

**LAND OFF PENNY GARDENS,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**



MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER: LCNCC: 2020.180

PLANNING REF: B/20/0310

OASIS ID: independ1-415602

SITECODE: PGKI20

NGR REF: TF 3040 3853

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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FEBRUARY 2021

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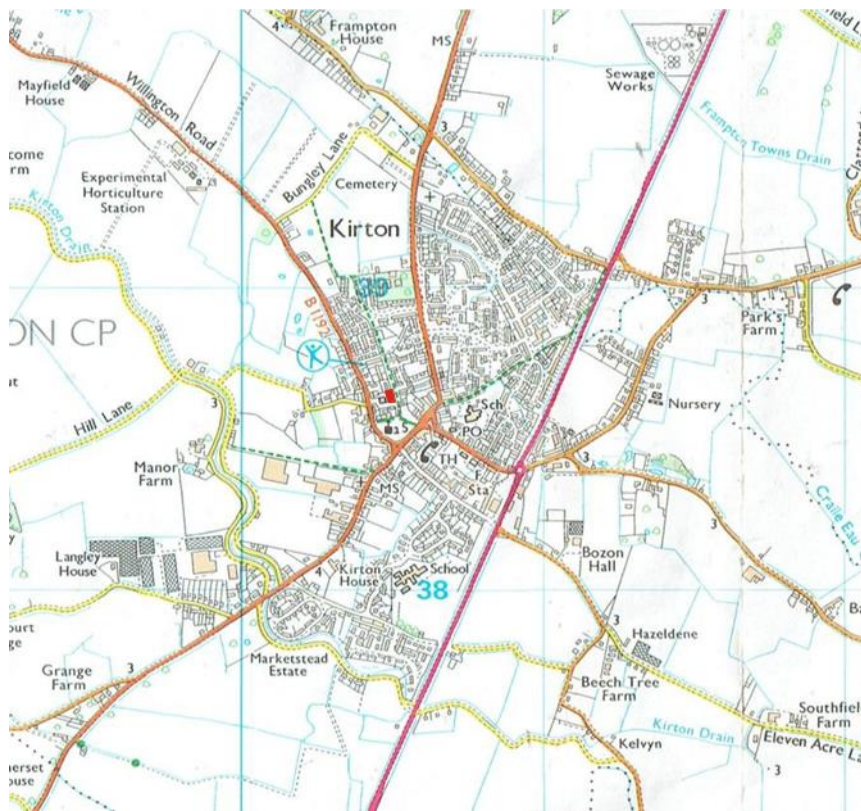
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Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new residential development on land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire. IAC was commissioned by the client to undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the construction.

None of the two evaluation trenches contained find or features of potentially archaeological interest, and both trenches were backfilled after the fieldworks had been completed.



Site Location Map (Produced with OS Licence Number 0100031673).

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new residential development comprising five new dwellings with associated access on land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire. The site works were carried out 4-5 February 2021. IAC was commissioned by the client to undertake the programme of archaeological works, which was linked to a planning condition for the site.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposed development site was located on land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire. The site was situated in the southwestern parts of the village. To the north and west of the site were existing residential areas while Penny Gardens was located to the east and south of the property.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The development site was situated on land off the western and northern frontages of Penny Gardens at National Grid Reference TF 3040 3853 and at a height of approximately 3m AOD. The village of Kirton is situated within the modern civil parish of the same name, in the administrative district of Boston Borough in the County of Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 The village of Kirton is situated on a slightly elevated area above that of the surrounding flat and low-lying Lincolnshire Fens. The development site was situated on deep stoneless silty and fine sandy soils of the Rockcliffe Series, which have developed upon deposits of marine alluvium. These deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clays of the Upper Jurassic (British Geological Survey).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application has been sent to South Kesteven District Council for a new development on land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire, (Planning Reference: B/20/0310). An archaeological condition for an archaeological evaluation has been attached to the planning permission. Prior to the commencement of the archaeological site works thorough discussions have been held with Ms Denise Drury, Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire, on behalf of South Kesteven District Council.
- 4.2 The site was located within an area of archaeological and historical interest, as defined by Lincolnshire HER. Therefore, an Archaeological Evaluation has

been ordered by the developer prior to any construction within the site. This decision was in line with recommendations described in the *NPPF*:

