



The Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Belton

Archaeological evaluation report

Report 2021/18 V1

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The Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Belton
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was completed by ArcHeritage at a site to the rear of 152 Westgate, Belton, North Lincolnshire, between 19th and 23rd April 2021. The trenches were excavated in a former paddock/ garden area to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, which fronts onto the northern side of Westgate.

Several other archaeological investigations have taken place along Westgate in recent years, within the vicinity of the site; taking into consideration the results of these works, this site was considered to have potential for significant archaeological remains associated with Roman and medieval settlement. As such, this work was required by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in order to form part of the supporting information for a planning application for residential development on the site.

Five trenches were excavated, each measuring 20m by 2m. A young horse or pony burial was recorded in one of the trenches, along with one small square feature of uncertain function. Both of these features are considered to be relatively modern. In addition, one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil in one of the trenches. No other archaeological finds or features were observed or recorded within the trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

ArcHeritage was commissioned by North Lincs Properties to undertake archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at a site to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, 152 Westgate, Belton, North Lincolnshire. The work took place between 19th and 23rd April 2021. Five trenches were excavated in total, each measuring 20m by 2m.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix 5) approved by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The work was also undertaken in accordance with relevant Historic England best practice guidance documents, and the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2. SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located approximately 10km to the southwest of Scunthorpe, and comprises a small paddock/ garden area to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel public house at 152 Westgate, Belton, North Lincolnshire (centred on NGR SE 7725 0751; Figure 1). The site is split into two areas; Area A to the north, measuring approximately 3670m² (0.37ha), and Area B to the south; measuring approximately 0.1ha. Area A is a grassed paddock/ garden and is the focus of the proposed development. Area B is currently part of the tarmac surface of the Wheatsheaf carpark, and the proposed development does not involve construction in this area; as a result, all five trenches were located within Area A (Figures 1 and 2).

The site lies within the Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape, which is designated as an Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest, protected by Policy LC14 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. The site does not contain any designated heritage assets and is not located in a Conservation Area.

The sites lies between 4m and 5m aOD. The underlying bedrock is the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed in the Triassic period. Superficial deposits in the northern part of the site are recorded as Hemingbrough Glaciolacustrine Formation laminated silty clays, formed between 116-11.8 kya during the Devensian stage of the Quaternary period. In the southern part of the site, the superficial deposits are recorded as fine-grained silty sands of the Sutton Sand Formation, a wind-blown sand deposit formed between 116 kya and the present (BGS 2020).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This rapid summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site is taken from the WSI (May 2021) and is based on data from North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, the National Heritage List for England, the HER officer's comments on the planning proposal, a Heritage Statement prepared by Mark Simmonds Planning Services (2020), and other online sources. References prefixed MLS or ELS refer to HER records. A 1km search area was used to assess the archaeological and historical context of the site. The locations of heritage assets mentioned is included within the WSI (Appendix 5).

The Isle of Axholme comprises a raised outcrop of Mercia Mudstone, surrounded by lower-lying land, much of which was historically wetland. During the last Ice Age, the glacial Lake Humber is

likely to have extended into the northern edge of the site at its maximum extent. From the early Mesolithic to late Neolithic periods (c.8000 BC to 2900 BC), the landscape was largely one of meandering rivers bounded by comparatively dry ground (Miller 1998, 25). In the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (2900 to 1600 BC), sea level rises and progressive infilling of the channels caused the spread of wetlands across the lower-lying ground, and the formation of peat. During the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods, transient or seasonal hunter-gatherer groups were present within the vicinity, as indicated by finds of stone tools (lithics) in the area between 500m and 1km from the site. Such finds have been recovered from organised fieldwalking to the north of Gares Lane, northeast of the site (MLS19978), and in the area to the east, southeast and southwest of Hill Top Farm (MLS922, MLS17365 and MLS19906).

Evidence for mid-Bronze Age to Iron Age (1200 BC to AD 43) activity has not been recorded within the search area, but this was generally a period of increasing settlement and agriculture. The expansion of farming and drainage during the Roman period (AD 43 to 450) is documented within the wider Isle of Axholme landscape, and a recent evaluation to the southeast of the site recorded ditches that were probably associated with land divisions and drainage, containing pottery of late Iron Age to Roman date (ELS4361; ASWYAS 2018), indicating the potential for associated settlement in the vicinity. Other recorded Roman remains within 1km of the site are largely surface finds of pottery and part of a bronze figurine in fields to the northeast and southeast of the site (MLS19977, MLS19989-19980, MLS17534, MLS19905 & MLS19907). An amphora handle was recovered during a watching brief at Green Lane Farm, to the northwest of the site (MLS20120), but was not associated with any features.

Two early medieval chance finds have been recorded from Belton Fields to the southeast of the site, a single pottery sherd and a strap-end (MLS22817 & MLS19307). A manor and fairly substantial settlement at Belton had been established by the time of the Norman Conquest, and was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Powell-Smith n.d.). Medieval Belton was a polyfocal settlement with several separate hamlets, including Westgate, where occupation appears to have been focused around Green Lane and the junction of Westgate (MLS7166). Large open fields were situated around the settlement. The site lies within an area of Early Enclosed Land, comprising amalgamated blocks of strips from open field that were consolidated into closes around the fringes of settlement. Such closes were used for stock-keeping and mixed agriculture, and could date from the late medieval to early post-medieval periods. These fields tend to have sinuous boundaries preserving the ploughing curve of the former cultivated strips. Medieval pottery sherds have been found within the 1km search area during fieldwalking events (MLS17534, MLS19905 & MLS19907), and two large pits containing pottery of 13th- to 14th-century date were recorded in the 2018 evaluation to the south of Westgate Road (ELS4361). Cropmarks that may represent retting pits (used for the processing of flax) have been recorded to the southwest and northeast of the site (MLS10558, MLS20217 & MLS22545), and could date to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Excavations for house foundations at The Smithy, Green Lane, in 1998 encountered human remains from at least two inhumations, and further investigation suggested that these had been buried in an orderly manner in coffins. A small evaluation was carried out at the site by the University of Sheffield, recovering further human remains. One of the skeletons was radiocarbon dated to the 15th century. It has been theorised that the burials may have been from a cemetery associated with an undocumented chapel (MLS19599).

Parts of two skeletons of unknown date were recorded in close proximity to the application site in 2014, in the southern part of the former car park of the Wheatsheaf Hotel (MLS24713) during the excavation of foundations for new houses. These were not archaeologically recorded, but were considered by the police forensic inspector to be 'ancient'. It has been theorised that these may also be medieval in date; however, given that they were found c.250m to the southeast of the Green Lane cemetery, it seems unlikely that they are directly associated. The burials could therefore be earlier or later in date. Another find of human remains made during foundation excavations (MLS19676) is thought to have been located at the north end of Carrhouse Road, c.140m to the southeast of the site. This single adult skeleton was again not archaeologically recorded, and its exact location, burial context and date are unknown.

Areas of former peat cuttings, known as turbaries, are recorded at the north and southwest sides of the search area (MLS17743, MLS22807), adjacent to the River Torne. Peat may have been cut in these areas from the medieval period onwards, with the turbaries formalised at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure, to compensate villagers for the loss of open commons. Post-medieval (1540-1901) heritage assets recorded within the 1km search area include a converted smithy and the site of a former smithy to the southeast of the site (MLS27372 & MLS22373), a preserved windmill tower (MLS10416, NHLE108438) and the sites of three further windmills (MLS21965, MLS21919-20), converted and demolished Methodist chapels (MLS17324 and MLS22374), and the two listed farmhouses (MLS10091/NHLE 1083292 & MLS10413/NHLE 1083295). A number of other unlisted farmhouses and farmstead sites have been recorded on the HER from a recent study, but are not included in this summary as they have no impact on the archaeological potential of the site.

Cropmarks within the 1km search area include the possible retting pits mentioned above, and also several fragmentary linear and curvilinear features that could relate to former field or enclosure boundaries of uncertain date (MLS2100, MLS20217 and MLS20915). Some of these could relate to boundaries shown on 19th-century mapping.

The 1886 1st edition OS 25 inch: 1 mile map shows the site as part of a larger L-shaped field with slightly curving boundaries. The Wheatsheaf Inn was within a separate enclosure fronting onto Westgate. This layout was unchanged in 1956 and was little altered by 1971, when two small structures, possibly sheds, were shown in the southeast part of the field. Google Earth aerial imagery from 2003 shows the majority of the site as part of a field in rough grass coverage, separated from a cultivated area to the north that had previously been part of the same field. A square enclosure was shown within the southeast side of the field, possibly a playground associated with the pub, with a car park to the immediate south of the site, east of the pub. In 2008, a larger playground enclosure covered the width of the site to the north of the pub and car park, and a fence had been established along the northern site boundary. By 2015, two houses were being constructed in the pub car park, and a new tarmac surfaced car park had been laid out to the north, in the southern part of the application site. The 2019 imagery showed a new boundary along the west side of the site.

The recorded archaeology within the 1km search area suggested the potential for the presence of remains associated with Roman and medieval activity within the site, as well as the possibly for the presence of burials of uncertain date.

4. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

4.1 Aims

The aims of the trial trenching were to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. General aims were:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present;
- to characterise the nature and origin of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey;
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and allow an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made;
- to provide information to enable the local authority to decide any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site.

Specific aims were:

- To investigate whether remains associated with Roman or medieval activity are present within the site;
- To establish whether human remains are present within the site, and to record the nature of the burial context and likely date of such remains.

4.2 Methodology

The five trenches were targeted on areas most likely to be most disturbed by the proposed development within Site A (see Table 1). The trench locations are shown on Figure 2.

All trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever appeared first. Where archaeology was present, machining ceased and excavation proceeded by hand. All trenches were cleaned by hand to enable potential archaeological features to be identified and recorded. Full details of the methodology can be found in the WSI (Appendix 5).

