation trenches for three terraced houses in the eastern part of the site (Plots 3-5), the stratigraphic sequence was broadly similar across the excavated area (Plate 7). The upper deposit comprised a dark brown loose silty sand (301) between 0.3-0.4m thick, with occasional rubble inclusions including sandstone and brick fragments. This appeared to be a recent levelling deposit, directly overlying topsoil (302). This area was very waterlogged at the time of the first monitoring visit, and it is likely that activities associated with previous use of the site as a construction storage area may have caused some disturbance to the upper layers. Topsoil 302 was similar in consistency to 301, but had fewer inclusions, largely occasional sub-rounded sandstone pebbles. It was between 0.2-0.25m in thickness (Plate 8).

The base of the topsoil merged with subsoil 303, and frequent root action was visible within the subsoil. The subsoil was a firm mid-orange-brown sand with a very small silt component, and inclusions of occasional small pebbles. No changes in texture or constituency were noted, but the subsoil did appear to be darker in colour towards the western part of the plot. The trenches were excavated to a depth of c.1m. No features were exposed during the watching brief in Plots 3-5, and no artefacts of earlier than 20<sup>th</sup>-century date were observed.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological watching brief at Church Street, Crowle, did not reveal any features of archaeological significance. No evidence was encountered for any medieval activities associated with the nearby church and manor house. The only feature encountered that pre-dates the mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century was a land drain of brick construction, that crossed the western part of the site (Plots 1 and 2). This could be of late 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, and was truncated by the foundation trenches. The archaeological monitoring also confirmed that the western part of the site had suffered more substantial modern disturbance than the eastern side, with substantial quantities of modern rubble in the topsoil, overlain by a made ground layer. These may be associated with recent use of the site as a storage area for materials and plant associated with residential construction to the north.

## 7 REFERENCES

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- Simmonds, M. 2018. Heritage Statement (including assessment of setting): Land Adjacent to the Manor House, Church Street, Crowle. Unpublished Mark Simmonds Planning Services report.



## PLATES



Plate 1: South-facing section of northern foundation trench in Plot 1



Plate 2: South-facing section of southern foundation trench in Plot 1, showing brick drain





Plate 3: General view of western foundation trench in Plot 2, facing south



Plate 4: North-facing section of northern foundation trench in Plot 2, showing mortar spread

(Plates 1-6 feature a 1m scale in 50cm units)





Plate 5: Wall cut 204 at the southeast corner of Plot 2, viewed facing north



Plate 6: Wall 203 at the south edge of Plot 2, surrounded by fill 201, viewed facing southeast