- 4.3 "Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment, and, where necessary, a field evaluation." (National Planning Policy Framework Section 12, paragraph 128).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the online National Library of Scotland. A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the centre of the development site. The National Heritage List (NHL) of Historic England was also consulted.
- 5.2 The settlement of Kirton appears to have been in existence by about AD850 or possibly earlier (HER 13589).
- 5.3 At the time of the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in the parish of Kirton or *Chirchetune* in the Wapentake of Kirton were held by William of Percy, Guy of Craon and by Count Alan (HER 13589). There are also references in the Survey to a church and two salt houses. Later medieval documentary sources variously refer to this settlement as *Chirchton* (AD1166), *Kirketone* (AD1155-6), *Kirketon* (AD1171) and as *Kircheton* (AD1170). The place name itself is derived from the Old English *cirice* or 'a church' and the Old English *tun* 'a village'.
- 5.4 The parish church which is dedicated to SS Peter and Paul, High Street is Grade I listed with an accompanying churchyard (HER 12521, NHL 106202). The present church comprises a west tower, a nave with chancel, north and south aisles, a clerestory and a south porch. The church is of mid-late 12th and 13th-15th century construction. The original central tower and transepts were demolished and the chancel shortened between 1804-1810, when the present tower was built. The resultant stonework was reused in the construction of the present west tower and the extension of the aisles. The church was restored in 1900. A church at Kirton is referred to in the Domesday Survey of AD1086, so it is likely that there may be an earlier Anglo-Saxon church on the site of the present one. The stained glass in the church dates to c.1360AD and also to the early 16th century.
- 5.5 A Grade II listed churchyard cross in the parish churchyard dates from the 14th century (HER 14104, NHL 1165134). The structure was altered in the 18th century. A gravestone dated to 1815 is also Grade II listed and located

within the parish churchyard (HER 14189, NHL 1317419). A Grade II listed wall and mounting steps darting from the early 19th century are also Grade II listed and form part of the fabric of the parish church.

- 5.6 Up to the mid-20th century, the village cross at Kirton was situated near the church (HER 12534). This site is now occupied by a traffic island with the cross having been relocated to the parish churchyard. The remains comprises the base and the shaft of a cross.
- 5.7 Harvey House on the High Street is a Grade II listed house that was built between 1720- 1730 and has 20th century alterations (HER 13732, NHL 1062029).
- 5.8 The Grade II listed Old Kings Head on the High Street was a former public house of early 16th century origin (HER 13723, NHL 1062013). The building has been converted into a private dwelling.
- 5.9 The Peacock public house on the High Street is Grade II listed and was built in the mid-18th century (HER 13724, NHL 1165195).
- 5.10 No. 1, King Street is a Grade II listed house of mid-18th century date (HER 13725, NHL 1165199).
- 5.11 No. 30, London Road is a Grade II listed house that was constructed in the Mid-18th century (HER 13726, NHL 1360498).
- 5.12 A milestone on the London Road is Grade II listed and of early 19th century date (HER 13728, NHL 1317400).
- 5.13 Holly House at Kirton is a partially extant 19th century farmstead (HER 15005). This was arranged in a row with the farmhouse detached from the main working complex. There has been a partial loss of traditional buildings. The farmstead was within an isolated location.
- 5.14 A former General Baptist chapel and later Independent Congregational church are situated on the Willington Road (HER 13741). The original chapel was constructed in 1840, but was later sold to an independent congregation in 1846. The building was converted to a fire station in 1939 and is now disused. A burial ground to the rear of the building is featured on the 1905 O.S. map.
- 5.15 The former Kirton Methodist church on the London Road was constructed in 1902 and replaced an earlier chapel on the opposite side of the London Road (HER 13748). It has been in joint use with the local Anglican parish church since 1970. The site of this former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on the London Road was built in 1845 and is featured on the First Edition O.S. map