Table 1: Trench rationale

Trench	Rationale	Size (m)
1	To investigate the archaeological potential in the area immediately north of the car park, and to ascertain whether burials continue into this area.	20 x 2
2	To investigate the archaeological potential within the proposed access road along the eastern side of the site.	20 x 2
3	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of proposed houses in Plots 1-4 in the southwest part of the site.	20 x 2
4	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of proposed houses in Plots 6-9 at the northwest side of the site.	20 x 2
5	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed house in Plot 10 at the northeast side of the site.	20 x 2

5. RESULTS

The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2, and Figure 3 shows the trenches with identified features and sondages. An assessment of the limited finds recovered is given in Appendix 3.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the southern end of Area A, and was aligned east to west (Figure 3; Plates 1-3). The trench measured 20m in length by 2m in width.

The topsoil (101) within Trench 1 was loose mid-grey very slightly silty sand with a maximum thickness of 0.25m. Bioturbation in the form of grass roots and worm activity was frequent throughout this deposit. This directly overlay the subsoil (102) which comprised a very mottled deposit of orange, light grey and mid-brown loose sand. The orange patches within this deposit were slightly more compact than the remainder of the deposit, possibly representing patches of disintegrated sandstone. Two hand-dug slots were excavated throughout the subsoil (102) in Trench 1 to investigate the colour variation within it, which this determined that the colour changes within the deposit had extremely irregular and undulating boundaries, and are natural in origin within the superficial geology.

At the northern edge of the western end of Trench 1, an articulated equine burial was partially exposed, extending beyond the northern limit of the trench (Plate 2). This was cut [103] into the natural geological deposit (102) in an irregular ovoid shape. The fill (104) of the cut was of mixed grey, brown and orange sand and contained the skeleton of an equine, of which only the head and front legs were exposed, with the remainder extending beyond the confines of the trench. A horseshoe was attached to each of the front hooves. No dating material was present within the grave, although assessment of the horseshoes indicates they are likely to be fairly modern in origin. The skeleton was left undisturbed, articulated and *in situ*.

Roughly around the centre of Trench 1, a small rectangular feature was present. This was cut [105] into the superficial geological deposit (102) and measured 0.29m in length by 0.24m in width, with a maximum thickness was 0.11m. The sides of this feature were vertical with a slightly irregular and uneven base. The single fill (106) comprised compacted black very slightly sandy silt with occasional small fragments of charcoal. There were no finds within this feature to indicate its date or function, however given the shape and nature of the fill it is considered to be relatively modern.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located along the eastern edge of Area A, and was aligned north to south (Figure 3; Plates 4-5). The trench measured 20m in length by 2m in width.

The topsoil (201) within Trench 2 comprised soft and loose mid-grey very slightly silty sand. Frequent bioturbation in the form of grass roots and worm activity was encountered throughout this deposit. The maximum thickness of the topsoil in Trench 2 was 0.40m, which was fairly consistent throughout the trench. The topsoil (201) had an indistinct and merging boundary with the underlying subsoil (202), which was a mixed sand deposit of principally light grey and mid-grey, with frequent irregular mid-orange mottles. Very common animal burrows were present throughout this deposit together with occasional roots. The orange component of this deposit was slightly more compact than the other patches, likely derived from the remnants of degraded

sandstone. Two hand-dug slots were excavated through this deposit (202) to investigate the colour variation within it. This determined that the colour changes have extremely irregular and undulating boundaries, and are natural in origin.

No finds or features of archaeological origin were present within Trench 2.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located along the western edge of Area A, and was aligned north to south (Figure 3; Plates 6-7). The trench measured 20m in length by 2m in width.

The topsoil (301) within Trench 3 comprised soft and loose mid-grey very slightly silty sand. Frequent bioturbation in the form of grass roots and worm activity was encountered throughout this deposit. The thickness of the topsoil varied throughout the trench from 0.20m to 0.40m, creating an undulating but clear boundary with the underlying subsoil (302), which was a mottled sand deposit of predominantly bright orange with irregular patches of pale grey and pale yellow sand. These patchy areas were investigated by hand in three locations throughout the trench, which proved that they are natural in origin. One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (302) in Trench 3.

No features of archaeological origin were present within Trench 3.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the north-western corner of Area A, and was aligned east to west (Figure 3; Plate 8). The trench measured 20m in length by 2m in width.

The topsoil (401) within Trench 4 comprised soft and loose mid-grey very slightly silty sand. Frequent bioturbation in the form of grass roots and worm activity was frequent throughout this deposit. The thickness of the topsoil varied throughout the trench from 0.35m to 0.50m, creating an irregular and undulating boundary with the underlying subsoil (402), which was a mottled sand deposit of predominantly bright orange with irregular patches of pale grey and pale yellow sand. These patchy areas were investigated by hand at five locations throughout the trench, however these proved to be very irregular and undulating, and natural in origin. Numerous animal burrows were observed throughout this deposit.

No finds or features of archaeological origin were present within Trench 4.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the north-eastern corner of Area A, and was aligned north to south (Figure ; Plates 9-10). The trench measured 20m in length by 2m in width.

The topsoil (501) within Trench 5 comprised soft and loose mid-grey very slightly silty sand. Frequent bioturbation in the form of grass roots and worm activity was frequent throughout this deposit. The thickness of the topsoil varied throughout the trench from 0.45m to 0.60m, creating an undulating and merging boundary with the underlying superficial geology (502). This was a mottled deposit of orange, yellow and grey sand with very frequent animal burrows throughout. Three investigative slots into this deposit (502) determined that the colour changes within the deposit were natural in origin.

No finds or features of archaeological origin were present within Trench 5.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Archaeological evidence was scarce across the site; the only archaeological features recorded were within Trench 1, at the southern end of the site. These comprised an equine burial and square cut feature of uncertain function, although both of these are considered to be fairly modern in origin. All of the trenches displayed comparable stratigraphy, with grey sandy topsoil directly sealing a mottled sand subsoil that comprised the natural superficial geology. The mottled nature of the subsoil was investigated within every trench to confirm that the colour variations with the deposit were due to natural processes, and in all cases it was confirmed to be so. The highly mottled nature of the superficial geology is likely partly due to the natural depositional process, and also post-depositional actions such as bioturbation, aquaturbation and cryoturbation.

The single sherd of pottery recovered from the subsoil within Trench 3 dates to the medieval period, and reflects background activity within the area.

7. REFERENCES

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Powell-Smith, A. n.d. *Open Domesday* website, data created by Professor J.J.N. Palmer and team. Accessed March 2020. <<https://opendomesday.org/place/SE7806/belton/>>

Historic OS mapping viewed at the Old Maps website: <<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/>> and the National Library of Scotland website: <<https://maps.nls.uk/>>

PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east. Scales 1m



Plate 2: Equine burial [103] in Trench 1. Looking west/oblique, scale 1m



Plate 3: Feature [105] in Trench 1. Looking west/oblique, scale 1m



Plate 4: Trench 2, looking south. Scales 1m



Plate 5: Investigative sondage into the natural deposit (202) in Trench 2. Looking south, scale 1m



Plate 6: Trench 3, looking south. Scales 1m



Plate 7: Investigative sondage into the natural deposit (302) in Trench 3. Looking north, scale 1m



Plate 8: Trench 4, looking west. Scales 1m

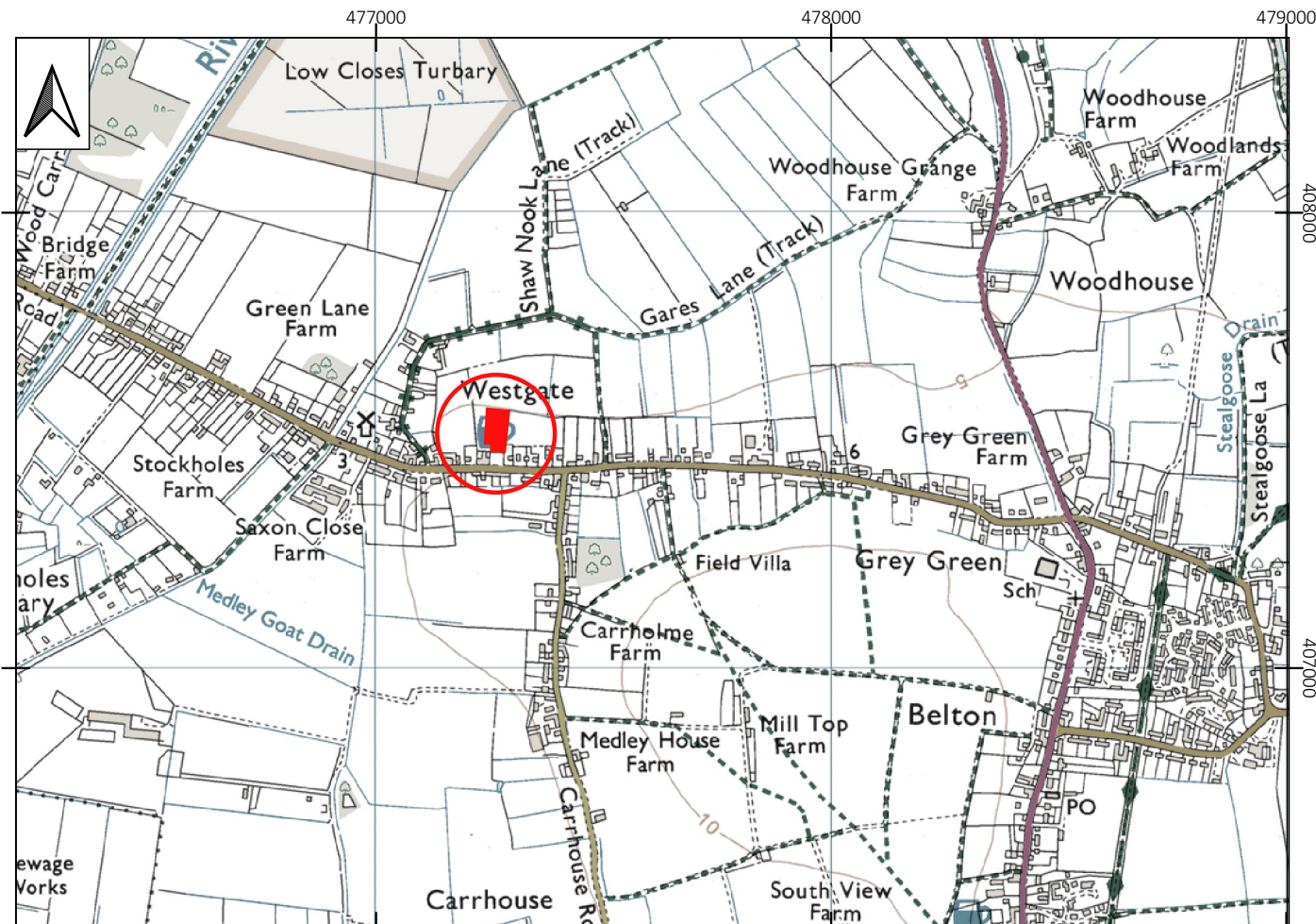


Plate 9: Trench 5, looking east. Scales 1m



Plate 10: Investigative sondage into the natural deposit (502) in Trench 5. Looking northeast, scale 1m