**Plate 7: View east across the excavated foundations in Plots 3-5**



**Plate 8: South-facing representative sample of Plots 3-5**  
(1m scale in 10cm and 1cm units)

## FIGURES



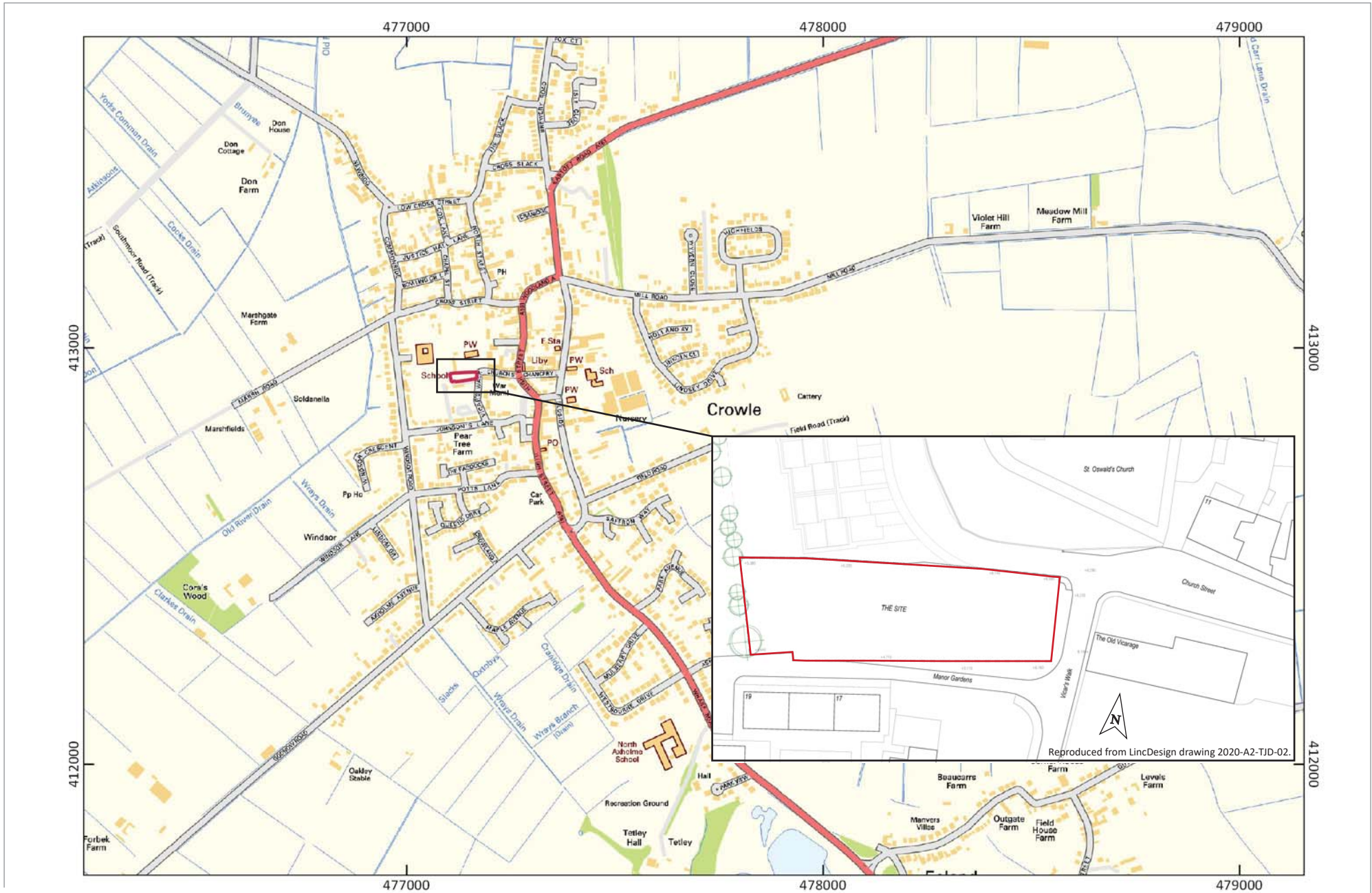


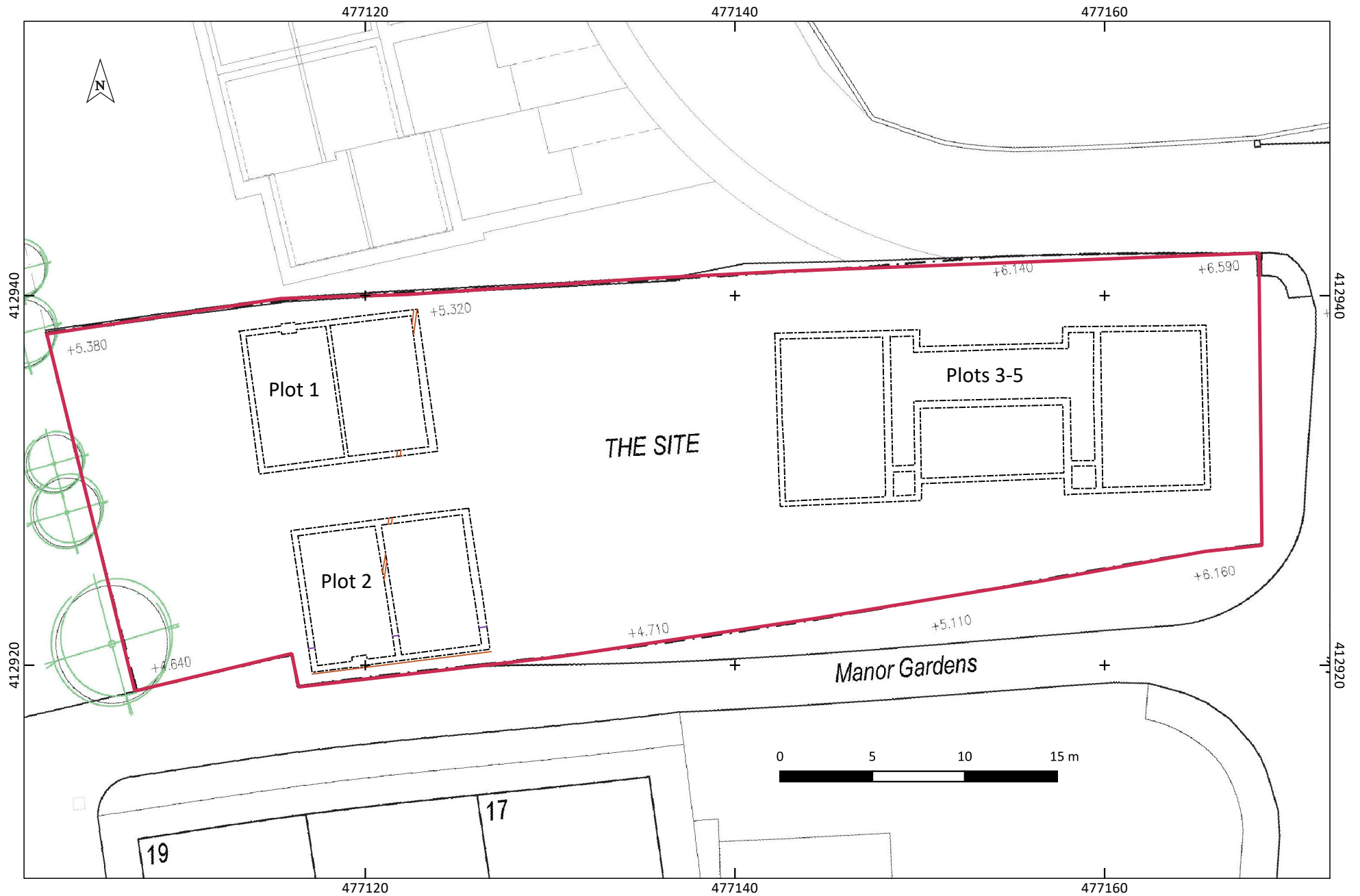
Figure 1: Site location



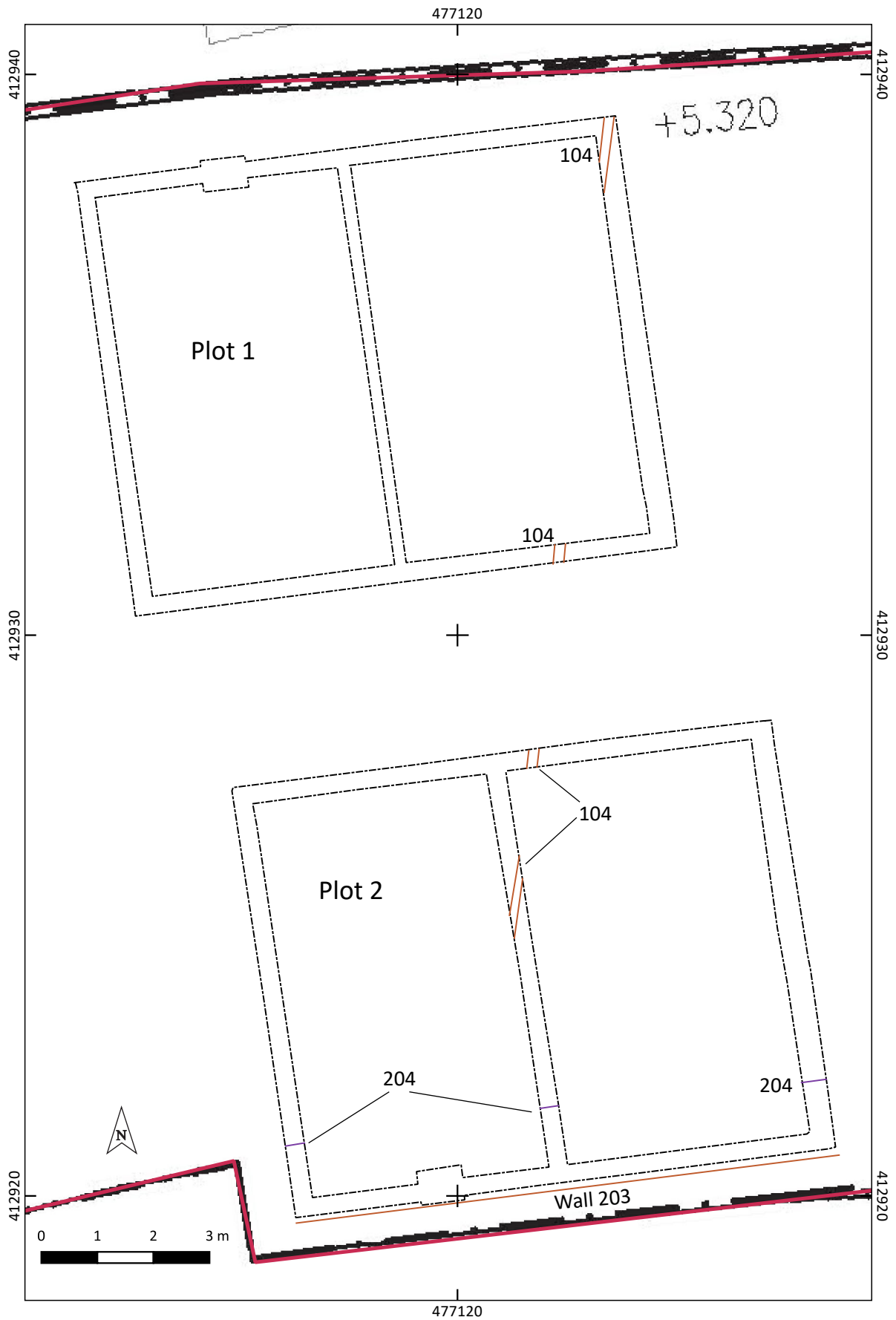


**Figure 2:** Location of 2018 evaluation trenches

Based on LincDesign drawings 2020-A2-TJD-02 & 2020-TJD-A2-03.



**Figure 3: Plan of areas monitored**



**Figure 4:** Detail of features in Plots 1 & 2

**APPENDIX 1: INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Quantity
Context registers	1
Context sheets	12
Photo register	1
Digital photographs	39
Report	1
WSI	1

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST & PHOTO REGISTER

Context list:

Context no	Area	Type	Description
101	Plot 1	Deposit	Made ground/levelling deposit
102	Plot 1	Deposit	Topsoil
103	Plot 1	Deposit	Subsoil
104	Plot 1	Structure	Land drain
201	Plot 2	Deposit	Backfill of wall cut 204
202	Plot 2	Deposit	Subsoil
203	Plot 2	Structure	Boundary wall
204	Plot 2	Cut	Cut for boundary wall
205	Plot 2	Deposit	Topsoil
301	Plots 3-5	Deposit	Made ground/redeposited topsoil
302	Plots 3-5	Deposit	Topsoil
303	Plots 3-5	Deposit	Subsoil

Digital photo register:

Photo ID	Description	Direction	Date
1060875	Plot 1: north foundation trench general view	West	01/12/2020
1060876	Plot 1: north foundation trench general view	West	01/12/2020