- of 1888 (HER 14032).
- 5.16 The Grade II listed Kirton War Memorial which stands at the junction of the High Street and Station Road was unveiled in 1922 (HER 15513, NHL 1439370).
- 5.17 A telephone kiosk on the London Road is Grade II listed and was built to a design dated to 1935 (HER 13731, NHL 1062-28).
- 5.18 Possible and undated millstones were found in a garden of Willington Road in 1982 (HER 12555).
- 5.19 Small and undated sherds of pottery have been found in the centre of the village of Kirton (HER 13040).
- 5.20 There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations within the HER search area. In 2000, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off the Willington Road following a prior geophysical survey on this site in 1999 (HER 13589, 13533, ELI1107-8, Site code: KWR00). This identified a shallow and a flat-bottomed pit that was dated not later than the mid medieval period and may possibly be Anglo-Saxon in date. Finds of post-medieval smithing slag were found. This slag related to nearby local metal processing activity that may be related to the smithy featured on the Second Edition O.S. map of 1906 that was located just beyond the south-eastern corner of the evaluation site.
- 5.21 During an archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief that took place prior to and during the construction of a new youth centre on land adjacent to 17 High Street in 1996-7 late Saxon activity was found to the south-east of this development site (HER 13589, ELI4909-10, Site code KHS96, KHS97). This Saxon activity consisted of a large pit which contained charred crop processing residues and animal manure along with postholes and a pond. This suggested the presence of a nearby contemporary farmyard. Evidence for early medieval archaeological activity was also found. These included pits and a hearth. One of the pits contained horn cores. Silt deposits present also suggested that the area had been subjected to flooding during the late medieval period. There was also evidence for intensive 19th century activity. This was concerned with the construction of contemporary housing that had fronted onto the High Street. A number of postholes relating to a former fence lines were found along with garden walls, a brick lined cess pit, a number of refuse pits and a clay lined storage pit.
- 5.22 In 2001, an archaeological evaluation on The Old School site in King Street located a series of undated ditches, some of which were considered to be field boundaries (HER 13589, ELI1988, Site code: KKS010. Although

undated, these features were thought to be late Saxon or earlier based on residual finds of 10th-12th century pottery on the site. Late Saxon features were also recorded including a gully, land division ditches, a rubbish pit and dumped deposits suggesting domestic occupation. Finds of hammerscale indicated nearby iron working activity.

- 5.23 An archaeological evaluation on land off London Road in 2001 identified a pit or a ditch terminus that was thought to date from the early medieval period or possibly earlier along with two 10th-12th century north-south aligned ditches (HER 13589, ELI2605, Site code: KLR01). A quantity of 10th-12th century pottery along with finds of animal bones with butchery marks suggested domestic activity here. Fragments of slag, including hearth bottoms, linings and possible fluxing material suggested the presence of a nearby smithy dating from the 10th-12th centuries. Evidence suggest that the earlier medieval settlement appeared to occupy a larger area than that of the later medieval settlement.
- 5.24 An archaeological watching brief on land off Willington Road between 2000-2001 located a single undated pit (HER 13589, ELI3175, Site code: KWRA00).
- 5.25 In 2002, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new garage and store on land at the High Street and to the south-east of this development site (HER 13589, ELI3380, Site code: KHJ02). This found sherds of 13th-16th century pottery together with articulated horse bones. A series of late medieval to post-medieval pits were also recorded with finds of 17th-19th century clay pipe bowls and stems.
- 5.26 An archaeological evaluation on land at Willington Road in 2002 found a number of early post-medieval features following a prior geophysical survey (HER 13589, ELI3505, Site code: KWR02). These consisted of a pond, three pits and a brick drain all of 16th-17th century date. A group of postholes was identified over the site of the brick drain and were thought to be of 18th-19th century origin. Residual sherds of medieval pottery were also found.
- 5.27 In 1998, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for a new extension to the new Vicarage on Church View and to the south of this development site (HER 13598, ELI4918). This did not identify any archaeological features, although finds of 18th and 19th century clay pipe stem fragments along with two sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were found.
- 5.28 An archaeological watching brief was mounted on the groundworks for a new dwelling on land adjacent to 27, Willington Road in 2006 (HER 13589, ELI7620, Site code: KIWR06). This located a probable ditch that produced pottery finds of late 11th to early/mid-13th century date. A further ditch was

also recorded, though this was undated. Two fragments of residual late medieval to post-medieval pottery were also found along with a late post-medieval or modern well.