FIGURES



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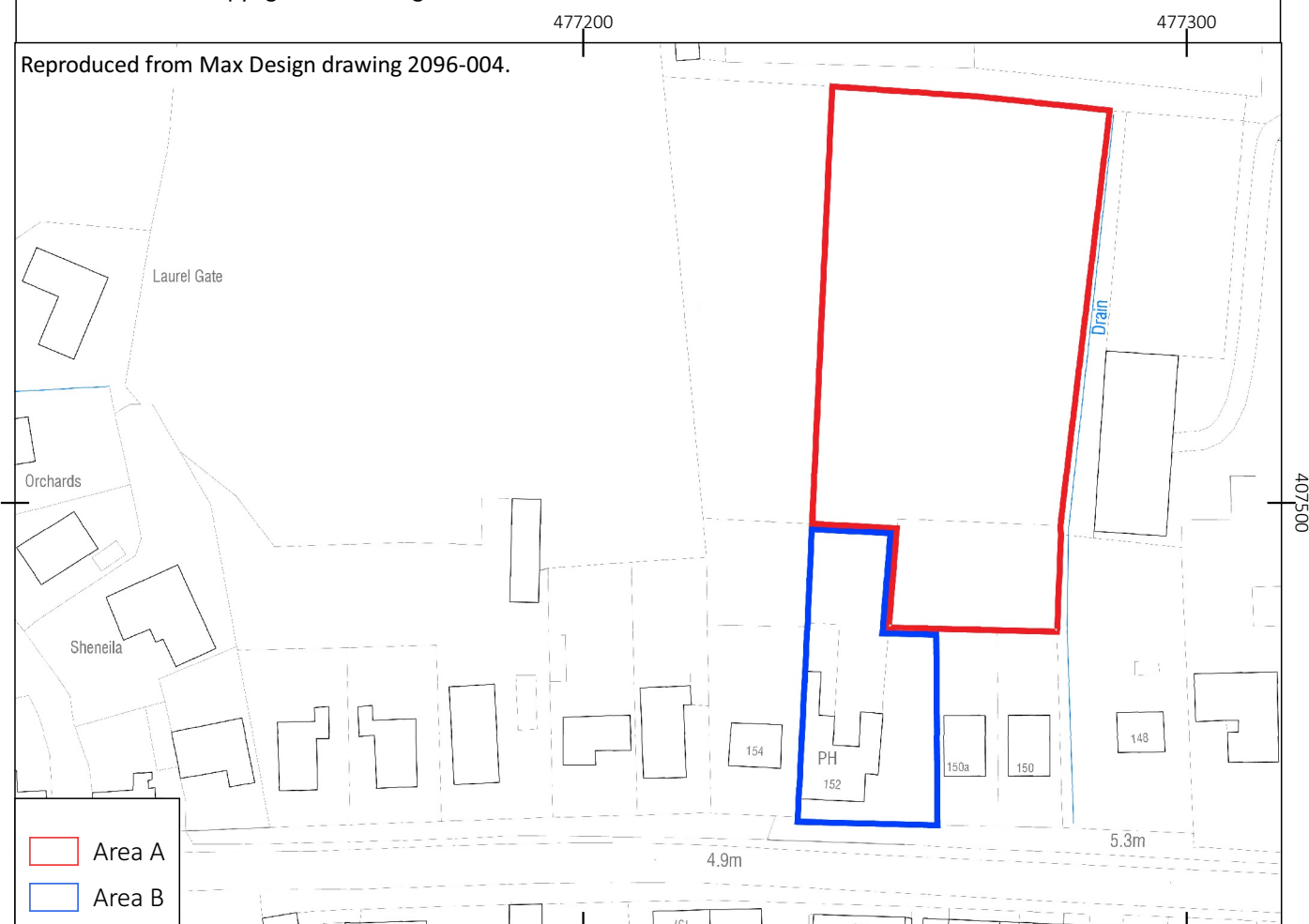
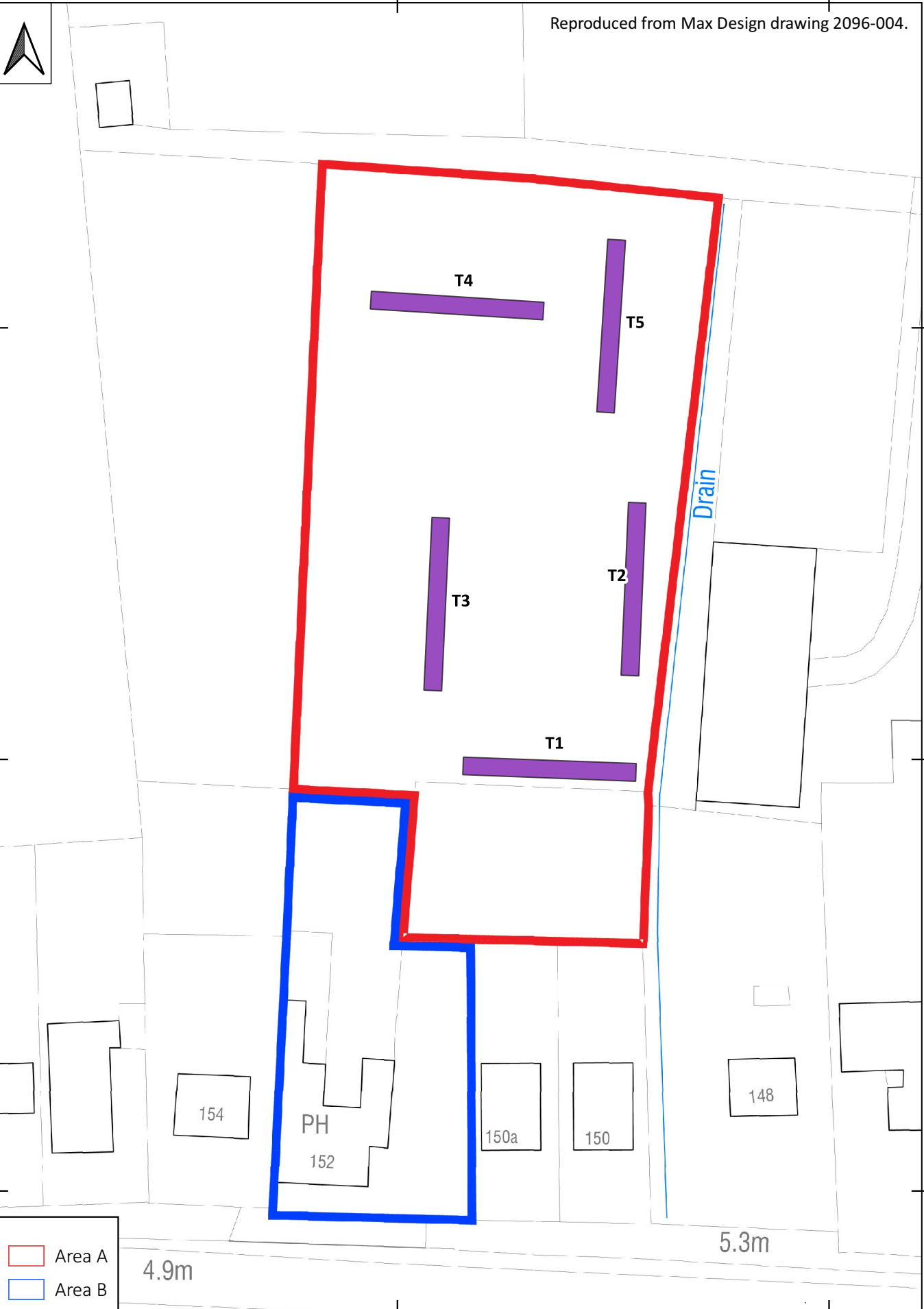


