
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
AT CREPE MIERES FARM,
NORTH WILLINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCMF 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Chamberlain Brothers**

November 2011

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: 127039
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.374
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APS Report No. **131/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken during groundworks at Crepe Mieres Farm, North Willingham, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of an agricultural store.

The site lies in an archaeologically-significant area, with evidence of Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) and Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) funerary monuments in the form of long and round barrows. Flint tools of the same period are also known from the general vicinity.

The investigations identified a sequence of subsoil and topsoil deposits. As the subsoil had not been cleared completely for the development, it is possible that any archaeological features may lie at a greater depth. The subsoil may indicate that the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past. No artefacts were retrieved or recorded during the work.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, “a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design” (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Chamberlain Brothers to

undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise during groundworks associated with new agricultural storage works at Crepe Mieres Farm, North Willingham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 127039. The investigations were carried out between the 3rd and 7th November 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Historic Environment Assistant (Records), Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

North Willingham is located 6km southeast of Market Rasen and 16km west of Louth administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Crepe Mieres Farm is located 1.9km east of the centre of North Willingham as defined by the parish church of St Thomas at National Grid Reference TF 1825 8820 (Fig. 2). The site lies immediately to the northeast of the farm buildings at a height of c. 128m OD at the base of a slight northwest-southeast ridge.

Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association, typically stagnogleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which in turn seals a solid geology of Cretaceous Wealden Group mudstone, sandstone and siltstone.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

North Willingham is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period to the present day. A Neolithic long barrow lies 300m to the northwest and a further long barrow 900m to the east. A Bronze Age round barrow is also located to the north of the site.

North Willingham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to

as *Wiuilingeham*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the homestead or estate of the *Wifelinga’s*’, a group-name (Cameron 1998, 139). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Ivo Taillebois, Gocelin, son of Lanbert and Ralf Pagenal and contained 200 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the land was held by Ranulph Meschin, Ralf de Criol, Alan de Perci, Ralf Painell and Gilbert, son of Gocelin (*ibid.*).

There are no extant remains of the medieval period apart from St Thomas’s church which has a tower of the period (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 589).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The footprint of the new storage building was cleared to the depth required for the development, generally 0.4m below the current ground surface. Once excavated, the stripped area was examined for archaeological deposits and the sides of the area were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a layer of orange brown clayey silt (002). Identified as subsoil, this measured in excess of 0.17m thick.

Sealing the subsoil was the current topsoil, comprising a 0.3m thick layer of brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

No natural deposits were encountered during the investigations. Archaeological remains may still be present at depth but any such remains, if they existed, were not revealed and no artefactual material was encountered. The presence of a subsoil suggests that the area was under an agricultural regime in the past.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Crepe Mieres Farm, North Willingham, as the site lay in a funerary landscape of Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

However, no prehistoric features were identified and only subsoil and topsoil recorded. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D Chamberlain for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis following initial enquiries by Mr C Wilson. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisors: Andrew Failes, Bryn Leadbetter
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

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Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

IfA, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 IfA Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

