

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
LAND AT RUSHLAND FARM (PLOT 2),
CHURCH LANE,
LONG CLAWSON,
LEICESTERSHIRE
(LCCL 07)**

Planning Application (07/00654/FUL)

Work Undertaken For
Mr. and Mrs. A. Doubleday

September 2007

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA(Hons)

National Grid Reference: SK 7253 2745
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No.122/07

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks prior to a planned residential development (Plot 2) on land at Rushland Farm, Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. The site lay within an area of known archaeological significance in the historic core of the village.

The watching brief identified no archaeological features and no finds were retrieved. This may suggest that the medieval village did not extend into the development area.

Due to the lack of archaeological remains in Plot 2 the planning condition for archaeological monitoring on Plot 1 was cancelled.

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 may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (07/00654/FUL) was submitted to Melton Borough Council for the construction of two dwellings (Plots 1 and 2) and garages on land at Rushland Farm, Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. A desk based study indicated moderate archaeological potential for the site and so planning permission was subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during

groundworks associated with the development. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Doubleday to undertake this following an earlier watching brief on the adjacent Plot 3 (Peachey 2007). The watching brief was carried out on the 4th September 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by APS and approved by the senior planning archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Long Clawson is 10km north of Melton Mowbray in the parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby in the administrative district of Melton, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

The site is in the centre of the village, about 400m northeast of the parish church. It is on the north side of Church Lane at Rushmore Farm, National Grid Reference SK 7253 2745 (Fig. 2).

Long Clawson is on the lower slope of a hill on the southeastern edge of the Vale of Belvoir. The site is on the western edge of a minor north-south stream valley at approximately 69m OD. Local soils are the Denchworth Association, typically clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils developed on Jurassic Lower Lias clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984). However, the solid geology of the Vale edge varies, with thin beds of limestone and sandstone that form long ridges crossing the clay. Long Clawson is situated on a high ridge of Brandon Sandstone (Wilkinson 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Long Clawson is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Clachestone*, the name may derive from the Old English *tūn* meaning settlement and a Scandinavian personal name ‘*Clac*’ (Ekwall 1989), although the first element may be topographical and derive from the Old English *clacc* or Old Danish *klak*,

meaning hill (Fellows-Jensen 1978). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Long Clawson was held by Robert of Tosney and Robert Usher and contained ploughland and meadow (Morgan 1979).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of St. Remegius which dates largely from the 14th and 15th centuries, though does contain earlier, Norman, stonework (Pevsner 1992). Immediately east of the church are extensive earthworks, including a moated enclosure and three fishponds (Hartley 1987 in Cope-Faulkner 2007).

The site is near the present centre of Long Clawson village. However, it seems likely that the Saxon and medieval settlements originated in two separate foci, at West End, around the church and moated manor, and at East End by Clawson Hall. It is uncertain whether settlement extended fully between the two areas, or at what time the gap was infilled. Nonetheless, there is potential for medieval remains in the area. Earthworks of abandoned medieval settlement are located a short distance away to the northeast, on the opposite side of the stream that runs through the village.

The 1780 Enclosure Plan for Long Clawson records the site in the core of the post-medieval settlement, with buildings on the frontage. The first edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1892, scale 6 inch to 1 mile is the first to show the development area in detail. The present farmhouse is the only building on the site, the northwest corner of which is occupied by an orchard. Later maps continued to show the site in the village centre and occupied by buildings with orchards and paddocks behind (Taylor and Bradley-Lovekin 2005).

A watching brief on the adjacent Plot 3 footings revealed a single undated pit. Although undated, the pit was below the subsoil and, consequently, may be ancient. Pottery and clay pipe of 18th/19th century

date was retrieved from the topsoil (Peachey 2007).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

The objectives were to determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered, their spatial arrangement, to recover any dating evidence from them and to establish the sequence of archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

The Plot 2 house footings were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, representative sections of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. 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 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.

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 Figs 3 and 4

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

The earliest deposit on the site was soft yellow natural clay with grey mottles (009). This was overlain by light yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (008) which was up to 0.55m thick and was thicker in the southern part of the site (Fig 4, Section 3, Plate 2). This was overlain by a 0.1m thick topsoil (007) in the southern footings which was not present in the more truncated (during stripping) northern part of the site (Fig 4, Section 4, Plate 3).

