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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 36 CHURCH LANE,  
KIRKBY LA THORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(KLC 05)**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 36 CHURCH LANE,  
KIRKBY LA THORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(KLC 05)**

**Work Undertaken For**  
Mr P Daynes

February 2008

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No: N/34/1600/04  
National Grid Reference: TF 0991 4593  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.26  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-37598

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **17/08**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension.*

*The site lies within the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village, 150m south of St Denis' church which also contains a Saxon (AD 410-1066) grave cover. Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) pottery and Romano-British (AD 43-410) coins are known from the immediate vicinity of the site.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural and subsoil overlain by made ground associated with the current structure and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were made.*

## 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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr P Daynes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new extensions to existing buildings at 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/34/1600/04. The watching brief was

carried out on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Kirkby La Thorpe is located 3km east of Sleaford and 25km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is 160m south of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St Denis at National Grid Reference TF 0991 4593 (Fig. 2). Located on the east side of Church Lane, the site lies at a height of c. 9.5m OD on land that slopes gently down to the east.

Local soils are of the Ruskington Series, typically brown calcareous earths (George and Robson 1978, 79). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of Fen sands and gravels which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Kirkby La Thorpe is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. A Bronze Age food vessel and other pottery has been found in close proximity to the site.

Two Roman coins are known from the village, one dating to AD 307-337 and the other to AD 198-217. No habitation of this period has been identified yet within the village, although settlements are known within a kilometre of the site to the south and southwest.

The village of Kirkby La Thorpe originally comprised three separate settlements, the current site lying within Kirkby. The smaller settlement of Laythorpe is situated to the south along Mount Lane and the

northerly *Burgh* was subsumed into Kirkby by at least the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. Kirkby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Cherchebi* the name is derived from the Old Danish *kirkju-by*, meaning ‘the village with a church’ (Cameron 1998, 74). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by the King, the Bishop of Durham, Gilbert de Gand and Colsuan and shared half a church with Laythorpe (Foster and Longley 1976). By the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the two settlements had been combined for in the Curia Regis Rolls of 1206 the village is referred to as ‘*Kirkebi et Leitorp*’.

The village of Kirkby at one time contained two churches, St Denis’ and St Peter’s. The church of St Denis lies 150m to the north with St Peter’s church, perhaps the original church of *Burgh*, located 400m north of the site. St Denis was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A fragment of a Saxon grave cover is set into the tower (Everson and Stocker 1999, 191) and may have derived from the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey.

Kirkby is surrounded by the extensive earthwork remains of the medieval village including house platforms, yards, ponds and ridge and furrow of the medieval field system.

An archaeological watching brief adjacent to the site identified a pond and a tree throw (Cope-Faulkner 2004, 3).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to a depth of 1.1m as required by the development. 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 2. 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 at the base of the foundation trenches was a natural layer of yellowish brown clay (004) that was 0.22m thick. This was sealed by a 0.12m thick subsoil comprising mottled grey and brown sand (003).

Above this was a deposit of greyish brown silty clay (002) that contained brick and stone fragments and associated with the construction of the house.

Sealing this last layer was a grey clayey silt topsoil (001) that was 0.32m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clay relate to the underlying drift geology of Fen sand and

gravel. This was sealed by subsoil, suggesting the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past. Made ground, associated with the initial construction of the house and topsoil completes the recorded sequence. No archaeological features were identified and no finds retrieved during the investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, as the site lay within the medieval village and close to findspots of Bronze Age and Romano-British date.

