
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT 7 CHURCH ROAD,
OLD LEAKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLCR 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr A Baxter**

November 2011

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 4091 5005
Planning Application No: B/11/0254
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.410
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-114434

APS Report No. **134/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	3
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	4

Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. Glossary
3. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations
- Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the development area
- Plate 2 Section 1 showing ditch (004)
- Plate 3 Section 2

1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at 7 Church Road, Old Leake, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.

The site lies close to an area of Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) discoveries, found at the St Giles' School, and within the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village which is best represented by St Mary's church.

The investigations revealed natural and subsoil deposits, the latter implying agricultural activity at the site, and a ditch which is considered to be modern. No other features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr A Baxter to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at 7 Church Road, Old Leake, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/11/0254. The watching brief was carried out on the 21st November 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer, Heritage Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Old Leake is situated 10km northeast of Boston and 20km southwest of Skegness in the administrative district of Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 290m southeast of the centre

of Old Leake as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference TF 4091 5005 (Fig. 2). Situated on the east side of Church Road the site lies at a height of c. 3m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Stockwith/Romney Series, typically calcareous alluvial gley and gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 35; 53). These soils are developed on a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic clays of the Ancholme Group (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Old Leake lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery has been identified in the neighbouring parish of Wrangle during the Fenland Survey (Lane 1993, Gazetteer). Additionally, isolated fragments of Roman pottery have been found along Church Road to the north (Palmer-Brown 1996; Taylor 2004).

Previous investigations at The Giles School, immediately west of the site, identified a number of features containing Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery indicating habitation of these periods at the site or adjacent (Tann 1995; Hall 2011). Archaeological remains of Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman date have been encountered on Church Road, near to the church (Bradley-Lovekin 2007, 1; Cope-Faulkner and Bradley-Lovekin 2009, 1).

Leake is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Leche*, the name is derived from the Old English *lece* meaning a brook and influenced or replaced by the Old Norse *loekr* of similar meaning (Cameron 1998, 79). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Count Alan and contained 34 acres of meadow and 26 salt-pans (Foster

and Longley 1976).

A number of salterns that date from the Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in the area along a former creek that once marked the parish boundary between Leake and Wrangle (Lane 1993, 77).

The parish church of St Mary contains elements of Norman date with 13th – 15th century additions (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 593). Unusually, the church was enclosed by a ditch which has sometimes been referred to as a moat.

Two chantry houses are recorded in Leake during the medieval period. The first, known as the Multon or Great Chantry, was founded in 1391 and was moated around and contained a house and a chapel, as a font was found at the site (Thompson 1856, 584). The second was known as St Lawrence's Chantry and was founded in 1362 and now represented by Moat House (*ibid.* 585).

An evaluation undertaken to the north of the site identified two undated ditches and a post-medieval pit and an infilled dyke (Hall 2003, 1). A subsequent watching brief identified a further undated ditch (Hall 2005, 1).

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

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development, generally 0.5m below the current ground level. Following

excavation, the sides of the trenches 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 sections were 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 natural layer of brown silty clay (006). This measured in excess of 0.5m thick. Developed upon the natural was a subsoil, comprising brown clayey silt (005) that was up to 0.6m thick.

Cut into the subsoil was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (004). This was over 5.5m long and was 2.45m wide by 0.7m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). A single fill of mottled grey and brown clayey silt (003) was identified.

Sealing the ditch was a topsoil layer of greyish brown clayey silt (002) that measured 0.28m thick. This was sealed by an intermittent dumped deposit of brick and concrete (001) that formed an area of hardstanding adjacent to No. 7 Church Road.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silty clays and relate to the underlying drift geology of younger marine alluvium. Subsoil had developed upon this and also implies that the site may have been under an agricultural regime in the past.

A ditch remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. However, boundaries appear in this position on maps dating to the 1970s and it is probable that the feature is modern.

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Road, Old Leake, as the site lay in an area of known remains of Romano-British to medieval date.