1060877	Area of land drain 104 cutting 103	South	01/12/2020
1060878	Area of land drain 104 cutting 103	South	01/12/2020
1060879	Working shots, plot 1	South	01/12/2020
1060880	Working shots, plot 1	South	01/12/2020
1060881	Working shot, plot 2	Northeast	01/12/2020
1060882	Large timber from 201		01/12/2020
1060883	Large timber from 201		01/12/2020
1060884	Large timber from 201		01/12/2020
1060885	Large timber from 201		01/12/2020
1060886	Plot 2: south foundation trench, general view	East	01/12/2020
1060887	Plot 2: south foundation trench, general view	East	01/12/2020
1060888	Plot 2: wall 203 in section	Southeast	01/12/2020
1060889	Plot 2: representative section of south trench (201)	North	01/12/2020
1060890	Plot 2: representative section of south trench (201)	North	01/12/2020
1060891	Plot 1: representative section of north trench (101-102-103)	North	01/12/2020
1060892	Plot 1: representative section of north trench (101-102-103)	North	01/12/2020
1060893	Plot 2: southeast corner - edge of cut for wall 204?	North	01/12/2020
1060894	Plot 2: southeast corner - edge of cut for wall 204?	North	01/12/2020
1060895	Plot 2: general view of west foundation trench	South	01/12/2020
1060896	Plot 2: general view of west foundation trench	South	01/12/2020
1060897	Plot 2: representative section of north trench	South	01/12/2020
1060898	Plot 2: representative section of north trench	South	01/12/2020



