

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF SERVICE TRENCHES AT  
CASTLE HILL,  
WELBOURN,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(WCH05)**

Work Undertaken For  
**Mr and Mrs T. Walker**

January 2007

Report Compiled by  
Katie Murphy BA (Hons) MA

National Grid Reference: SK 9673 5438  
Planning Application No: N/72/0434/04

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **193/06**

## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	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. Project Specification
2. Context Summary
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1      General location plan
- Figure 2      Site location plan
- Figure 3      Plan of development showing foundation trenches and reduced ground
- Figure 4      Section 1

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1      General view of site after levelling, looking north
- Plate 2      Section 1, looking southeast

## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at land adjacent to 5 Castle Hill, Welbourn, Lincolnshire.*

*The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches and the ground reduction associated with the creation of a basement during the construction of a residential dwelling.*

*The development lies in an area with extensive archaeological remains, in close proximity to the medieval earthworks and structural remnants of Welbourn Castle.*

*No archaeological features were observed during the course of this watching brief.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs T. Walker to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new residential property to be constructed at Castle Hill, Welbourn, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/72/0434/04. The watching brief was carried out between the 6<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

Welbourn is situated approximately 18km south of Lincoln and 19km north of Grantham (Fig 1) in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The settlement lies at the foot of the scarp slope of the Lincolnshire Limestone Edge.

The site lies to the west of Castle Hill, on the northern side of the village, and is centred on National Grid Reference SK 9673 5438 (Fig. 2). The surface of the site lies at approximately 30m OD.

Local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). These are developed on a drift geology which overlies Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone.

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Welbourn village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Prehistoric period to the present day. A Neolithic flint axe has been found in the parish.

A few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a medieval deposit during a watching brief at 28 High Street (Palmer-Brown 1994). Earthworks associated with Welbourn Castle were described as Roman in the nineteenth century and it was claimed that coins of this date were found there. These finds are now lost and cannot be confirmed.

Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded from close to the church, approximately 100m to the southwest of the site.

The place-name Welbourn is Old English in origin and refers to ‘a brook or stream coming from a spring’ (Ekwall 1974, 504). It is first recorded in the Domesday Survey in 1086. At this time the manor of *Wellebrune* was held by Robert Malet and included a church and priest, a mill and 200

acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976, 185).

The church is dedicated to St. Chad and, although it was in existence from at least the eleventh century, the earliest surviving remains are in the Early English style (Pevsner and Harris. 1995, 784).

The earthwork remains of Welbourn Castle, a medieval ring-work, are situated approximately 100m to the southeast of the site. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has recently been the subject of a detailed survey. Although the exact period of its operation is uncertain, it is known to have been out of use by the late fourteenth century (Tann 1999, 1).

A recent evaluation undertaken at the castle retrieved pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date indicating early use of the site. Wall tumble, probably relating to the demolition of the castle, was also identified, together with features of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. Artefacts retrieved were indicative of a medieval domestic assemblage (Rayner 2000).

Medieval pottery and remains, including possible fishponds, have been found during earlier watching briefs along the High Street and in the vicinity of the castle.

### 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 development was focused upon a plot, gently sloped from west to east, formerly a landscaped garden. This was levelled by machine, using a toothless ditching bucket,

before the ground surface was reduced in order to construct the basement area. The foundation trenches were then excavated, again using a toothless bucket, to a maximum depth of 2m (Fig. 3).

Each deposit revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. 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. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Natural</b>
<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Undated</b>
<b>Phase 3</b>	<b>Modern</b>

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

<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Natural</b>
----------------	----------------

A layer of firm, light blue-grey clay, (005) (Fig. 4), was uncovered at the base of the excavated areas. This was identified as being a natural clay deposit, which was overlain by (004), a light yellow-brown clay deposit up to 0.55m thick. This was also identified as forming part of the natural horizon.