Figure 1: Site location

477250

477300

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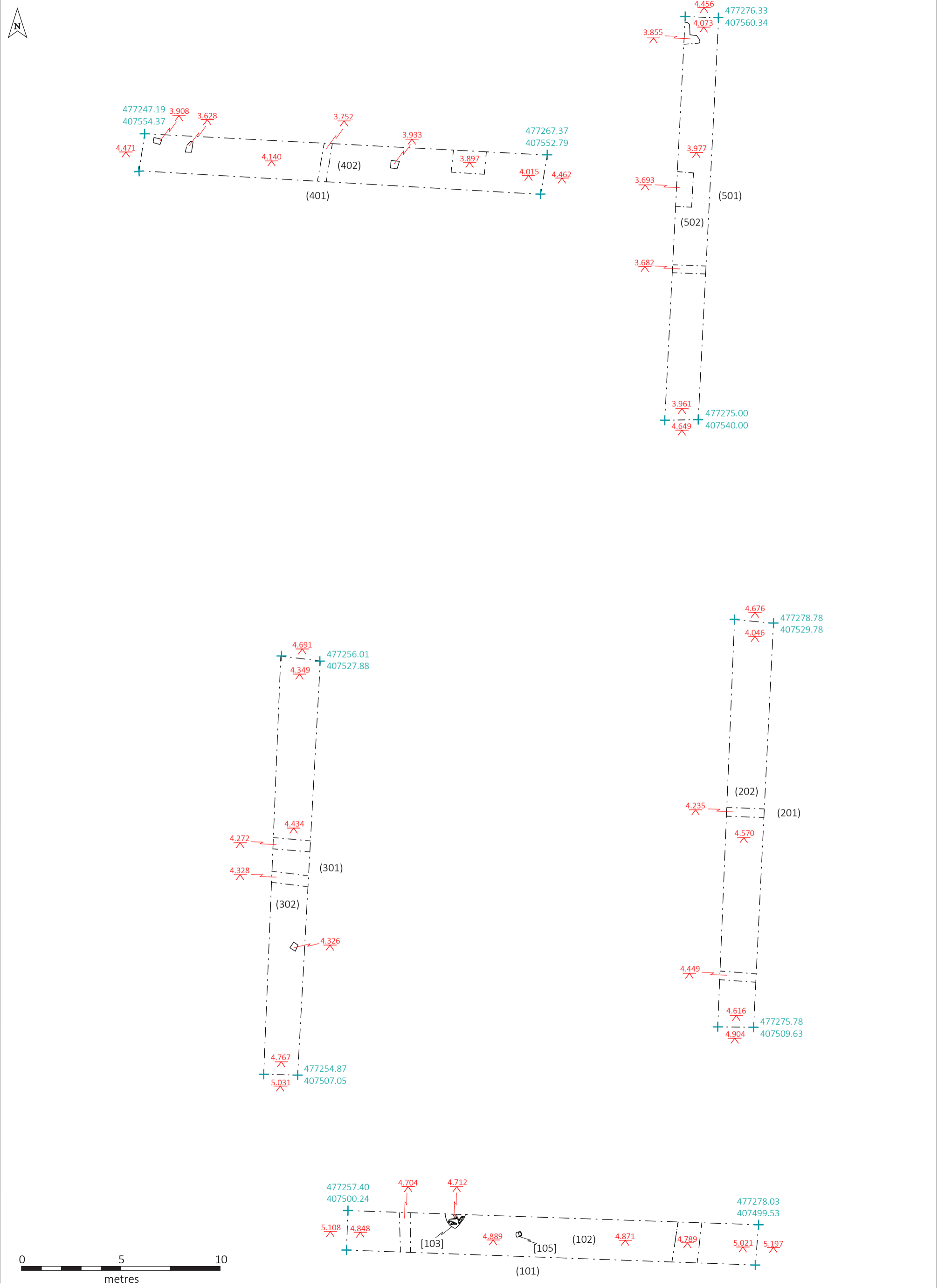


- Area A
- Area B

4.9m

5.3m

Figure 2: Trench location plan



APPENDIX 1: INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Quantity
Context registers	1
Context sheets	14
Photo register	1
Photos (digital)	1 disc
Negatives (black & white film)	1 film
Report	2 copies

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Trench	Context no	Description
1	101	Topsoil
1	102	Natural geology
1	103	Cut for equine burial
1	104	Fill of [103], include equine skeleton
1	105	Cut of small square feature
1	106	Fill of [105]
2	201	Topsoil
2	202	Natural geology
3	301	Topsoil
3	302	Natural geology
4	401	Topsoil
4	402	Natural geology
5	501	Topsoil
5	502	Natural geology

APPENDIX 3: FINDS ASSESSMENT

Pottery

Anne Jenner, York Archaeological Trust

One sherd of pot was recovered from the subsoil deposit (302) in Trench 3. Rapid assessment determined that this is most likely medieval in date, and possibly made in the Humber/East Yorkshire region. The sherd, of 50g weight, is a body sherd with a grey interior and an orange exterior.



Plate 11: Medieval pottery sherd

No further work is recommended on this assemblage.

Horseshoes

Laura Trafford and Ceiridwen Blakesley, ArchHeritage

Two iron horseshoes were recovered from a partially exposed equine burial within Trench 1. The details are outlined in the Table 1, below.

Table 1: Assessment of horse shoes recovered from context (104), Trench 1

Context	Location	Max. width	Base width	Max. height	Notes
104	Front right	11cm	6.5cm	11cm	Remains of hoof adhered to upper right bearing surface
104	Front left	11cm	7cm	11.5cm	Remains of hoof adhered to upper right bearing surface

The shoes were recovered from the front legs of an articulated equine skeleton, and both contained heavy surface rusting. The remains of the hooves were present on the bearing surface of each shoe. Due to the heavy surface rusting, each shoe was x-rayed in order to see the detail more clearly (Plate 12). This showed that the nail-holes of the shoes are arranged in a three/three pattern, and are neatly squared. The neat, rectangular nail-holes would indicate a fairly recent date; horseshoes of Norman or early medieval date tend to have rounder nail-holes with large countersinking, often causing the edge of the shoe to become wavy and uneven. Rectangular nail-holes were not common until the later medieval period, however, the nail-hole arrangement in the later medieval period was commonly four/four (Clark 1986). The three/three nail arrangement and the neat form of the shoes in general and also of the nail-holes would indicate that these shoes post-date the later medieval period, and are likely to be fairly modern in origin.

No further work is recommended for this assemblage. It is not recommended that this assemblage is retained for inclusion in the site archive.

References

Clark, J. 1986. Medieval Horseshoes. Find Research Group 700-1700: Datasheet 4.

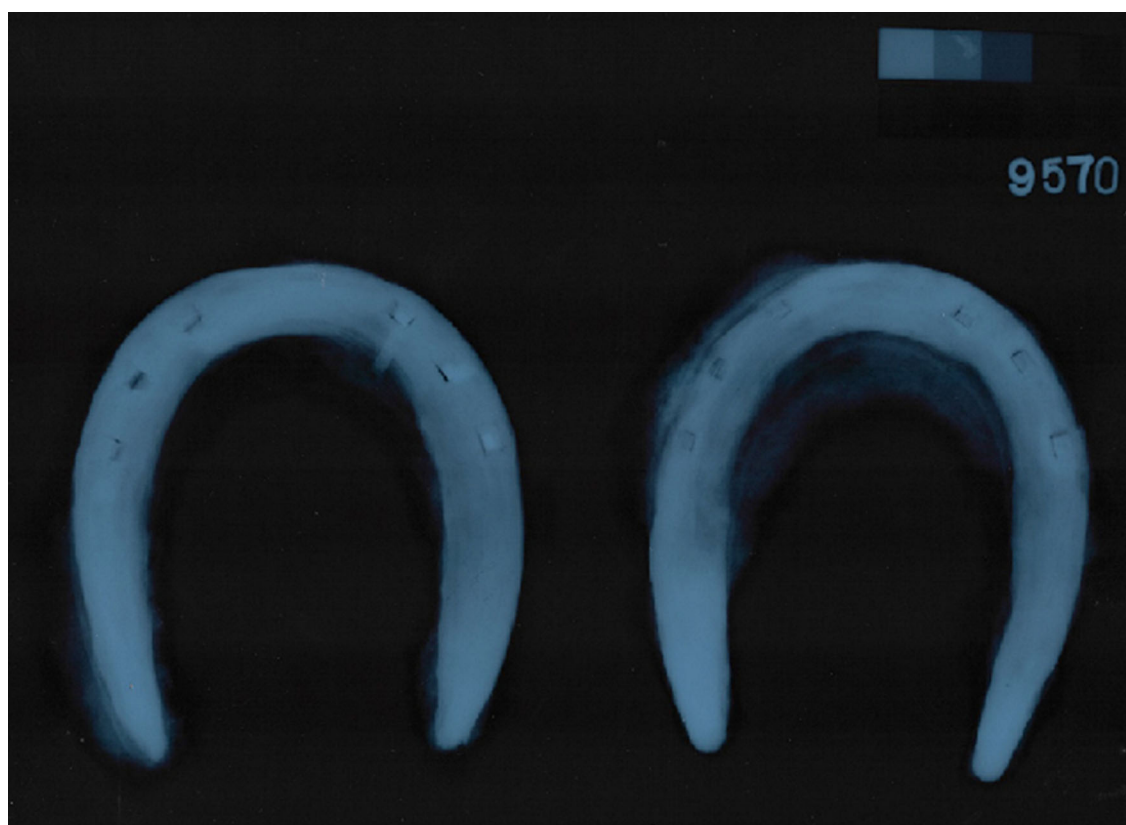


Plate 12: X-ray of the horseshoes recovered from the equine burial (104) in Trench 1

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM DETAILS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archerit1-422575

Project details

Project name	Wheatsheaf, Belton
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was completed by ArcHeritage at a site to the rear of 152 Westgate, Belton, North Lincolnshire, between 19th and 23rd April 2021. The trenches were excavated in a former paddock/ garden area to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, which fronts the northern side of Westgate. Several other archaeological investigations have taken place along Westgate in recent years, within the vicinity of the site; taking into consideration the results of these works, this site was considered to have potential for significant archaeological remains associated with Roman and medieval settlement, and burials. As such, this work was required by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in order to form part of the supporting information for a planning application for residential development on the site. Five trenches were excavated, each measuring 20m by 2m. A young horse or pony burial was recorded in one of the trenches, along with one small square feature of uncertain function. Both of these features are considered to be relatively modern. In addition, one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil in one of the trenches. No other archaeological finds or features were observed or recorded within the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2021 End: 23-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2864 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BLDQ - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	ANIMAL BURIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HORSESHOE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE BELTON Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Belton
Postcode	DN9 1QB
Study area	3670 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 7725 0751 53.558273967995 -0.8336766698019 53 33 29 N 000 50 01 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 Glyn Davies
Project supervisor Laura Strafford
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID BLDQ
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Archaeology Data Service
Digital Contents "Survey"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museums Service
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Project bibliography 1

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APPENDIX 5: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**The Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Belton: Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