As no archaeological features were revealed in Plot 2 it was agreed, with the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist, not to archaeologically monitor the adjacent Plot 1 and associated garages.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposit on the site was soft yellow clay. No archaeological features were found. This may indicate, along with the lack of dated features in Plot 3, that medieval settlement was not present in this part of the village or did not extend this far back (40m) from Church Lane.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Rushland Farm, Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire as the site lay within an area of archaeological potential.

However, no archaeological features were revealed and no finds were retrieved. This may suggest that the medieval village did not extend into the development area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Doubleday for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis.

Thanks are also due to agents Clive Wicks Associates. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Peachey
 Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

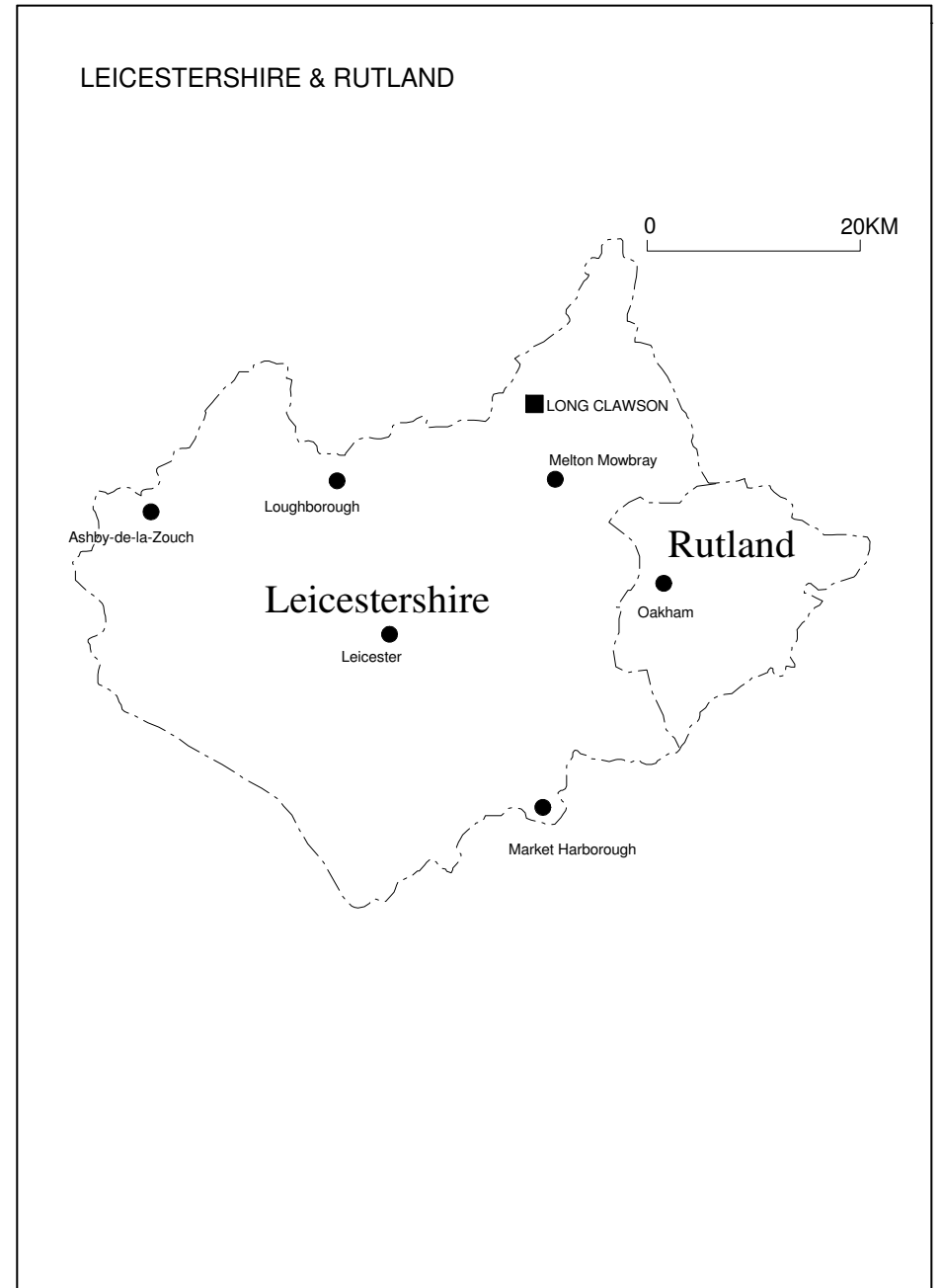


Figure 1. General location plan



SK

 Area detailed in Figure 3



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name Long Clawson Church Lane LCCL07		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No:122 /07