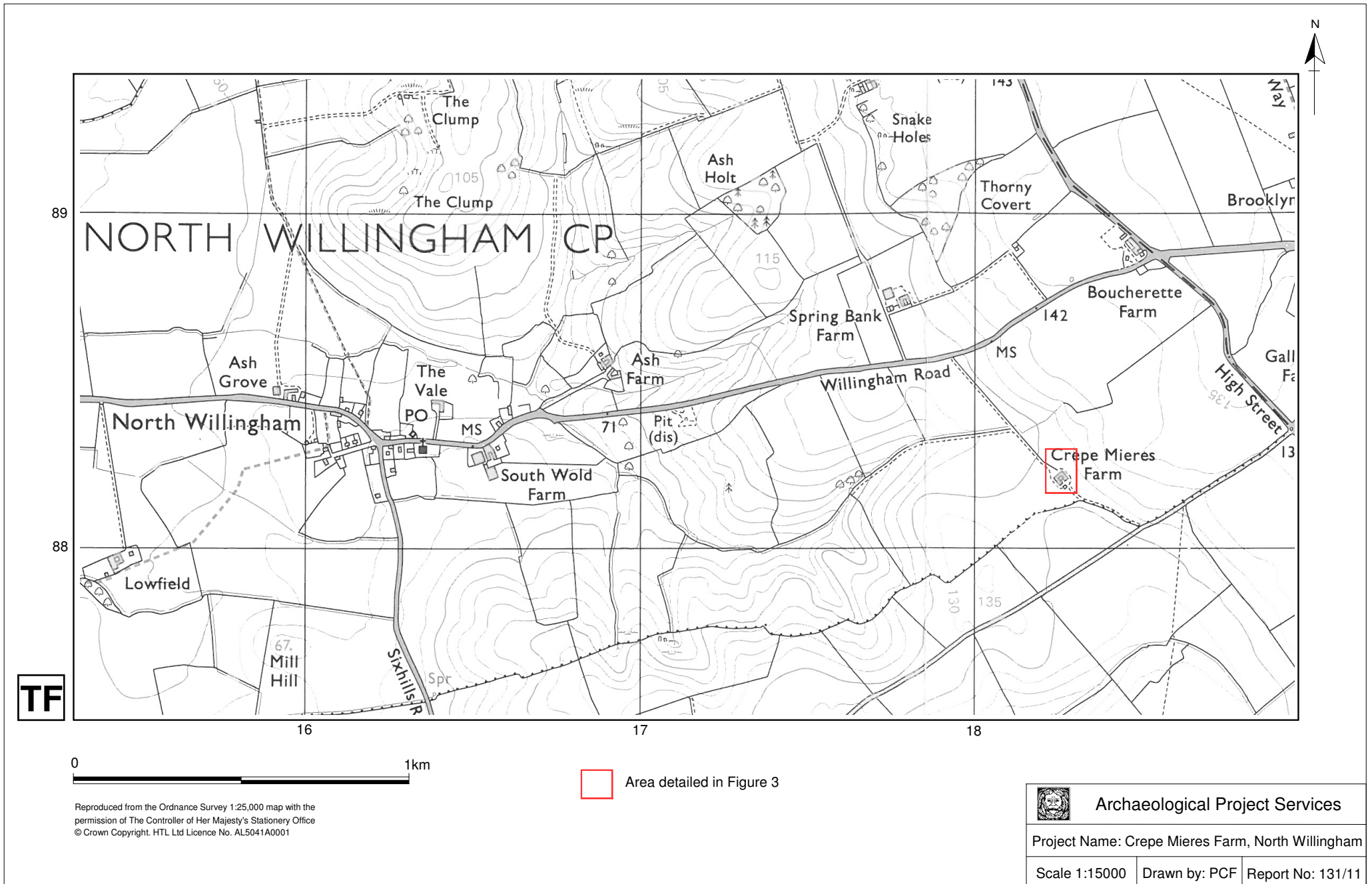
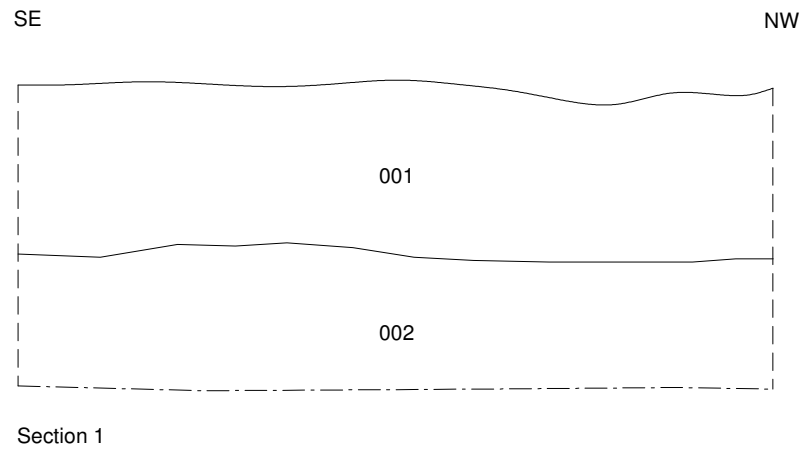


Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Crepe Mieres Farm, North Willingham		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 131/11

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – View of the stripped area with Crepe Mieres Farm, looking southwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking southwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable and sticky mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable and sticky mid to dark orange brown clayey silt, >0.17m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
2	Daily Record Sheets

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.374

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SCMF 11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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