- 5.29 During an archaeological watching brief at the former Stag and Pheasant Inn on the High Street in 2008, to the east of this development site, medieval activity that consisted of a ditch, a buried soil and layers of flooded silt deposits were found (HER 13589, ELI8739, Site code: KIHS08). The ditch was interpreted as a boundary ditch, though the lack of other medieval features on this site suggested that this area lay outside of the historic core of the medieval settlement. Post-medieval activity was also found that consisted of a single pit, a wall foundation and three soakaways, all of which were possibly associated with the former Inn.
- 5.30 In 2004, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new residential development on land to the rear of 25, Willington Road (HER 13589, ELI9178, Site code: KWR04). This revealed the foundations of post-medieval former farm buildings, which had been demolished several years previously. An undated pit was also found.
- 5.31 In 2005, an archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to new residential development on land at the junction of Church Lane and Willington Road and to the south-west of this development site (HER 13589, ELI9309, Site code: CLKB05). To the south, three ditches and a possible hollow-way were found. All produced finds of late 9th to late 10th century pottery. Animal bone also recovered from these features indicated a mixture of butchery and food waste. A modern ditch was also found in the same area that yielded finds of a sherd of late 18th-20th century pottery. A modern pit was found in the central portion of the site, though to the north truncation of archaeological deposits had occurred due to the construction of a modern car park there.
- 5.32 In 2009 an archaeological watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new residential development on land at 10, Willington Road (HER 13589, ELI10518, Site code: WROK09). This identified a sequence of medieval occupation deposits which were interspersed with floor layers. The medieval remains included pits, an oven and a boundary ditch. Occupation here continued on into the post-medieval period, which was represented by a further pit and a beam slot, indicating the presence of a building. Finds included an assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery along with medieval brick and clay pie fragments.
- 5.33 In 2010, an archaeological watching brief took place on land at Willington Road/Church Lane and to the south-west of this development site (HER 13589, ELI10903, Site code: KIRW09). This located three pits. One had finds of 19th century pottery ceramic building material and animal bone. A second yielded finds of 19th-early 20th century pottery and glass and the

third produced finds of 19th-early 20th century pottery, ceramic building material glass and roof slate. A residual shred of 11th-12th century pottery was also found.

- 5.34 In 2011, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for two new dwellings on land to the rear of 10-14, Willington Road and to the south-west of this development site (HER ELI13157, Site code: WRKM11). This identified a post-medieval brick lined well along with a small assemblage of 18th century pottery that was recovered from the topsoil horizon.
- 5.35 In 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new extension to the Old Bakehouse (HER 3603, ELI2806, Site code: KOB01). This recorded two north-south aligned walls that were thought to be associated with former outbuildings of the late 18th-early 19th century Bakehouse. Finds of pottery, glass and clay fragments were recovered from the topsoil horizon.
- 5.36 In 2007, an archaeological watching brief was mounted on the groundworks on new residential dwellings on land at 25, Boston Road to the north-east of this development site (HER ELI 9179, Site code: BRK07). This did not identify any significant archaeological features, deposits or finds.
- 5.37 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1889. This map shows part of the area of this development site as occupying the south-eastern corner of a much larger enclosure, with a trackway for a boundary to the east. This enclosure extended westwards to the Willington Road. A pond is also shown to the north-west. To the south and bisecting this site is an east-west aligned field boundary, such that this site occupies portions of two enclosures.
- 5.38 The extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1905 shows the development site as occupying the same portions of the two enclosures. The larger enclosure to the north has a field boundary by the trackway to the east. To the north-west the pond remains. To the west is a Sunday School.
- 5.39 The extract from the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1970 shows that the northern and eastern boundaries of the development site are present. The east-west aligned field boundary to the south has gone by this time such that the development site is now situated within one enclosure with a new field boundary further to the south. To the west are glasshouses and outbuildings along with the Parish Rooms on the site of the former Sunday School.

5.40 The extract from the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1984 shows the development site with its current layout with the site boundaries to the north, east and south present. To the west are the glasshouses and outbuildings. The line of Penny Gardens is also featured for the first time.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Opening up of Evaluation Trenches

The trial trenching consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches. **Trench 1** was north-south orientated, 15m long and 2m wide, and located in the central parts of the development site. **Trench 2** was east-west orientated, positioned along the line of the proposed new site access, and was 10m long and 2m wide. Both trenches were excavated down to natural deposits.

The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed future ground disturbance. The location of the trenches were slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. The evaluation area was searched for live cables and other potential threats prior to the evaluation, and the management of spoil heaps was planned carefully.

The evaluation trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

The trenches were not backfilled without the approval of the Archaeological Officer from Heritage Lincolnshire. The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

6.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of deposits, features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

6.3 Hand Excavation

All potentially man-made features were cleaned, photographed, hand excavated and documented. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date, character and relationships with other features. Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships.

The developer was informed that provision must be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording, or if contingency allowance must be made for more detailed recording.

6.4 Environmental Sampling

The site contained no features worth sampling.

6.5 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Plans and sections in the scales 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also used in this report.