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Key Project Information

Project name	Wheatsheaf, Belton
Report title	The Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Belton: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Report status	Draft
ArcHeritage Project No.	2864
Client	North Lincs Property Ltd
Planning Reference	PA/2020/1417
NGR	SE 7725 0751
Author	Rowan May
Illustrations	Rowan May
Editor	Glyn Davies
Report Number and Date	2021/12 19 th March 2021
Version and filename	Version 1: Wheatsheaf Belton eval WSI v1.doc

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Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of recorded heritage assets

Figure 3: Proposed trench locations

Figure 4: Proposed development layout with trench locations

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. ArcHeritage have been commissioned by North Lincs Properties to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at a site to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, 152 Westgate Road, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2. The evaluation will form part of the supporting information for a planning application for residential development. No previous archaeological works have been undertaken at the site.
- 1.3. A comment on the planning proposal by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) states that:

The site has potential for significant archaeological remains associated with Roman and medieval settlement, and burials; archaeological field evaluation comprising the excavation of sample trenches is therefore required pre-determination in accordance with NPPF, 189..
- 1.4. The archaeological evaluation will comply with relevant Historic England best practice guidance documents, and with the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

- 2.1. The site comprises land to the rear of the Wheatsheaf Hotel public house at 152 Westgate, Belton, North Lincolnshire (centred on NGR SE 7725 0751; Figure 1). The majority of the site is a field or paddock in grass coverage, whilst the southeast part of the site is currently a tarmac-covered car parking area.
- 2.2. The underlying bedrock is the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed in the Triassic period. Superficial deposits in the northern part of the site are recorded as Hemingbrough Glaciolacustrine Formation laminated silty clays, formed between 116-11.8 kya during the Devensian stage of the Quaternary period. In the southern part of the site, the superficial deposits are recorded as fine-grained silty sands of the Sutton Sand Formation, a wind-blown sand deposit formed between 116 kya and the present (BGS 2020).

3. DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1. The proposed development site does not contain any designated heritage assets and is not located in a Conservation Area. The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) records three grade II listed buildings within 1km of the site: the Mill Tower at the Windmill, Westgate (NHLE 1084348) lies 250m to the northwest of the site, and a farmhouse and barn to the north of Fern Cottage, Carrhouse Road (NHLE 1083292) lies 180m to the southeast. Further to the southeast is Sailgates Farm, also known as Mill Top Farm (NHLE 1083295). No other designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens) lie within 1km of the site.
- 3.2. The site lies within the Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape, which is designated as an Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest, protected by Policy LC14 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1. This rapid summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site is based on data from North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, the National Heritage List for England, the HER officer's comments on the planning proposal, a Heritage Statement prepared by Mark Simmonds Planning Services (2020), and other online sources. References prefixed MLS or ELS

refer to HER records. A 1km search area was used to assess the archaeological and historical context of the site. The locations of heritage assets mentioned in the text are shown on Figure 2, and a summary gazetteer is contained in Appendix 1.

- 4.2. The Isle of Axholme comprises a raised outcrop of Mercia Mudstone, surrounded by lower-lying land, much of which was historically wetland. During the last Ice Age, the glacial Lake Humber is likely to have extended into the northern edge of the site at its maximum extent. From the early Mesolithic to late Neolithic periods (c.8000 BC to 2900 BC), the landscape was largely one of meandering rivers bounded by comparatively dry ground (Miller 1998, 25). In the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (2900 to 1600 BC), sea level rises and progressive infilling of the channels caused the spread of wetlands across the lower-lying ground, and the formation of peat. During the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods, transient or seasonal hunter-gatherer groups were present within the vicinity, as indicated by finds of stone tools (lithics) in the area between 500m and 1km from the site. Such finds have been recovered from organised fieldwalking to the north of Gares Lane, northeast of the site (MLS19978), and in the area to the east, southeast and southwest of Hill Top Farm (MLS922, MLS17365 and MLS19906).
- 4.3. Evidence for mid-Bronze Age to Iron Age (1200 BC to AD 43) activity has not been recorded within the search area, but this was generally a period of increasing settlement and agriculture. The expansion of farming and drainage during the Roman period (AD 43 to 450) is documented within the wider Isle of Axholme landscape, and a recent evaluation to the southeast of the site recorded ditches that were probably associated with land divisions and drainage, containing pottery of late Iron Age to Roman date (ELS4361; ASWYAS 2018), indicating the potential for associated settlement in the vicinity. Other recorded Roman remains within 1km of the site are largely surface finds of pottery and part of a bronze figurine in fields to the northeast and southeast of the site (MLS19977, MLS19989-19980, MLS17534, MLS19905 & MLS19907). An amphora handle was recovered during a watching brief at Green Lane Farm, to the northwest of the site (MLS20120), but was not associated with any features.
- 4.4. Two early medieval chance finds have been recorded from Belton Fields to the southeast of the site, a single pottery sherd and a strap-end (MLS22817 & MLS19307). A manor and fairly substantial settlement at Belton had been established by the time of the Norman Conquest, and was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Powell-Smith n.d.). Medieval Belton was a polyfocal settlement with several separate hamlets, including Westgate, where occupation appears to have been focused around Green Lane and the junction of Westgate (MLS7166). Large open fields were situated around the settlement. The site lies within an area of Early Enclosed Land, comprising amalgamated blocks of strips from open field that were consolidated into closes around the fringes of settlement. Such closes were used for stock-keeping and mixed agriculture, and could date from the late medieval to early post-medieval periods. These fields tend to have sinuous boundaries preserving the ploughing curve of the former cultivated strips. Medieval pottery sherds have been found within the 1km search area during fieldwalking events (MLS17534, MLS19905 & MLS19907), and two large pits containing pottery of 13th- to 14th-century date were recorded in the 2018 evaluation to the south of Westgate Road (ELS4361). Cropmarks that may represent retting pits (used for the processing of flax) have been recorded to the southwest and northeast of the site (MLS10558, MLS20217 & MLS22545), and could date to the medieval or post-medieval periods.
- 4.5. Excavations for house foundations at The Smithy, Green Lane, in 1998 encountered human remains from at least two inhumations, and further investigation suggested that these had been buried in an orderly manner in coffins. A small evaluation was carried out at the site by the University of Sheffield, recovering further human remains. One of the skeletons was radiocarbon dated to the 15th century. It has been theorised that the burials may have been from a cemetery associated with an undocumented chapel (MLS19599).

- 4.6. Parts of two skeletons of unknown date were recorded in close proximity to the application site in 2014, in the southern part of the former car park of the Wheatsheaf Hotel (MLS24713) during the excavation of foundations for new houses. These were not archaeologically recorded, but were considered by the police forensic inspector to be 'ancient'. It has been theorised that these may also be medieval in date; however, given that they were found c.250m to the southeast of the Green Lane cemetery, it seems unlikely that they are directly associated. The burials could therefore be earlier or later in date. Another find of human remains made during foundation excavations (MLS19676) is thought to have been located at the north end of Carrhouse Road, c.140m to the southeast of the site. This single adult skeleton was again not archaeologically recorded, and its exact location, burial context and date are unknown.
- 4.7. Areas of former peat cuttings, known as turbaries, are recorded at the north and southwest sides of the search area (MLS17743, MLS22807), adjacent to the River Torne. Peat may have been cut in these areas from the medieval period onwards, with the turbaries formalised at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure, to compensate villagers for the loss of open commons. Post-medieval (1540-1901) heritage assets recorded within the 1km search area include a converted smithy and the site of a former smithy to the southeast of the site (MLS27372 & MLS22373), a preserved windmill tower (MLS10416, NHLE108438) and the sites of three further windmills (MLS21965, MLS21919-20), converted and demolished Methodist chapels (MLS17324 and MLS22374), and the two listed farmhouses (MLS10091/NHLE 1083292 & MLS10413/NHLE 1083295). A number of other unlisted farmhouses and farmstead sites have been recorded on the HER from a recent study, but are not included in this summary as they have no impact on the archaeological potential of the site.
- 4.8. Cropmarks within the 1km search area include the possible retting pits mentioned above, and also several fragmentary linear and curvilinear features that could relate to former field or enclosure boundaries of uncertain date (MLS2100, MLS20217 and MLS20915). Some of these could relate to boundaries shown on 19th-century mapping.
- 4.9. The 1886 1st edition OS 25 inch: 1 mile map shows the site as part of a larger L-shaped field with slightly curving boundaries. The Wheatsheaf Inn was within a separate enclosure fronting onto Westgate. This layout was unchanged in 1956 and was little altered by 1971, when two small structures, possibly sheds, were shown in the southeast part of the field. Google Earth aerial imagery from 2003 shows the majority of the site as part of a field in rough grass coverage, separated from a cultivated area to the north that had previously been part of the same field. A square enclosure was shown within the southeast side of the field, possibly a playground associated with the pub, with a car park to the immediate south of the site, east of the pub. In 2008, a larger playground enclosure covered the width of the site to the north of the pub and car park, and a fence had been established along the northern site boundary. By 2015, two houses were being constructed in the pub car park, and a new tarmac surfaced car park had been laid out to the north, in the southern part of the application site. The 2019 imagery showed a new boundary along the west side of the site.
- 4.10. The recorded archaeology within the 1km search area suggests that there is the potential for the presence of remains associated with Roman and medieval activity within the site. There is also the possibility for the presence of burials of uncertain date. The trial trench evaluation will provide information on the presence and nature of sub-surface archaeology, and will enable an assessment of the significance of any such remains to be made.

5. AIMS

5.1. The aims of the trial trenching are to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. General aims are:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present;
- to characterise the nature and origin of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey;
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and allow an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made;
- to provide information to enable the local authority to decide any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site.

5.2. Specific aims are:

- To investigate whether remains associated with Roman or medieval activity are present within the site;
- To establish whether human remains are present within the site, and to record the nature of the burial context and likely date of such remains.

6. TECHNIQUES

6.1. The recording will comprise the following elements:

- Trial trenching
- Reporting

6.2. Further stages of work or other mitigation measures could be required by the local authority, depending upon the results of the evaluation.