Figure 2. Site location plan

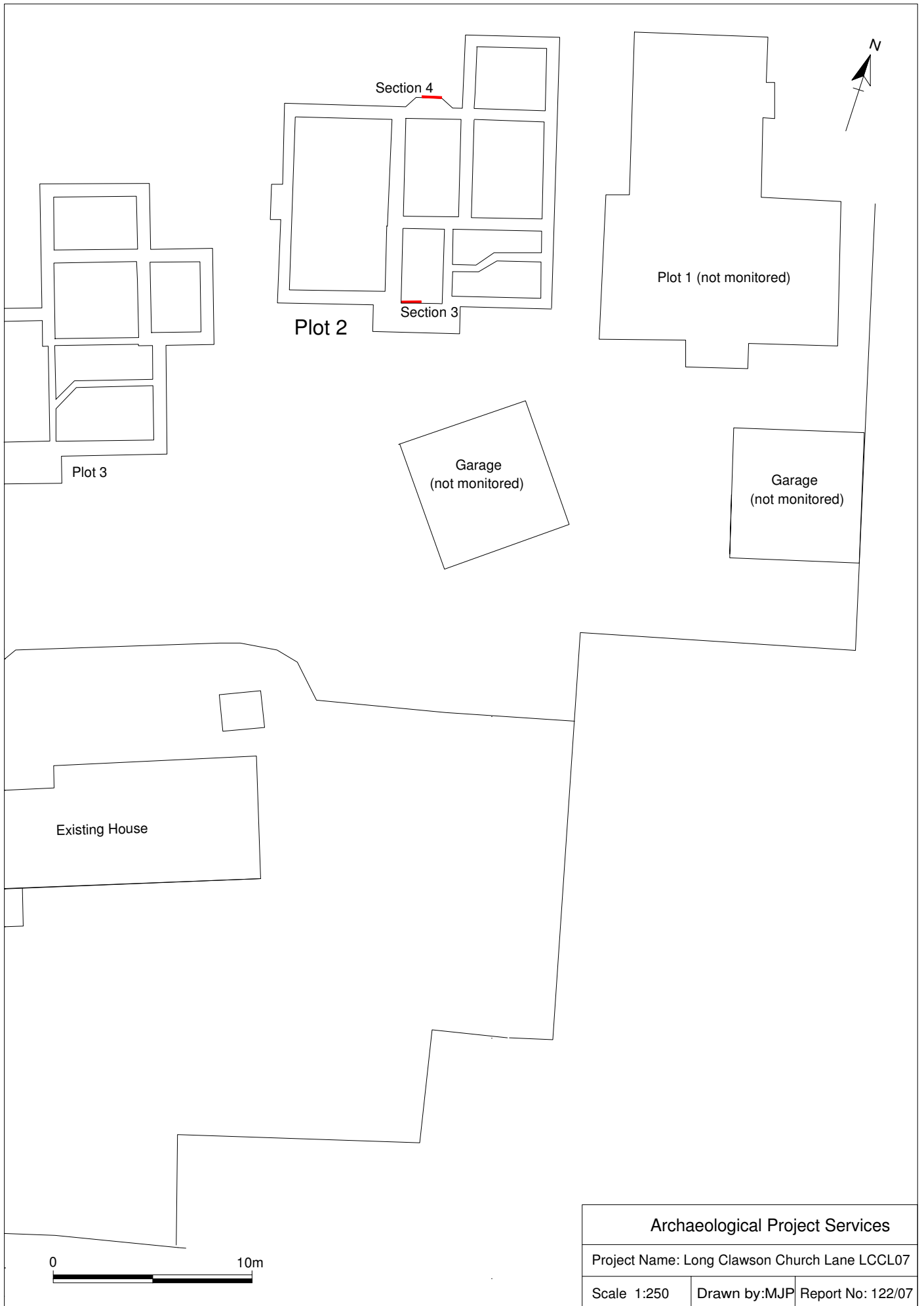
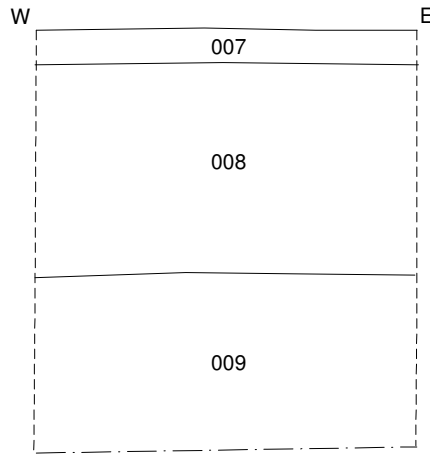
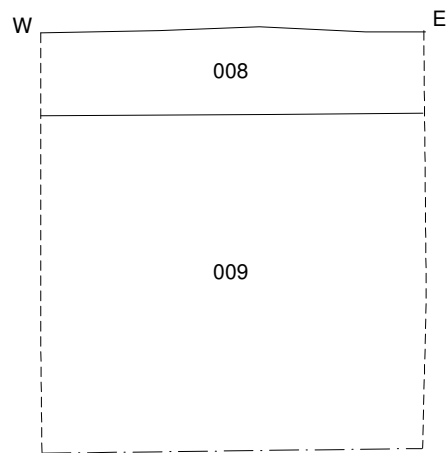