Photo ID	Description	Direction	Date
1060899	Plot 1: general view of west foundation trench	North	01/12/2020
1060900	Plot 1: general view of west foundation trench	North	01/12/2020
1060901	Plot 1: south trench section including land drain 104	North	01/12/2020
1060902	Plot 1: south trench section including land drain 104	North	01/12/2020
1510366	Plot 3: general view of first foundation trench	West	08/04/2021
1510367	Plot 3: view of south-facing section of first foundation trench	North	08/04/2021
1510368	South facing representative section 1	North	08/04/2021
1510369	South facing representative section 1	North	08/04/2021
1510370	South facing representative section 1	North	08/04/2021
1510371	East-facing representative section 2	West	08/04/2021
1510372	East-facing representative section 2	West	08/04/2021
1510373	East-facing representative section 2	West	08/04/2021
1510374	General shot of completed foundation trenches	East	08/04/2021
1510375	General shot of completed foundation trenches	East	08/04/2021
1510376	General shot of completed foundation trenches	East	08/04/2021

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM DETAILS

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archerit1-420047**

### Project details

Project name	Church Street, Crowle
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2020 End: 08-04-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	2722 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CWDZ - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CROWLE Church Street, Crowle
Study area	1200 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 7714 1293 53.607002270484 -0.833997120635 53 36 25 N 000 50 02 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	ArcHeritage
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	ArcHeritage
Project director/manager	Rowan May
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeology Data Service
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	North Lincolnshire HER
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

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## APPENDIX 4: WSI



**Land south of Manor House, Church St, Crowle:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief**

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## Key Project Information

Project name	Manor House, Crowle
Report title	Land south of Manor House, Church Street, Crowle: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief
Report status	Final
ArcHeritage project no.	2722
Client	Three J's Developments Ltd
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Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of 2018 evaluation trenches

Figure 3: Site plan and watching brief area

## 1. SUMMARY

1.1. Three J's Developments have received planning consent for the construction of houses on a plot of land south of Manor House, Church Street, Crowle, North Lincolnshire. The scheme will include the erection of a terrace of three dwellings and two detached dwellings, and associated landscaping, access, drainage and service provision.

1.2. The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

*Condition 7: No groundwork associated with the construction of Plots 3-5 shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy, to be defined in a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The strategy shall accord with a brief provided by North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and shall include details of the following:*

- *Measures to ensure the preservation by record of archaeological features of identified importance.*
- *Measures for the recording of the historic buildings and recovery of archaeological remains including artefacts and ecofacts.*
- *Post-fieldwork methodologies for assessment and analyses.*
- *Report content and arrangements for dissemination, and publication proposals.*
- *Archive preparation and deposition with recognised repositories including the ADS.*
- *A timetable of works in relation to the proposed development, including sufficient notification and allowance of time to ensure that the site work is undertaken and complete in accordance with the strategy.*
- *Monitoring arrangements, including the notification in writing to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office of the commencement of the archaeological works and the opportunity to monitor such works.*
- *A list of all staff involved in the implementation of the strategy, including sub-contractors and specialists, their responsibilities and qualifications.*

*Reason: to comply with NPPF 199, policy CS6 of the Core Strategy, policy HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan because the site contains archaeologically significant remains that the development would otherwise destroy; the archaeological mitigation strategy is required in order to preserve archaeological evidence by means of a comprehensive record and creation of a permanent archive, to advance public understanding. The archaeological mitigation strategy must be prepared and approved for implementation prior to the commencement of any groundwork associated with Plots 3-5 that would otherwise result in destruction without record.*

1.3. The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (NLHER) officer has advised that a suitable mitigation strategy for this site should comprise a programme of archaeological observation and recording (watching brief) during the construction groundworks. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a generic brief supplied by NLHER. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

## 2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

- 2.1. The proposal site is located in Crowle, in the Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire, centred on NGR SE 7714 1293. It is accessed via Church Street and bounded on the north by St Oswald's churchyard and by a private lane accessing the grounds of a relatively modern building known as the Manor House, to the west by the grounds of Crowle Primary Academy school, to the south by an access lane for modern housing at Manor Gardens, and to the east by the junction of Church Street and Vicar's Walk (Figure 1). The site is currently a strip of vacant land in rough grass coverage, and is approximately 1200m<sup>2</sup> in area. The slight slopes slightly down from northeast to southwest.
- 2.2. The bedrock geology is mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed during the Triassic period. Superficial deposits are recorded as fine-grained silty sands of the Sutton Sand Formation, deposited during the Quaternary period through aeolian activity (BGS 2020; Gaunt 1994).