7 RESULTS

Trench 1

7.1 Trench 1 was 15m long and 2m wide and had a north-south orientation (Photo 1). The Natural deposits consisted of light brown to yellow solid clay. No archaeological features were identified as cutting into the natural deposits. Overlying the Natural was the up to 0.23m thick subsoil (102) of mid-greyish yellow soft silt. The uppermost deposit in Trench 1 consisted of the up to 0.27m thick topsoil (101) of mid-greyish brown. soft silty clay.

Trench 2

7.2 Trench 2 was 10m long and 2m wide and had an east-west orientation (Photo 2). The Natural deposits consisted of light brown to yellow solid clay. No archaeological features were identified as cutting into the natural deposits. Overlying the Natural was the up to 0.21m thick subsoil (202) of mid-greyish yellow soft silt. The uppermost deposit in Trench 1 consisted of the up to 0.41m thick topsoil (201) of mid-greyish brown. soft silty clay.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The Archaeological Evaluation on land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire revealed no finds or features of archaeological interest. Both trenches were dug down to natural deposits, but no features could be seen cutting into these deposits.
- 8.2 The lack of older pottery, animal bones and other artefacts in the topsoil of the site indicated that little human activity has occurred within the proposed development site in the past. The development site can, therefore, not be regarded as being of great archaeological importance.
- 8.3 The future residential development will therefore most likely have no impact on significant archaeological remains beneath the ground, and it is felt that further archaeological investigations within the proposed development area would not contribute with much new archaeological information.

9 EFFECTIVENESS OF METHODOLOGY

- 9.1 It is generally felt that the adopted methodology was appropriate in order to identify, assess and record the various deposits present within the site.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Independent Archaeology Consultants would like to thank the client, the ground staff and Heritage Lincolnshire for their kind cooperation during the various stages of the project.

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12 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to: The Collection in Lincoln.

APPENDIX 1

COLOUR PLATES



Photo 1: Overview of Trench 1 from south.



Photo 2: Overview of Trench 2 from west.

APPENDIX 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (15m x 2m)		
(101)	0.27	Mid greyish brown, soft silty clay.	(102)	-
(102)	0.23	Mid greyish, yellow soft silt.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Light brown to yellow solid clay.	-	(102)
		Trench 2 (10m x 2m)		
(201)	0.41	Mid greyish brown, soft silty clay.	(202)	-
(202)	0.21	Mid greyish, yellow soft silt.	Natural	(201)
Natural	-	Light brown to yellow solid clay.	-	(202)

APPENDIX 3

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: independ1-415602

Project details

Project name Land off Penny Gardens, Kirton. Lincolnshire

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation of a future residential development. No archaeology was being found.

Project dates Start: 04-02-2021 End: 05-02-2021

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes PGKI20 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes B/20/0310 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Monument type N/A None

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location **LINCOLNSHIRE BOSTON KIRTON Land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire**
Postcode **PE20 1HN**
Study area **1500 Square metres**
Site coordinates **TF 3040 3853 52.927987017404 -0.05986912148 52 55 40 N 000 03 35 W Point**
Height OD / Depth **Min: 2m Max: 4m**

Project creators

Name of Organisation **Independent Archaeology Consultants**
Project brief originator **Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body**
Project design originator **Independent Archaeology Consultants**
Project director/manager **Christer Carlsson**
Project supervisor **Christer Carlsson**
Type of sponsor/funding body **Developer**

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient **Lincolnshire Museums**
Physical Contents **"other"**
Digital Archive recipient **Lincolnshire Museums**
Digital Contents **"other","none"**
Digital Media available **"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"**
Paper Archive recipient **Lincolnshire Museums**
Paper Contents **"none","other"**
Paper Media available **"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"**

Project bibliography 1

Publication type **Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)**

Title Archaeological Evaluation. Land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carlsson, C

Date 2021

Issuer or publisher Independent Archaeology Consultants

Place of issue or publication Peterborough

Entered by Christer Karlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 18 February 2021

FIGURES



Figure 1: Site Location Map (Produced with OS Licence Number 0100031673).