However, only natural, subsoil and made ground layers were identified during the watching brief. No artefacts were observed or recovered during the watching brief.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P Daynes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone  
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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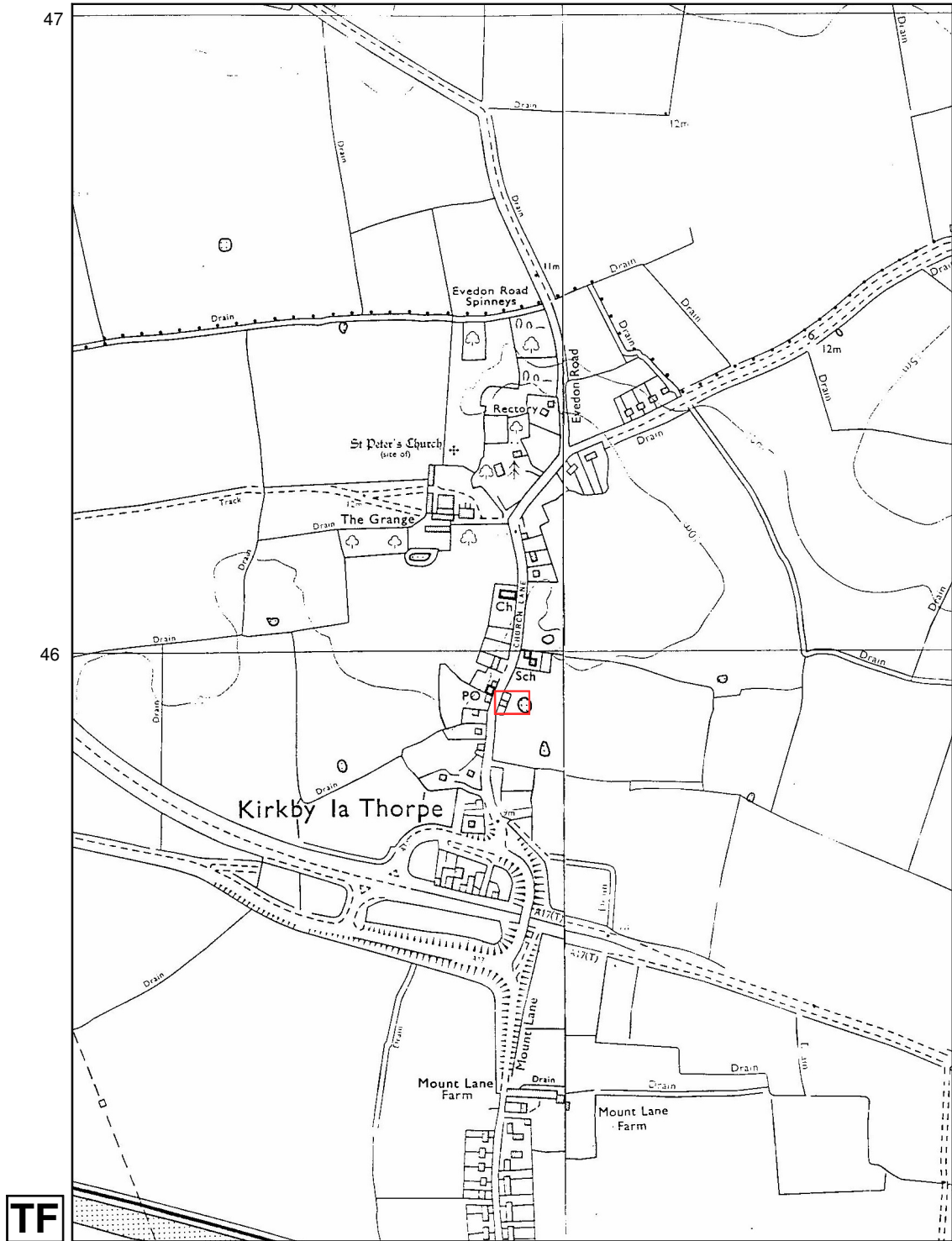
## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain  
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists




Figure 1 - General location plan





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Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL LTD Licence No: AL5041A001