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan



Section 3



Section 4



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Long Clawson Church Lane LCCL07		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 122/07

Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1: General view of Plot 2 machining looking towards old farm house



Plate 2: Section 3



Plate 3: Section 4

Appendix 1:

**LAND AT RUSHLAND COTTAGE,
CHURCH LANE, LONG CLAWSON,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
CLIVE WICKS ASSOCIATES &
MRS DOUBLEDAY**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists' Registered Organisation No. 21**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of two dwellings and garages at Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, in the historic core of the village, with the potential for Late Saxon and medieval remains to be encountered. Buildings were mapped on the site in 1780.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of houses and garages on land at Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Situated in the parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby, Long Clawson is 10km north of Melton Mowbray, in the administrative district of Melton, Leicestershire. The site is in the centre of the village, about 400m northeast of the parish church. It is on the north side of Church Lane at Rushmore Farm, National Grid Reference SK 7253 2745.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (07/00654/FUL) was submitted to Melton Borough Council for the construction of two dwellings and garages. A desk-based study of the site indicated moderate archaeological potential for the site but also raised the possibility that any such remains may have been damaged. Consequently, permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Long Clawson is at the base of a hill on the southeastern edge of the Vale of Belvoir. The site is on the western edge of a minor north-south stream valley at approximately 69m OD. Local soils are the Denchworth Association, typically clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils developed on Jurassic Lower Lias clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984). However, the solid geology of the Vale edge varies, with thin beds of limestone and sandstone that form long ridges crossing the clay. Long Clawson is situated on a high ridge of Brandon Sandstone.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site is in the present centre of Long Clawson village. However, it seems likely that the Saxon and medieval settlements originated in two separate foci, at West End, around the church and moated manor, and at East End by Clawson Hall. It is uncertain whether settlement extended fully between the two areas, or at what time the gap was infilled. Nonetheless, there is potential for medieval remains in the area. Earthworks of abandoned medieval settlement are located a short distance away to the northeast, on the opposite side of the stream that runs through the village.
- 6.2 The 1780 Enclosure Plan for Long Clawson records the site in the core of the post-medieval settlement, with buildings on the frontage. Subsequent maps of the late 19th and 20th centuries continued to show the site in the village centre and occupied by buildings with orchards and paddocks behind (Archaeological Project Services 2005).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist; and Melton Borough Council Planning Department.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to Leicestershire Museums Service. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). A note of the findings of the investigation will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.
- 12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the
Archaeological Project Services

investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS

17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2005 *Desk-based Assessment of land at 10 Church Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire (LCC05)*, unpublished APS report **24/05**

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Specification: Version 1, 02-08-07

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Plot	Description	Interpretation	Date
007	2	Dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.1m thick	Topsoil	
008	2	Light yellowish brown clayey silt up to 0.55m thick	Subsoil	
009	2	Mid yellow clay with light grey mottles	Natural	

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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 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].
Cut	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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used 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
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Saxon	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:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 3 Context sheets
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Drawing sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheet

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:

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Room 500
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: X.A140.2007

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LCCL 07

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.