7. TRIAL TRENCHES

7.1. The site is approximately 3670m² (0.37ha) in area. The trial trenches will follow a grid pattern approach to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. It is proposed that five 20m x 2m trenches are excavated within the paddock area, comprising 200m² in total, and investigating just over a 5% sample of the site. Most of the trenches have been targeted on areas likely to be most disturbed by the proposed development (see Table 1), and their locations are shown on Figures 3 and 4. It is not planned to excavate a trench within the current area of tarmac car park, as the proposed development does not involve construction in this area, although there is likely to be some excavation for the insertion of services and possibly landscaping.

Table 1: Trench rationale

Trench	Rationale	Size (m)
1	To investigate the archaeological potential in the area immediately north of the car park, and to ascertain whether burials continue into this area.	20 x 2
2	To investigate the archaeological potential within the proposed access road along the eastern side of the site.	20 x 2

Trench	Rationale	Size (m)
3	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of proposed houses in Plots 1-4 in the southwest part of the site.	20 x 2
4	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of proposed houses in Plots 6-9 at the northwest side of the site.	20 x 2
5	To investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed house in Plot 10 at the northeast side of the site.	20 x 2

- 7.2. The trench locations will be accurately plotted using a survey grade GPS. All measurements will be accurate to +/-10cm, and the trenches will be locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. This is to ensure that the trenches can be independently relocated in the event of future work.
- 7.3. Topsoil will be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment will be used judiciously under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever appears first. If archaeology is present, machining will cease and excavation will normally proceed by hand. Machines will not be used to cut arbitrary sondages down to natural deposits.
- 7.4. All trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable potential archaeological features to be identified and recorded. Trenches without archaeological features will be recorded as sterile and no further work will take place in these areas. The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded on trench record sheets even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 7.5. A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to establish the aims of the evaluation.
- 7.6. Discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance.
- 7.7. Linear features will be sample excavated (to a minimum of 20% of their length) with each sample being not less than 1m in length.
- 7.8. Deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated to allow relationships to be determined.
- 7.9. Structures will be sample excavated to a degree whereby their extent, nature, form, date, function and relationships to other features and deposits can be established.
- 7.10. If human remains are encountered, it is proposed that these are recorded and left *in situ*, unless their removal is necessitated due to unforeseen circumstances, including site security. No remains will be removed without first obtaining a Burials Licence from the Ministry of Justice.

8. RECORDING METHODOLOGY

- 8.1. All archaeological features and deposits 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.
- 8.2. 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. Sections will be recorded for each trench at an appropriate scale, usually 1:20.

- 8.3. Photogrammetry from digital photography may also be used to record trenches. Photogrammetric images will be scaled, drawn up and combined with survey and plan data to produce the drawn site record.
- 8.4. 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.
- 8.5. 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. In addition, 35mm colour slides will be taken where colour is a significant consideration. Digital photography will be used in addition for reporting purposes, but will not form any part of the formal site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.
- 8.6. 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.
- 8.7. 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.
- 8.8. 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.
- 8.9. A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains, where suitable deposits are identified. 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 20 litre sample size will be used (if the context size allows). These samples will be processed in the laboratory, to recover macrofossils 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).
- 8.10. Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArchHeritage specialists and the Historic England Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.
- 8.11. In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. It is not intended to remove human remains, but their presence, condition and location will be recorded *in situ* prior to backfilling the trench. If the removal of human remains is necessary this will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice, and the issuing of a burial licence.
- 8.12. Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment if these can be moved without disturbing any burials.
- 8.13. Where a burial licence is issued by the Ministry of Justice, 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.

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 will 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 (2020), Brown (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 and relevant fabric codes will be used, including the North Lincolnshire Museum type series (medieval and Roman), and City of Lincoln fabric codes for Roman pottery (Darling and Precious 2014).
- 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 application of will be decided in consultation with the local authority's archaeology advisor.

10. REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 10.1. Upon completion of the site work, an evaluation report will be prepared to include the following:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
 - 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.
 - 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 this 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 bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted direct to North Lincolnshire Council's archaeology advisors for planning purposes, and subsequently for inclusion into the HER.

11. POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

- 11.1. The information contained in the evaluation report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.
- 11.2. If further archaeological investigations (mitigation) take place, any further analyses (as recommended by the specialists and following agreement with the archaeology advisor for North Lincolnshire Council) may be incorporated into the post-excavation stage of the mitigation programme, unless such analyses are required to provide information to enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. **Such analysis will form a new piece of work to be commissioned which will require an updated WSI.**
- 11.3. In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the evaluation may be required by the archaeology advisor for North Lincolnshire Council. **Where this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned which will require an updated WSI.**
- 11.4. If further site works do not take place, allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in an appropriate local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location of and material held within the site archive.

12. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 12.1. 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 North Lincolnshire Museums Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer. The Museum's curator will be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results. The preparation of the archive will be undertaken with reference to the ClfA Archive Selection Toolkit.

- 12.2. The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority 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.
- 12.3. Deposition of the field archive will occur after the assessment report in the event that no further mitigation is required. If mitigation and/or post-excavation analysis and publication are required, the archive deposition will follow that phase.
- 12.4. Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://oasis.ac.uk/form>.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 13.1. Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 13.2. A site-specific risk assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

14. PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. The client will provide ArcHeritage with up-to-date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.
- 14.3. The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to ArcHeritage prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 14.4. Prior to commencement of fieldwork, the contractor will contact North Lincolnshire Museum Service to notify them of the project and obtain a site code.

15. REINSTATEMENT

- 15.1. Following excavation and recording, the spoil from the trenches will be backfilled, unless requested otherwise. The backfill material will be levelled and compressed as far as possible with the mechanical excavator bucket, but will not be compressed to a specification. ArcHeritage are not responsible for reinstating any surfaces unless specifically commissioned by the client who will provide a suitable specification for the work.

16. STAFFING

- 16.1. Specialist staff available for this project are:
 - Human remains – Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)

- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy
- Geoarchaeology – Kristina Krawiec (Trent and Peak Archaeology)
- Head of Curatorial Services – Christine McDonnell
- Roman Pottery – Ian Rowlandson and David Griffiths
- Medieval pottery – Jane Young and Anne Jenner
- Post-medieval pottery – David Barker and Richard Jackson
- Archaeometallurgy & industrial residues – Rod Mackenzie
- Conservation – Ian Panter

16.2. Other specialist staff may be commissioned as necessary.

17. MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 17.1. As a minimum requirement, North Lincolnshire Council’s archaeology advisor 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.
- 17.2. ArcHeritage will notify the council’s archaeologist of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that additional site visits, or virtual monitoring, can be undertaken. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with North Lincolnshire Council’s archaeology advisor.

18. PROJECT TIMETABLE

18.1. An indicative timetable for the phases of work is given below. The start date is currently not confirmed, and the timescales may be refined over the course of the fieldwork. Any changes to the timetable will be agreed with North Lincolnshire Council’s archaeology advisor.

Phase	Item	Start	Complete
Fieldwork	Evaluation fieldwork	19 th April 2021	23 rd April 2021
Assessment	Post-excavation assessment Assessment report circulated for comment	26 th April 2021	28 th May 2021

- 18.2. The timetable for any post-excavation analysis and publication will depend on any requirements for such works.
- 18.3. Archiving will be completed within three months of the completion of all archaeological works relating to the site’s evaluation.

19. KEY REFERENCES

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Neal, V., and D. Watkinson (eds). 1998. *First Aid for Finds: Practical Guide for Archaeologists*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.