## 3. DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1. The site is within Crowle Conservation Area. It lies to the south of the grade I listed Church of St Oswald (NHLE 1346672) and the grade II listed churchyard cross (NHLE 1359670), and to the west of the Old Vicarage, which is also grade II listed (NHLE 1083300).
- 3.2. There are no known constraints on access to the site.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1. The archaeological interest is summarised from information available in a heritage statement prepared for the site (Simmonds 2018), a report on a previous archaeological evaluation (MAS 2018a) and from the HER officer's comments.
- 4.2. Crowle is situated on a slight ridge within the Humber Wetlands area, one of a series of ridges that form the Isle of Axholme. In the last glaciation, this area was within the area covered by Lake Humber, and following its retreat, the ridges formed islands of higher ground within a landscape of surrounding fens. The Isle of Axholme was formerly surrounded by several rivers, including the River Don, which ran just to the west of Crowle prior to its rerouting as part of Cornelius Vermuyden's drainage project in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (Lord & MacIntosh 2011). The islands formed a focus of human activity in the area from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 4.3. Crowle is recorded in the Domesday Survey, indicating an early medieval origin to the settlement. The name was recorded in 1086 as 'Crule', believed to refer to a winding river or stream, possibly the Don (Eminson 1934, 98-99; Mills 1993). The manor belonged to the Abbot of Selby at the time of the Domesday Survey, and the settlement is thought to have developed around the Church of St Oswald. The current church is largely 12<sup>th</sup>-century in origin, but an earlier church is recorded in the Domesday Survey and an early medieval stone cross with Anglo-Scandinavian motifs and a runic inscription is reset within the nave of the current church. The settlement appears to have been relatively large in 1086, with 15 villages and 19 smallholders recorded (Powell-Smith n.d.).
- 4.4. The town was still in the ownership of Selby Abbey in 1305, when it was awarded a market charter. References to a 'Dun Staithe' suggests the settlement had a wharf on the River Don for trade and transport links. The stump and stepped pedestal of a medieval stone cross stands in the churchyard. The town was particularly prosperous in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, following the creation of rich and fertile agricultural land due to Vermuyden's drainage scheme. Although

the connection to the Don was lost by its diversion, the Stainforth and Keadby Canal was constructed nearby at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, providing a new transport link. Other important local industries were fishing, peat extraction, hemp and flax cultivation and the manufacture of sackcloth.

- 4.5. The 1886 and 1893 OS 1:2500 maps showed the eastern three-quarters of the site as a field that appears to form part of the Manor House grounds, crossed by the access land to the house and barns. The western tip was within a larger field west of the Manor House complex. By 1907, the two fields had been merged and the site formed the southeast end of the larger field. Between 1956 and 1971, a small, narrow rectangular building was constructed within the western part of the site, along the edge of a boundary defining a new field covering the area to the east. This is likely to have been created when new buildings at Manorial Gardens, and their access lane, were constructed to the south of the site.
- 4.6. The site is within an area of high archaeological sensitivity, given its proximity to the medieval church and the presumed site of the medieval manor house. It is possible that the site was within the grounds of the manorial complex in the medieval period. The manor house is believed to have been located in the area around the modern building known as Manor House, a short distance to the north of the site; however a recent evaluation in this area did not recover any medieval material or evidence for a building (MAS 2018b). Derelict barns of probable 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century date just to the north of the site are considered to be of townscape merit in the Conservation Area, although they are in a poor condition (NLC 2004).
- 4.7. An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken within the site in 2018 (MAS 2018a). This comprised the excavation of two trenches, a rectangular trench (T1) across the eastern part of the site, and an L-shaped trench (T2) towards the western side (Figure 2). Modern disturbance associated with a brick building foundation was recorded in Trench 2, probably associated with the structure shown on the 1971 OS map. Two modern post holes, potentially associated with a former fence line were also recorded in this trench. Within Trench 1, three shallow pits or post holes were recorded, located in close proximity, one of which contained post-medieval tile and brick. The other two features did not contain any dating material and samples from their fills were very limited in composition, with no potential for further analysis. The features were overlain by an imported sand layer, and it was concluded that this was likely to be associated with the site's former use as a small holding.
- 4.8. An archaeological evaluation was also recorded around the Manor House and barns to the north of the site (MAS 2018b). Six trenches were excavated, but one of the proposed trenches intended to investigate the likely area of the medieval manor house had to be relocated due to the presence of services. The trenches recorded two pits or post hole features adjacent to the churchyard boundary, of possible early date, and demolition deposits presumed to be related to either the former 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century manor house or agricultural structures. No evidence for medieval structures was encountered, and no medieval artefacts were recovered.
- 4.9. In 2012, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for the construction of new housing at Manor Gardens, to the south of the site (ELS3880, SE 7712 1288). This recorded two large ponds, possibly retting pits, filled with late medieval and post-medieval deposits, including brick, tile and pottery, and 17<sup>th</sup>-century shoes. Assessment of environmental deposits was inconclusive, and could not corroborate the theory that the pits were used for flax processing (APS 2012).

## 5. AIMS

- 5.1. Due to the results of the evaluation (MAS 2018a), the NLHER officer has concluded that there is the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the development site, although the western end has been disturbed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A watching brief was recommended to monitor groundworks and record any archaeological remains within the eastern part of the site.
- 5.2. The general aim of the archaeological watching brief is to preserve by record any archaeological remains exposed during the development work. The specific aims are:
- to identify and record all archaeological features and artefacts exposed during the construction work;
  - to determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered, and to recover dating evidence where present;
  - to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on site;
  - to retrieve environmental evidence relating to the environment and economy of the site;
  - to establish whether artefacts, features and deposits associated with the medieval manor house or medieval settlement are present within the site; and
  - to interpret the archaeological features and finds within their local, regional, and national context and assess their significance.