<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Undated</b>
----------------	----------------

A subsoil deposit, (003) (Fig. 4), was identified across the excavated area. This was a firm, mid brown clay silt up to 0.5m

thick. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

### Phase 3 Modern

A modern dry stone wall, (001) (Figs. 3 and 4), was observed running northeast-southwest across the monitored area. This was identified as being the defunct boundary between the former Church Hall plot and No. 5 Castle Hill.

A topsoil deposit, (002) (Fig. 4), sealed the area and formed part of the former landscaped garden. This was a soft dark brown clay-silt, up to 0.3m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

An undated subsoil was observed to lie above the natural clay horizon. This was sealed by a modern topsoil. No archaeological remains were present within the excavated areas. A modern/post-medieval boundary wall was identified running northeast-southwest for c.10m. This probably relates to the now defunct boundary between 5 Castle Hill and the plot occupied by the old Church Hall.

## 7. CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were present within the areas excavated during the course of the development of a new residential dwelling at Castle Hill, Welbourn, Lincolnshire. This may indicate that the land in this area was not intensively utilised during the archaeological past, specifically during the active period of Welbourn Castle, or that this area has been reduced in the past; possibly to form the landscaped garden observed upon arrival, thus removing any archaeological remains.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs T. Walker, who commissioned this report. The project was co-ordinated by Mark Williams, who, alongside Tom Lane, edited this report.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams  
 Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Katie Murphy  
 Post-excavation analysis: Katie Murphy

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)
- Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**
- Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Scale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. **13**
- IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*
- Palmer-Brown, C., 1994, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report, 28 High Street, Welbourn, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished Pre-Construct Archaeology report
- Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1995 *Lincolnshire*. The Buildings of England (3<sup>rd</sup> edition revised by Antram, N.)

Rayner, T., 2000, *Archaeological Evaluation of Castle Hill, Welbourn, Lincolnshire* Unpublished APS Report No. **170/00**

Roffe, D., 1997 *Welbourn Castle, Lincolnshire* in *Nottingham Medieval Studies* **xli**

Smith, A.H., 1956 *English Place-name elements*, Pt. **1**, English Place Name Society

Tann, G., 1999 *Welbourn Castle, Lincs. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Earthwork Surveys*, unpublished LAS report

## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists





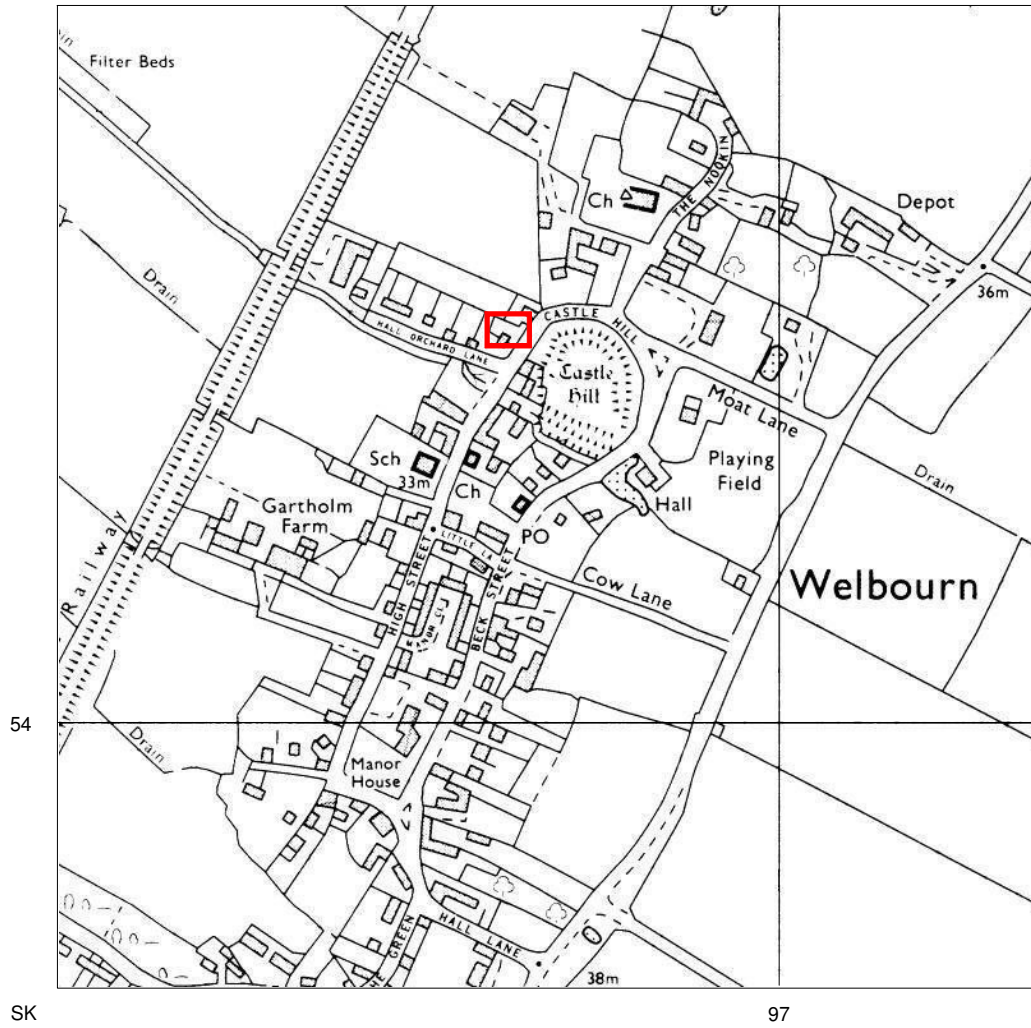


Figure 1: General location plan





— Site Boundary




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Welbourn, Castle Hill (WCH05)		
Scale 1:8000	Drawn by: KM	Report No: 193/06