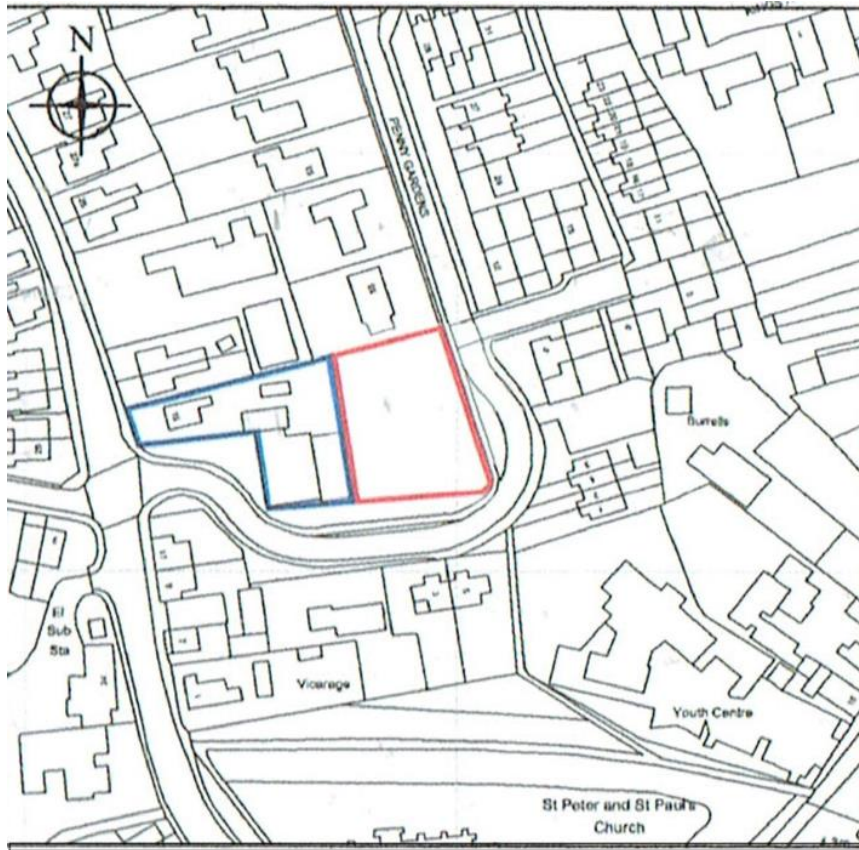


Figure 2: Site Outline Map (Produced with OS Licence Number 0100031673).

Land off Penny Gardens, Kirton, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Evaluation

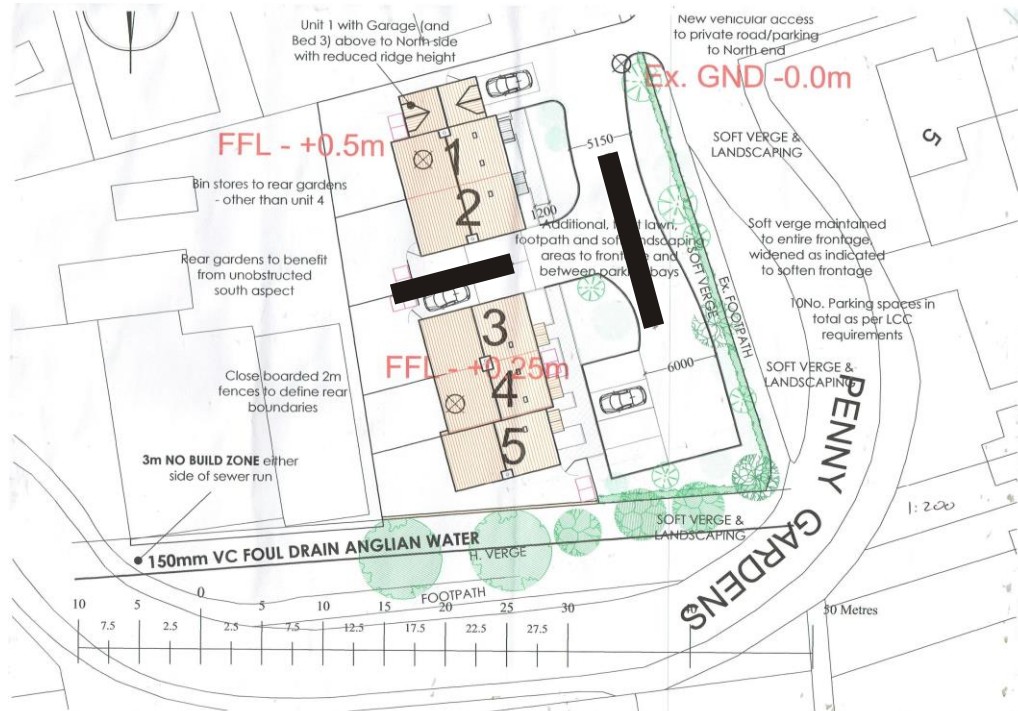


Figure 3: Trench Layout (Produced with OS Licence Number 0100031673).