## 6. TECHNIQUES

- 6.1. The recording will comprise the following elements:
- Watching brief
  - Reporting

## 7. GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

- 7.1. This work will comprise a **continuous/comprehensive** watching brief, on the excavation of all foundations, trenches, services, soakaways and any subsequent groundworks involving excavation within the areas of Plots 3-5, in the eastern part of the site (Figure 3). Spoil will be monitored in order to recover artefacts. The watching brief may be stepped down **to intermittent monitoring**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the North Lincolnshire HER.
- 7.2. All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.
- 7.3. It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, should the presence of archaeological features or finds be confirmed, the archaeologist on site must be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record them. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.
- 7.4. Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.



## 8. RECORDING METHODOLOGY

- 8.1. The location of the areas being monitored will be determined using a base plan of the site, to be provided by the client.
- 8.2. Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernable. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.
- 8.3. All archaeological features will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made where archaeological features are encountered.
- 8.4. Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-section of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation.
- 8.5. Each context, where assigned, will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.
- 8.6. Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of individual and groups of features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic record will comprise 35mm black and white film. Digital photography may be used in addition for presentation purposes, but will not form any part of the formal site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.
- 8.7. Areas which do not contain any archaeological deposits will be photographed and recorded as being archaeologically sterile. The natural stratigraphic sequence within these areas will be recorded.
- 8.8. All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.
- 8.9. All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority. Treasure finds will also be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer at North Lincolnshire Museum.
- 8.10. An environmental sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. All securely stratified deposits should be considered for sampling regardless of whether artefacts/ecofacts are readily apparent. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be

undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. The sampling regime will include samples of the four types of deposit sample as appropriate. These are described below:

- **Bulk-sieved Sample (BS).** Sample size will depend upon the context/feature size, but should be up to 40-60 litres in size (if the context size allows). They are taken for the recovery of charcoal, burnt seeds, bone and artefacts. The samples will be processed (flotation) on site where possible with 1mm and 500micron sieves on a rack to collect the carbonised washover. The retents and flots will then be dried, sorted and assessed to advise the potential for further analysis.
- **General Biological Sample (GBA):** These are only taken if a deposit is waterlogged. A 10 litre sample size will be used (if the context size allows). These samples will be processed in the laboratory, to recover microfossils and microscopic remains such as pollen and insects.
- **Column monolith:** Kubiena tin samples may be taken for soils and pollen analysis and to determine soil accumulation processes.
- **Spot samples:** these samples are taken as required. they may be contexts or material not suited to sieving, such as caches of seeds, pieces of eggshell or any specific finds of organic material. They may also be specialist samples (e.g. charcoal for radiocarbon dating).

- 8.11. Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArchHeritage specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.
- 8.12. In the unlikely event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left in situ, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of the Ministry of Justice or Church of England, as appropriate, and following the issuing of a Burial Licence. The North Lincolnshire Environmental Protection Team will also be contacted in accordance with licence conditions.
- 8.13. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance.
- 8.14. In the event that archaeological remains considered to be of potential national significance are uncovered, the NLHER will be immediately informed, and a site meeting will be convened with the developer, archaeological project manager and relevant specialists at the earliest possible opportunity. A decision regarding the treatment of the remains to ensure their preservation will be made in agreement with the developer. The preferred mitigation option will be to secure the *in situ* preservation of remains where feasible.

## 9. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material.

Ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.

- 9.2. Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), ClfA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).
- 9.3. All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections, such as the North Lincolnshire Type Series for Roman and Post-Roman ceramics, and relevant fabric Codes will be used.
- 9.4. Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with the North Lincolnshire HER.

## **10. ASSESSMENT REPORT**

- 10.1. Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared to include the following:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
  - The site code agreed with the recipient museum.
  - An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
  - An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion placing the remains in the context of the known archaeology of the area.
  - A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
  - Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.
  - Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
  - A copy of the key OASIS form details
  - A copy of the WSI
  - Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- 10.2. A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body. A digital copy of the report will also be submitted direct to the NLHER for planning purposes, and subsequently for inclusion into the Historic Environment Record.

## **12. POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION**

- 12.1. Following the submission of the assessment report, and depending on the results of the watching brief, a full programme of post excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation may be required by the NLHER. **Where this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned.**
- 12.2. Allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal, if appropriate. The scope of this publication will be dependent on the significance of the results.
- 12.3. If no other publication is recommended, a brief site summary will be presented in digital format for publication in the appropriate volume of *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.
- 12.4. The East Midlands Research Framework website will be updated where appropriate at <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>.

## **13. ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION**

- 13.1. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. ArcHeritage will liaise with the North Lincolnshire Museums Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms. The relevant museum curator will be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.
- 13.2. The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, will grant a licence to the North Lincolnshire HER and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.
- 13.3. Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://oasis.ac.uk/form>.
- 13.4. Deposition of the field archive with the North Lincolnshire Museums Service will occur after the assessment report in the event that no further analysis is required. If further post-excavation analysis and publication are required, the archive deposition will follow that phase.

## **14. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 14.1. Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 14.2. A site-specific Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

## **15. PRE-START REQUIREMENTS**

- 15.1. The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works, and that the perimeter of the site is secure.
- 15.2. The client will provide ArcHeritage with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.