However, no remains of those periods were identified. An undated ditch was recorded which is probably modern. No other archaeological deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A Baxter for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Senior Historic Environment Officer, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1995 *Boston: Solid and Drift edition*, 1:50,000 map sheet **128**

Bradley-Lovekin, T, 2007 *Archaeological excavation on land opposite the Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Leake, Lincolnshire*, unpublished APS report **11/06**

Cope-Faulkner, P and Bradley-Lovekin, T, 2009 *Archaeological excavation on land opposite School Lane, Old Leake, Lincolnshire (OLSL 07)*, unpublished APS report **12/08**

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

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Hall, N, 2011 *An archaeological watching brief at Giles School, Church Road, Old Leake, Boston, Lincolnshire*

Hall, RV, 2003 *Archaeological evaluation on land at Hadwick Motors, Church Road, Old Leake, Lincolnshire (OLC 03)*, unpublished APS report **55/03**

Hall, RV, 2005 *Archaeological watching brief at the former Hadwick Motors, Church Road, Old Leake, Lincolnshire (OLC 03)*, unpublished APS report **7/05**

Lane, TW, 1993 *The Fenland Project, Number 8: Lincolnshire Survey, The Northern Fen-Edge*, East Anglian Archaeology **66**

Palmer-Brown, C, 1996 *Church Road, Old Leake, Archaeological Evaluation Report*, unpublished PCA report

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised N Antram)

Robson, JD, 1985 *Soils in Lincolnshire IV, Sheet TF 45 (Friskney)*, Soil Survey Record **88**

Tann, G, 1995 *Old Leake: The Giles School. Archaeological monitoring of Building Works*, unpublished LAS report

Taylor, G, 2004 *Archaeological Evaluation on land off Church Road/School Lane, Old Leake, Lincolnshire (SLO 03)*, unpublished APS report **12/04**

Thompson, P, 1856 *The History and Antiquities of Boston and the Hundred of Skirbeck*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