 Area detailed in Figure 3




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 17/08

Figure 2 - Site location plan

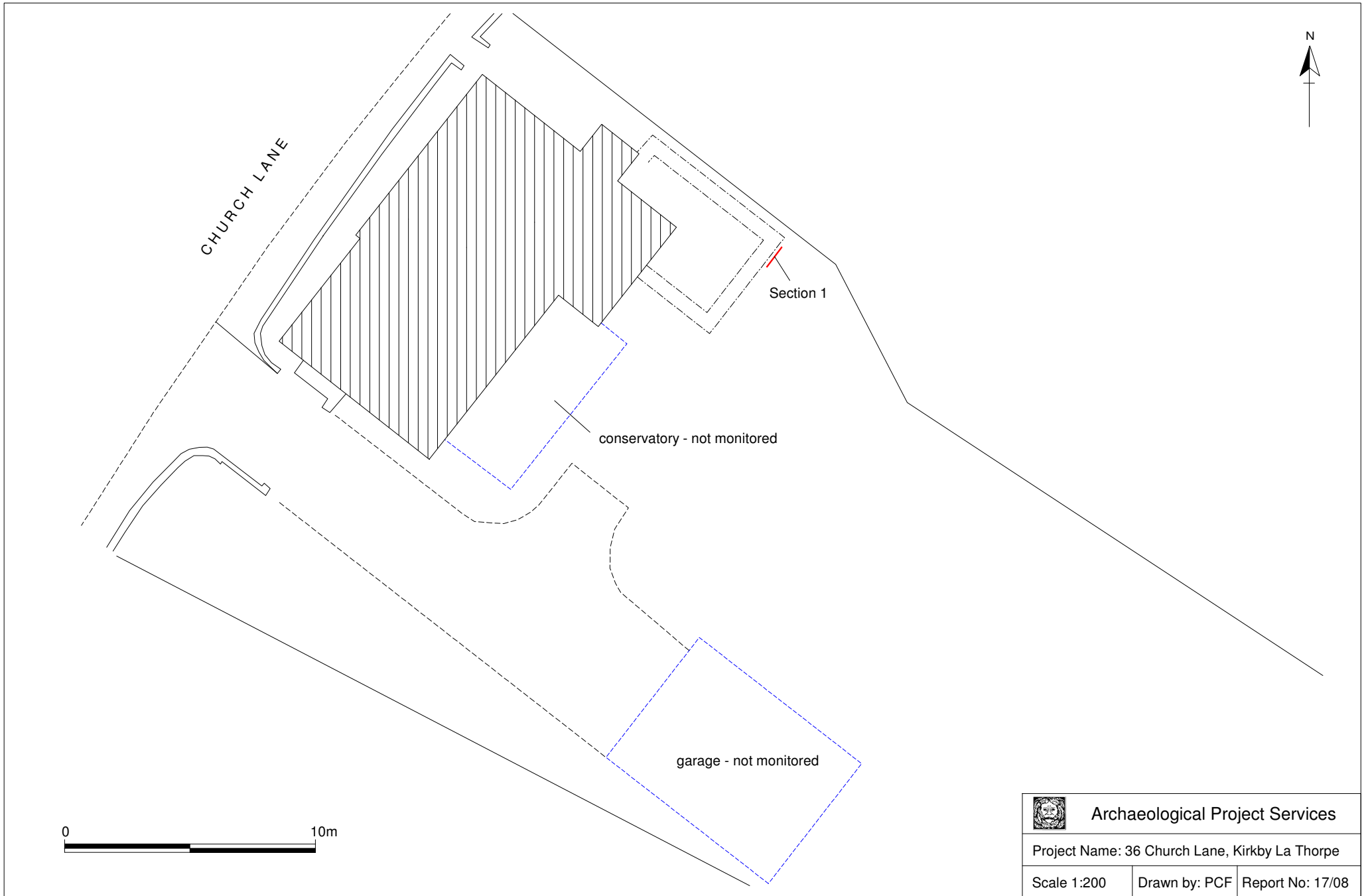
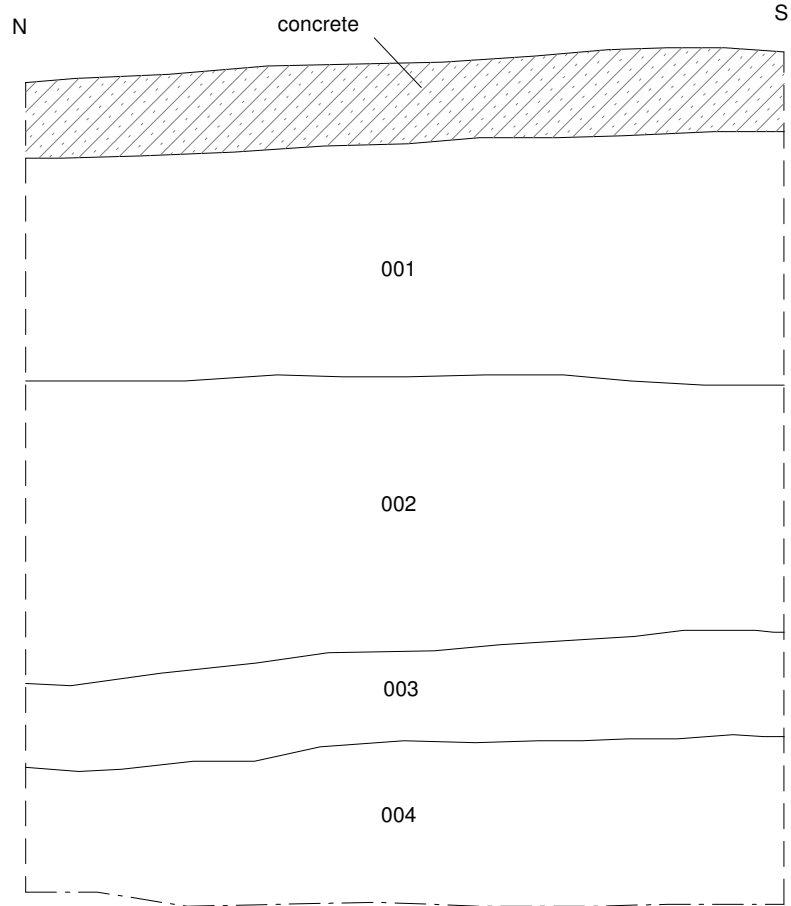