- 15.3. The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to ArchHeritage prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 15.4. Prior to commencement of fieldwork, ArchHeritage will contact the North Lincolnshire Museums Service to inform them of the project and agree a site code.
- 15.5. The client will give ArchHeritage reasonable notice prior to the commencement of development. Access to the site will be afforded to the archaeologists at all reasonable times.

## **16. STAFFING**

- 16.1. The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken by experienced staff of York Archaeological Trust (including ArchHeritage and Trent and Peak Archaeology), all of whom have appropriate archaeological qualifications. Details of the qualifications and experience of the staff members can be provided to the NLHER at the start of the project.
- 16.2. Specialist staff available for this project are:
- Human remains – Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd) & Rebecca Storm (University of Bradford)
  - Palaeoenvironmental remains – Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy
  - Palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological advice – Kristina Krawiec
  - Head of Curatorial Services – Christine McDonnell
  - Lithics – George Loffman
  - Roman Pottery – Ruth Leary, David Griffiths
  - Roman glass – Caroline Jackson
  - Medieval pottery – Anne Jenner
  - Post-medieval pottery – David Barker and Richard Jackson
  - Post-medieval glass – Karen Weston
  - Archaeometallurgy & industrial residues – Rod Mackenzie
  - Conservation – Ian Panter
  - Worked wood – Steve Allen
- 16.3. Other specialist staff may be commissioned as necessary. Appropriate specialist staff will be discussed and agreed with SYAS.

## **17. PROJECT TIMETABLE**

- 17.1. At the time of writing, the dates for the groundworks have not been established. An indicative timeframe for the different phases of work is given below. An updated timetable will be provided to the NLHER once the date for the groundworks have been arranged. Any changes to the timetable will be agreed with the NLHER.

**Table 1: Indicative timetable for archaeological works**

Phase	Item	Start	Complete
Fieldwork	Watching brief on groundworks	TBC	TBC
Assessment	Post-excavation assessment Assessment report circulated for comment	On completion of fieldwork	Within six weeks of completion of fieldwork
<i>Post-excavation analysis and reporting (if required)</i>	<i>Post-excavation analysis Analysis report circulated for comment</i>	<i>On commission</i>	<i>Within three months of commission</i>
<i>Publication (if required)</i>	<i>Preparation and submission of publication text and images</i>	<i>On commission</i>	<i>Dependent on type of publication</i>
Archiving	Deposition of archive		Within two months of completion of final report

## 18. MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 18.1. As a minimum requirement, the NLHER will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. ArcHeritage will notify the NLHER of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the NLHER.

## 19. COPYRIGHT

- 19.1. ArcHeritage retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

## 20. KEY REFERENCES

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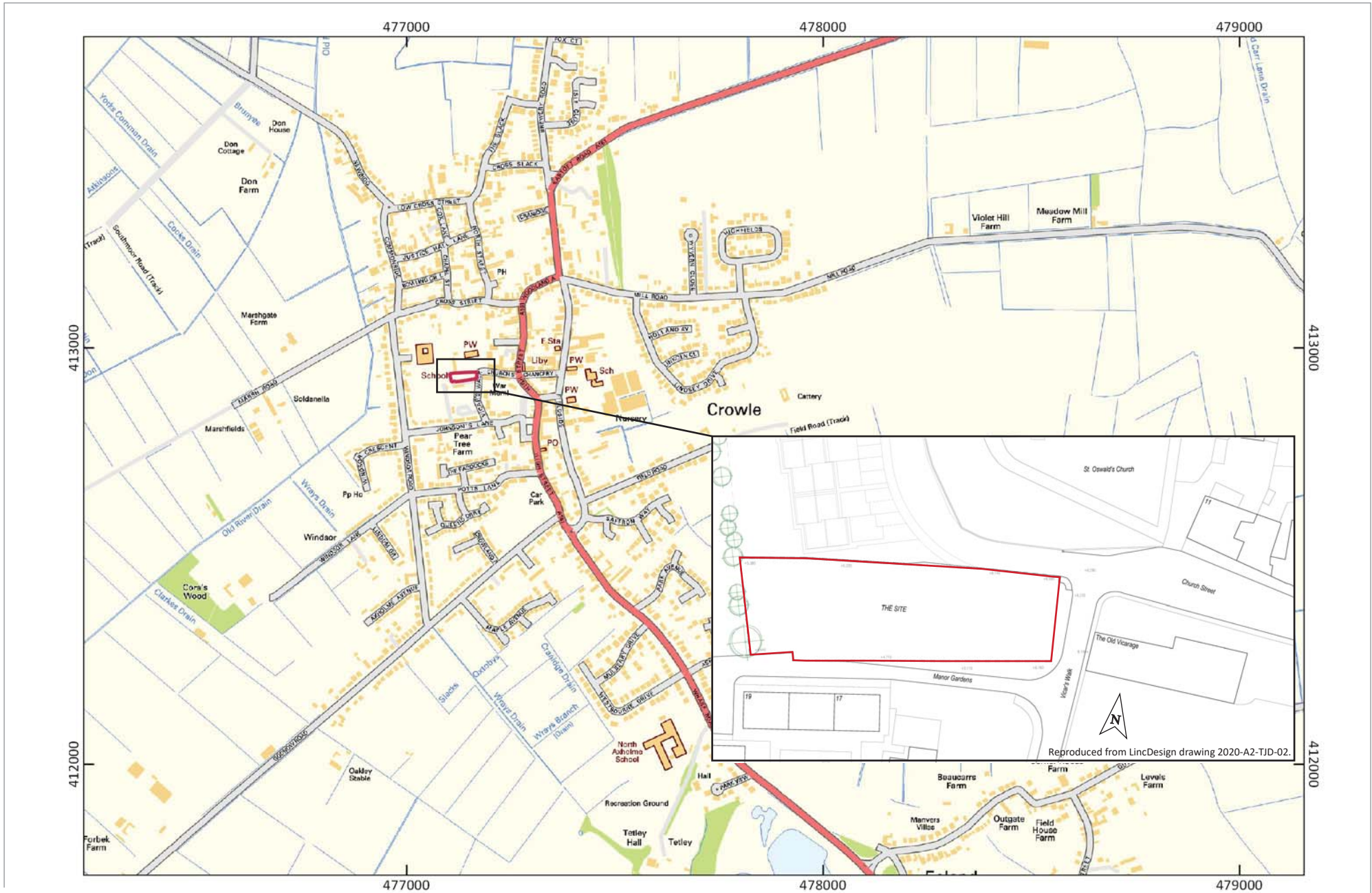
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See also the website of the CfA for all Guidance and Standards documentation. <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>