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

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

20. FIGURES

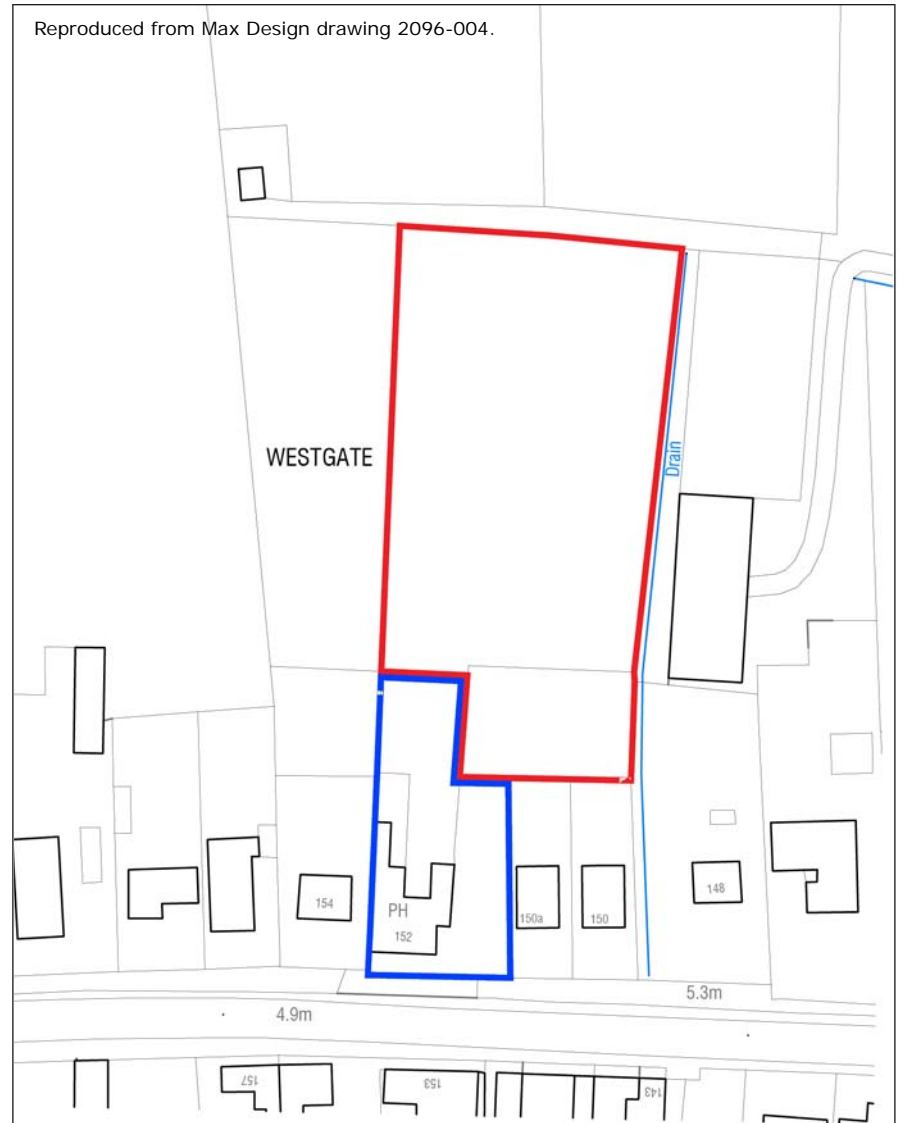
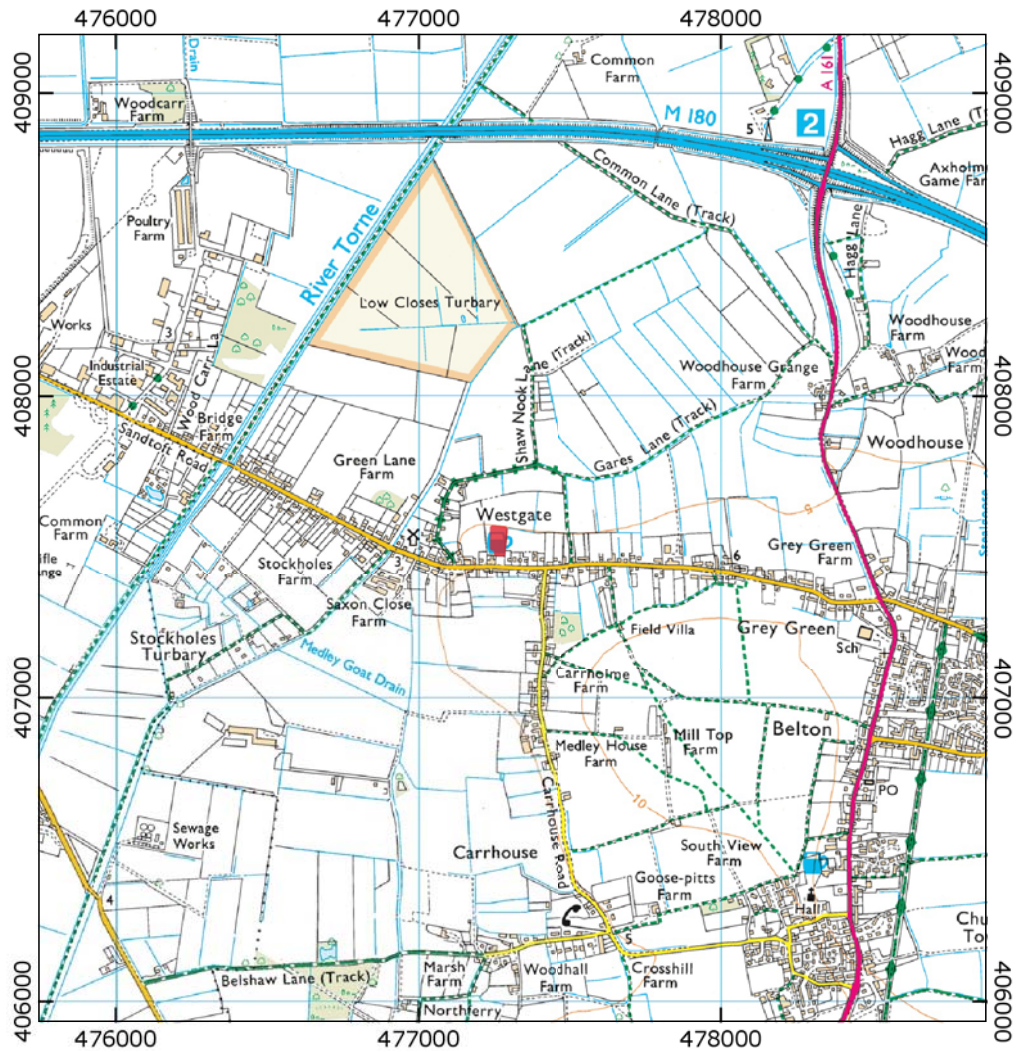


Figure 1: Site location

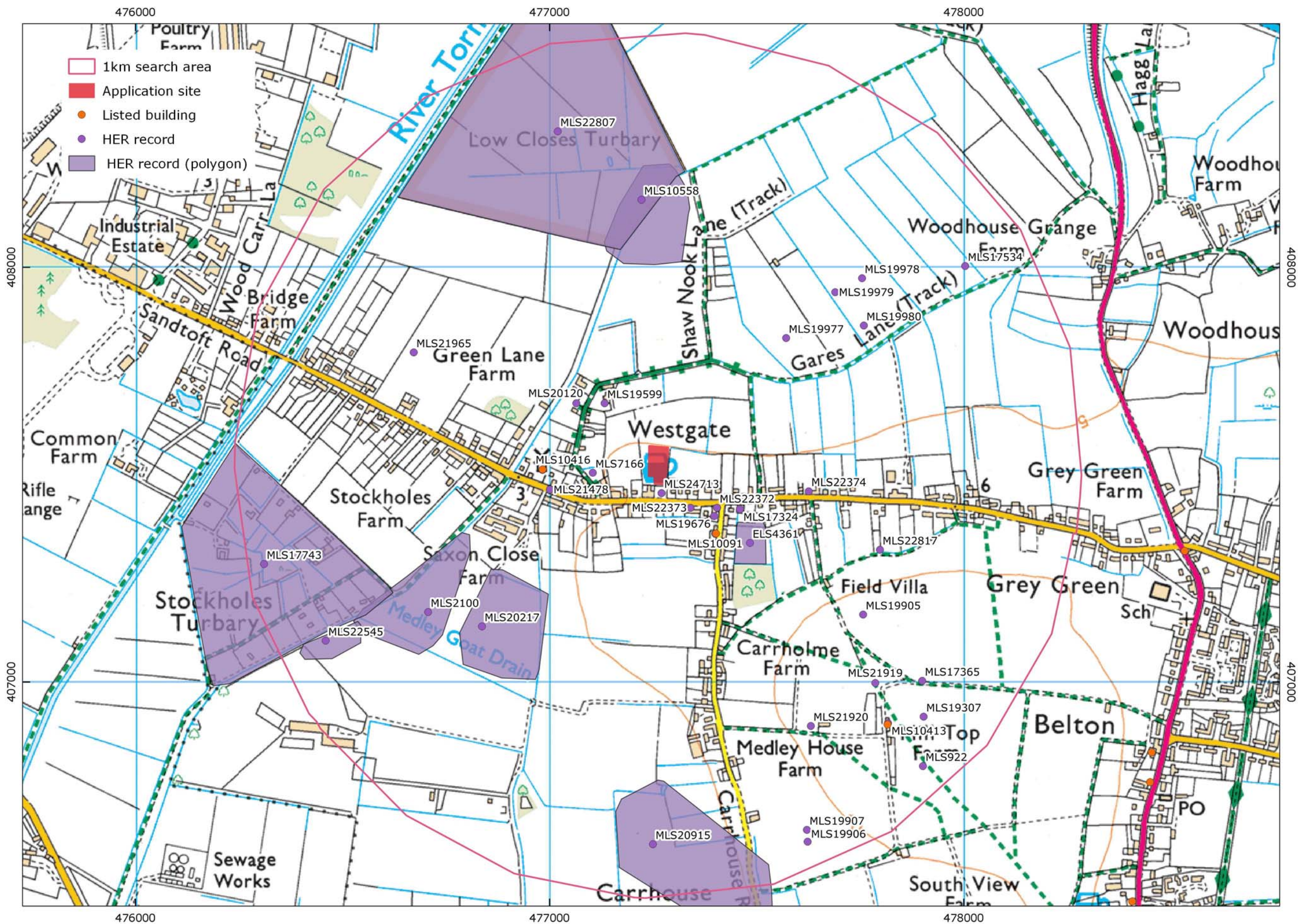


Figure 2: Location of recorded heritage assets

Base plan reproduced from Max Design drawing 2096-004.