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section



Section 1




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 17/08

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – View of the extension footings, looking southeast



Plate 2 – Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking southeast

## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT 36 CHURCH LANE, KIRKBY LA THORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *Archaeological observation and recording (watching brief) is required during construction of an extension to a dwelling at 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies within the medieval settlement of Kirkby. Finds of Bronze Age and Roman date have been found close to the development site.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of an extension to a dwelling at 36 Church Lane, Kirkby La Thorpe, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Kirkby La Thorpe is located 3km east of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site lies on the east side of Church Lane, approximately 150m south of the church, at National Grid Reference TF 0992 4592.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 An outline planning application (N/34/1600/04) has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council for erection of extensions and a garage. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of archaeological observation and recording (watching brief) during groundworks associated with the development.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 Local soils are Ruskington Association, gleyic brown earths overlying fen and glaciofluvial gravels (Hodge *et al* 1984, 304). Beneath these deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic clays. The site lies at a height of approximately 10m OD.

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 Archaeological remains from the Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods have been found in and around Kirkby La Thorpe. A complete Bronze Age food vessel, a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a Roman coin have been recorded c20m southwest of the development site.
- 6.2 Kirkby La Thorpe originally comprised two separate settlements, Kirkby to the north and Laythorpe to the south (along Mount Lane). Kirkby is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (c1086) and at one time had two churches, St Peter's (which was demolished in the 16<sup>th</sup> century) and St



Denis' (which lies 150m north of the development site). It is surrounded by earthwork remains of the medieval village and finds of possible Saxon and medieval date have been found in the village.

## 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.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 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 all phases of groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological brief specifies that a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket must be used for all groundworks.
- 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 they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local

Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

## 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 field work 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Archaeological

## Sites and Monuments Record.

### 11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

### 12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. 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 Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council. They will be given written notice in before 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 (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 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 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 Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## 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**

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

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark grey clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.37m thick	Make-up deposit
003	Friable mottled mid grey and brown sand, 0.12m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm light yellowish brown clay, >0.22m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Burh</b>	Old English (Saxon) term for a fortified town or dwelling.
<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 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).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term 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>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 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<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:

4	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 2005.26

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KLC 05

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.