Figure 2 Site location plan



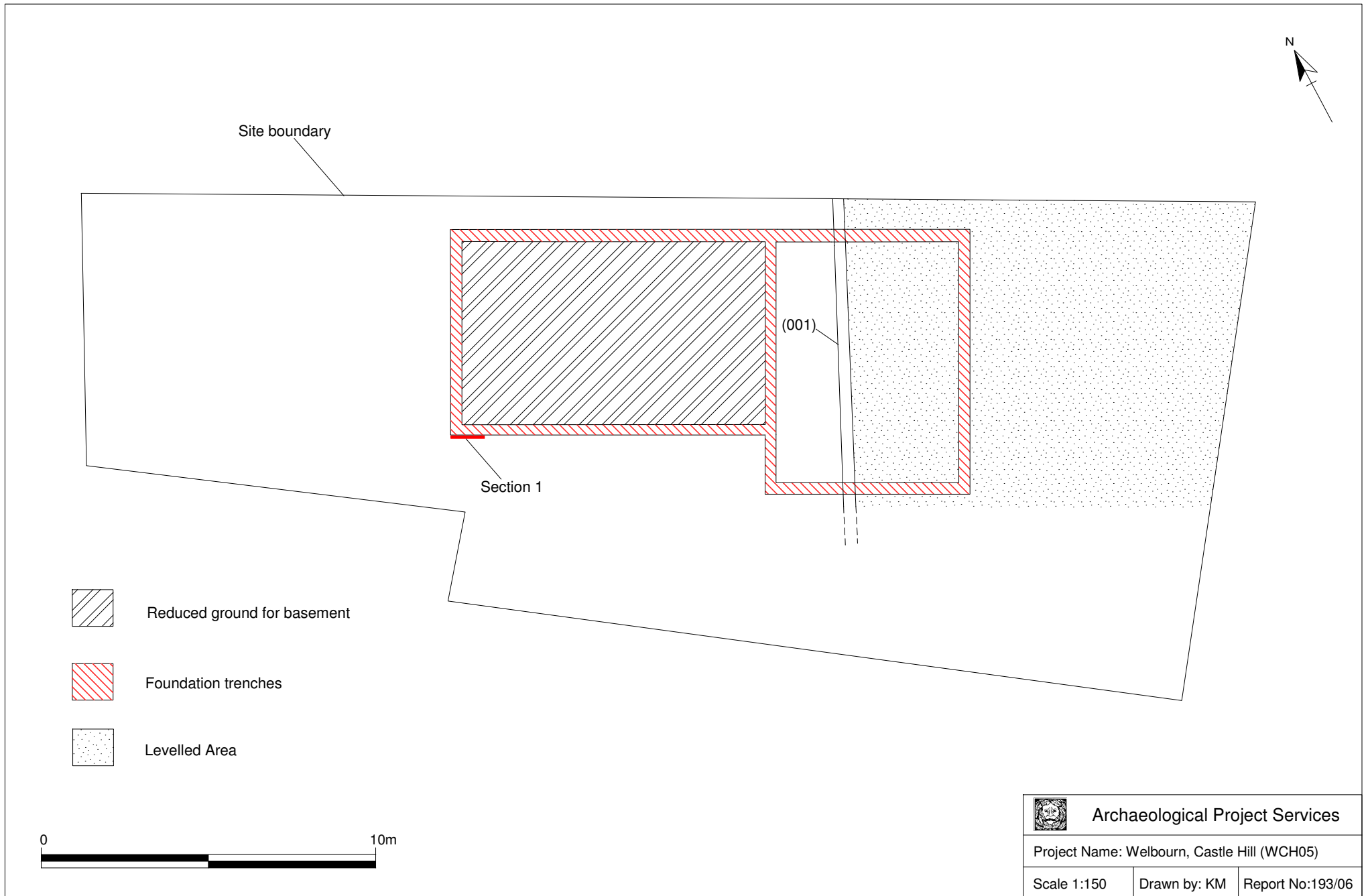
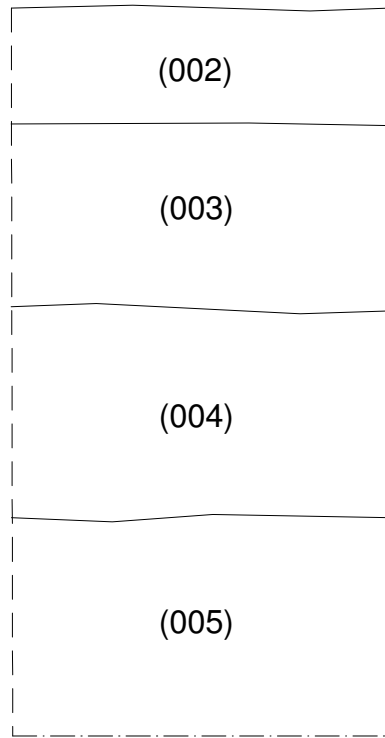


Figure 3 Plan of development showing foundation trenches and reduced ground





Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Welbourn, Castle Hill (WCH05)

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: KM

Report No: 193/06

Figure 4 Section 1







Plate 1 General view of site after levelling, looking north



Plate 2 Section 1, looking southeast

## Appendix 2

### Context Summary

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Roughly hewn limestone fragments, c. 0.2m x 0.1m pieces, NE-SW aligned, 0.3m wide x 10m long	Remnant of boundary wall between old Church Hall site and 5 Castle Hill
002	Soft dark brown clay silt with occasional sub-rounded stones, up to 0.3m thick	Topsoil
003	Firm, mid brown clay silt, up to 0.5m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm light yellow brown clay, up to 0.55m thick	Natural clay deposit
005	Firm light blue grey clay	Natural clay deposit



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
3	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings

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: 2005.53

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WCH05

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.