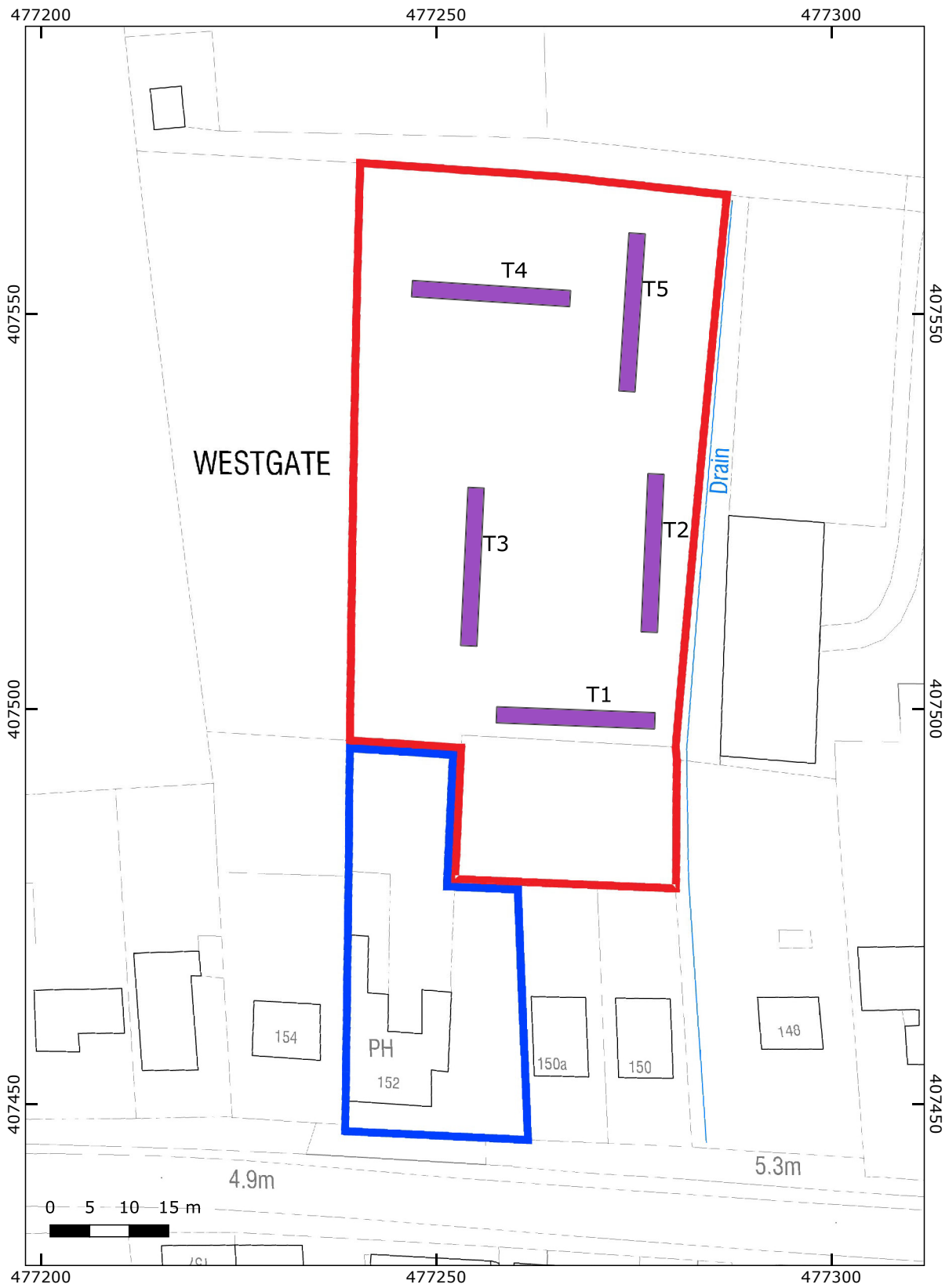


Figure 3: Proposed trench locations

Reproduced from Max Design drawing 2096-001.



Trenches overlain on proposed development

Figure 4: Proposed development layout with trench locations

21. APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS

This table presents a gazetteer of heritage assets within 1km of the site, based on information from the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. Asset locations are shown on Figure 2.

HER ref	Name	Summary	NGR
ELS4361	Trial trench evaluation at Westgate Road, Belton, 2018	Ten trenches in fields to the south of Westgate Rd and east of Carrhouse Rd identified ditch features appearing to be associated with Romano-British land divisions and drainage. Two large pits contained medieval pottery (C13-14).	SE 775 073
MLS10091	Farmhouse & barn north of Fern Cottage, Carrhouse Rd	GII late C18-early C19 farmhouse and barn. Yellow-brown brick, pantile roof, rectangular in plan. The best and least altered example of the small combined farmhouse/barn found in the Axholme area.	SE 774 073
MLS10413	Sailgates Farmhouse & adjoining stable/granary, Northcroft	GII farmhouse and adjoining stable/granary ranges, late C18 with later minor alterations. Red-brown brick, pantile roofs. Also known as Mill Top Farm.	SE 778 069
MLS10416	Mill tower at the Windmill, Westgate	GII windmill tower, now part of house. Early 19th century with late 20th-century alterations. Shown on 1886 & 1907 OS maps, converted to engine power in 1930s, operated until 1960.	SE 769 075
MLS10558	Retting pits, Low Closes Turbary	A row of slight hollows, possibly retting pits, visible on aerial photographs.	SE 772 081
MLS17324	Former Primitive Methodist Chapel, Westgate Road	A Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1868 and closed in 1965. It has since been altered.	SE 774 074
MLS17365	Mesolithic flint waste, southeast of Field Villa	Findspots of a core and three blade-like flakes, of Mesolithic date. Includes Till A and Lower Chalk flint. Humber Wetland Survey.	SE 779 070
MLS17534	Roman and medieval pottery finds north of Gares Lane	A findspot of Roman and medieval pottery was noted by the Isle of Axholme field team in 1988. The original source of information is unknown.	SE 780 080
MLS17743	Stockholes Turbary	A low-lying area used for peat cutting since the medieval era. In the 19th century, smallholders built many small cottages, some of which survive.	SE 763 072
MLS19307	Findspot of an early medieval strapend, Mill Top	A 9th-century strapend decorated in the borre style, found at Mill Top Farm in 1998.	SE 779 069
MLS19599	Cemetery, Green Lane, Westgate	Fragmented remains of four adult individuals and some animal bones found in a foundation trench in 1998. Trial excavation by University of Sheffield in 1999, recording torso of an adult male, carbon dated to the 15th century. A nearby 2007 WB recorded only modern remains.	SE 771 076
MLS19676	Human remains, Carrhouse Road	A single adult skeleton was uncovered in the footings of a house extension in 1979, at a depth of 3ft. No archaeological involvement. The police considered the remains to be old. Local information suggests this was at the north end of Carrhouse Rd.	SE 7739 0740
MLS19905	Pottery finds from OS parcel 5555	Pottery found during CARP fieldwalking in 2000 included four medieval sherds, a 17th-century pipe bowl and 21 modern sherds.	SE 771 071
MLS19906	Flint finds from OS parcel 5566	Flints recovered during CARP fieldwalking in 2000 included five retouched flakes, three blades, fourdebitage. Included Late Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age material.	SE 7661 0662

HER ref	Name	Summary	NGR
MLS19907	Pottery finds from OS parcel 5566	Pottery found during CARP fieldwalking in 2000 included two Roman greyware sherds, 23 medieval, 35 post-medieval and 207 modern sherds, many of the latter from a disturbed dump.	SE 776 066
MLS19977	Pottery finds from OS parcel 4800	Pottery sherds found during CARP fieldwalking in 2001 included two Roman greyware sherds, one medieval sherd, 28 post-medieval and 231 modern sherds.	SE 775 078
MLS19978	Findspot of flint implements, OS parcel 7200	A flint blade (late Mesolithic), scraper and possible flint hammerstone (Neolithic to Bronze Age) were found during CARP fieldwalking in 2001.	SE 777 079
MLS19979	Roman statuette findspot, OS parcel 7200	The head and shoulders of a copper alloy figurine found during CARP fieldwalking in 2001. It is probably an unknown goddess. The 'bun' hairstyle suggests a mid-2nd century date.	SE 776 079
MLS19980	Pottery finds, OS parcel 7200	Pottery found during CARP fieldwalking in 2001 included a single Roman greyware sherd, three medieval sherds, 42 post-medieval and 163 modern sherds.	SE 777 078
MLS20120	Amphora handle, Green Lane Farm	A watching brief at Green Lane Farm in 2004 (HFA) found a Roman amphora handle (1st-3rd century AD), but no features.	SE 770 076
MLS20217	Retting pits, Westgate	Cropmarks of at least 50 rectangular pits (each approx 6x2m) likely to be retting pits. Some linear and curvilinear ditches appear to be contemporary.	SE 768 071
MLS20915	Cropmark field boundaries north of Carrhouse	Linear cropmarks that may represent field boundaries shown on the 1887 OS map.	SE 773 056
MLS2100	Cropmarks east of Folly Drain	A series of fragmentary cropmarks, including a possible boundary ditch and a small square enclosure, of uncertain date.	SE 766 072
MLS21478	Site of Evers Mansion, Westgate	According to Read's History of Axholme, a 'large hall' was built by the Evers family on Westgate in 1519, parts still standing c.1838. Later the property of the Ryther family. Location unknown.	SE 77 07
MLS21919	Site of a Windmill, Belton	A windmill is shown on OS mapping from 1820, 1886 and 1907.	SE 777 069
MLS21920	Site of a windmill, Belton	A windmill is shown on the 1820, 1886 and 1907 OS maps.	SE 776 068
MLS21965	Site of a windmill, Westgate	Mill shown on the OS surveyors' map of 1820.	SE 766 077
MLS22372	River Lodge (former Smithy), Westgate Road	A former smithy, extended upwards and converted into a house. It was shown on the 1886 OS map and possibly out of use by 1907.	SE 774 074
MLS22373	Site of a smithy on Westgate Road	A smithy was shown on the 1907 OS map, a P-shaped building butting against the road. The building was also extant on the 1886 OS map. Building demolished and site is now within front gardens.	SE 773 074
MLS22374	Site of a Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Westgate	A Methodist chapel was shown on the 1886 and 1907 OS maps. It is no longer extant and the site is now two private residences.	SE 776 074
MLS22545	Possible retting pits, south of Stockholes Turbary	Cropmarks comprising five dark oblongs with curved ends, between 12-60m long and 5-6m wide. Interpreted as peat cuttings but possibly retting pits for flax processing, though the length is unusual.	SE 764 071
MLS22807	Low Closes Turbary	Named as 'Big Turbary' on 1887 OS map. Turbary land was allocated to the parish to compensate for loss of open land at time of enclosure (1803).	SE 769 084
MLS22817	Findspot of Anglo-Saxon pottery, Belton Field	A single pottery sherd from Grey Green, Belton Field was found next to a footpath in 2013. Shell-tempered and identified as Mid- to Late Anglo-Saxon in date.	SE 778 073

HER ref	Name	Summary	NGR
MLS24713	Human remains at the Wheatsheaf, Westgate Road	Parts of two skeletons were uncovered during building work in the Wheatsheaf carpark in 2014. They had already been moved when examined by CSI. They were concluded to be ancient, possibly medieval like the remains at Green Lane.	SE 772 074
MLS7166	Westgate, medieval to post-medieval settlement	Westgate is shown as a settlement on the 1820 OS surveyors' map.	SE 771 075
MLS922	Flint flakes & blades east of Mill Top Farm	A small collection of lithics found in 1974, including two cores and 23 flakes of possible Mesolithic date. Till flint and Lower Chalk flint, 13 flakes are blade-like.	SE 779 068

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