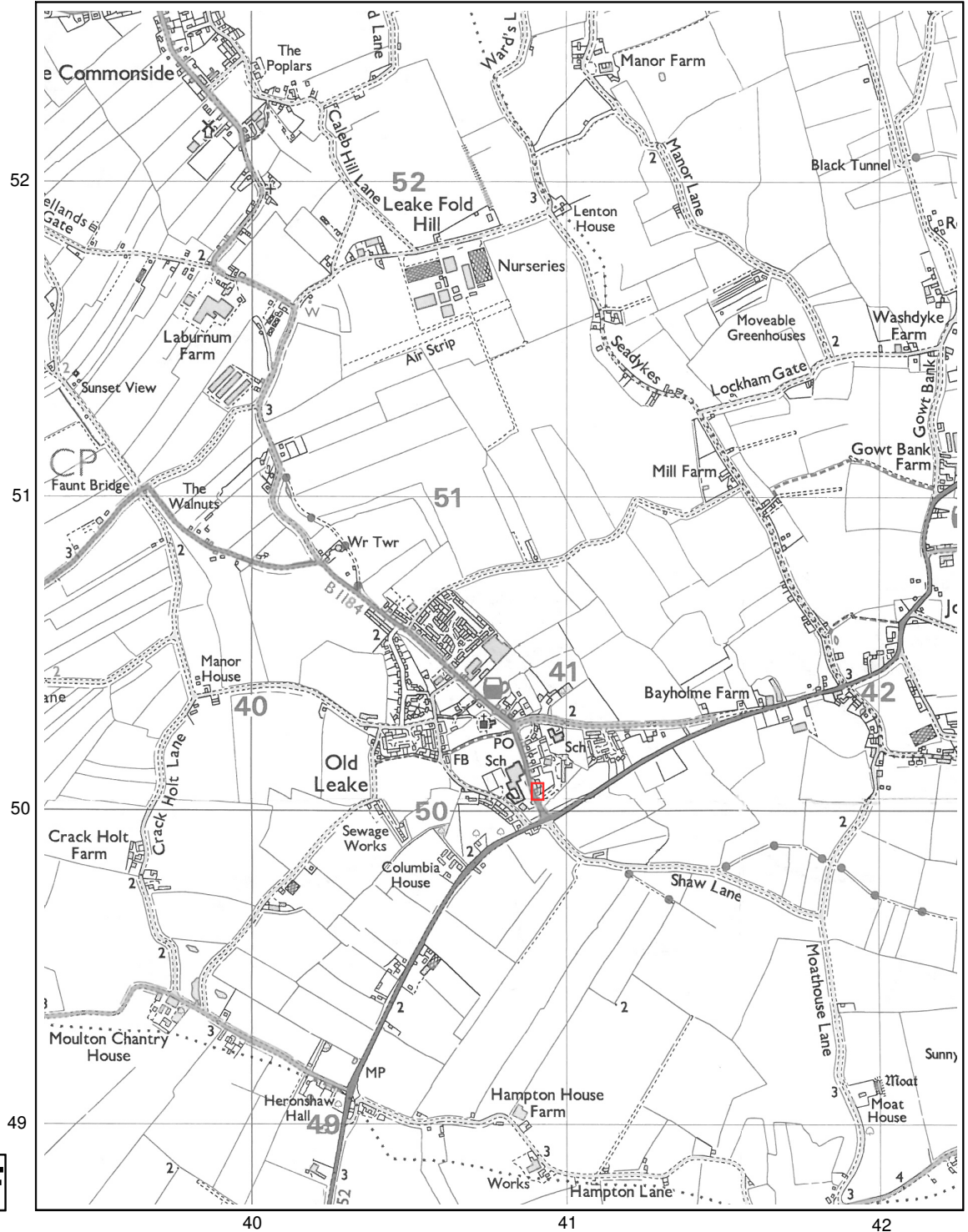
BGS British Geological Survey

LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology



Figure 1 - General location plan



□ Area detailed in Figure 3



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001


 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Church Road, Old Leake OLCR11		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 134/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan




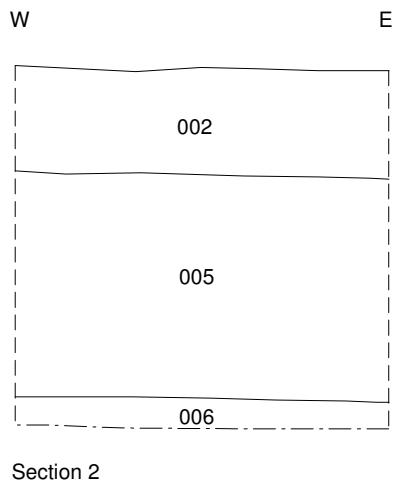
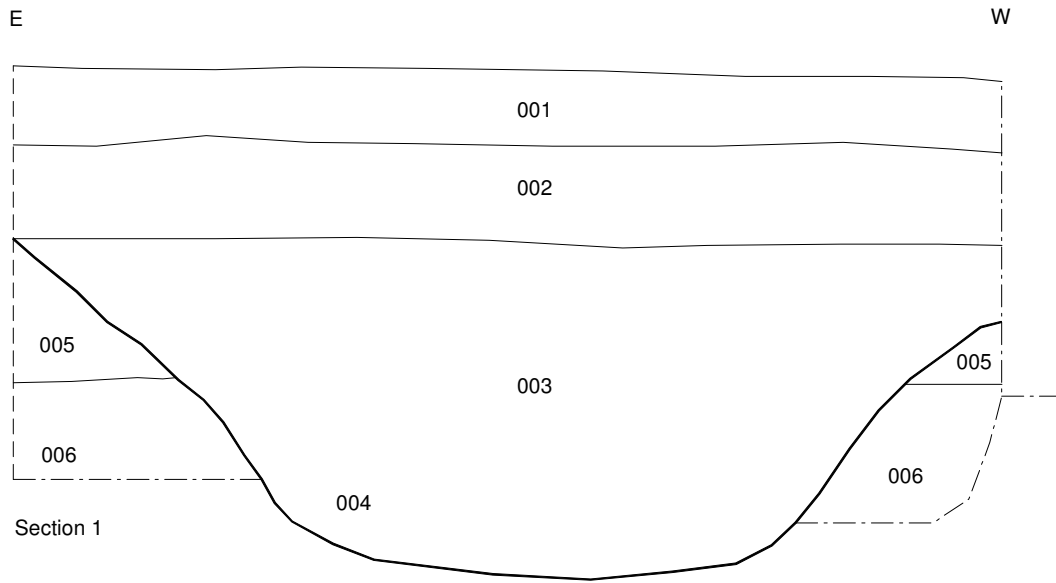
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Church Road, Old Leake OLCR11		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 134/11

Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Church Road, Old Leake OLCR11		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 134/11

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking northeast



Plate 2 – Section 1 showing ditch (004), looking south



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose mixed grey and brown brick, concrete, slate, plastic and metal, 0.2m thick	Dumped hardstanding
002	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.22m thick	Topsoil
003	Firm mottled dark grey with mid brown clayey silt	Fill of (004)
004	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >5.5m long by 2.45m wide by 0.7m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Ditch
005	Friable to firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.6m thick	Subsoil
006	Stiff mid brown silty clay, >0.55m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
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).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

6	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records and finds 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: 2011.410

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: OLCR 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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.