See also the Historic England website for a full list of guidance documents. <http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/recording-heritage/>

## 21. FIGURES






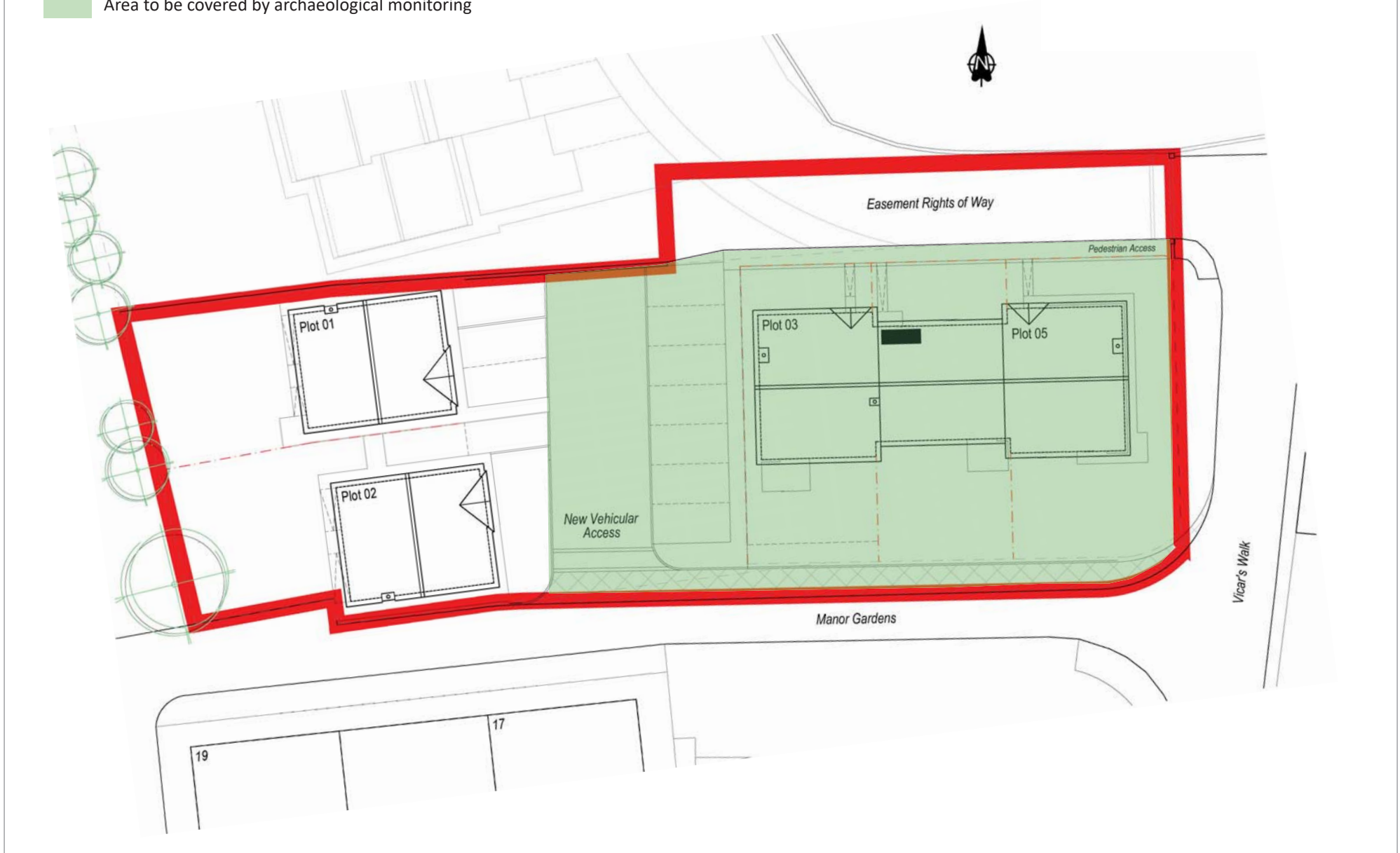
**Figure 1: Site location**



Drawing No: 540/3/18		
Project: Manor House, Church Street, Crowle, DN17 4LE.		
Fig. 3: Trench Locations.		
Scale: 1:250 @A3		Site Code: CRCR 18
Dm:SW	Chk:SW	Date 19/11/2018
Midland Archaeological Services Old House 59 Church Street Digby Lincoln LN 4 3LZ Telephone: 01526 321 966 info@midarch.co.uk		

**Figure 2:** Location of 2018 evaluation trenches

 Area to be covered by archaeological monitoring



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