
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT GOOSENEST FARM
WIDE LANE, WYMESWOLD,
LEICESTERSHIRE
(WYWL 08)**

**Work Undertaken For
RJH Building Construction Ltd**

April 2008

Report Compiled by
Thomas Bradley-Lovekin MA PIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 6210 2362
Planning Application No: P/07/1746/2
LCC Heritage Services Accession No: X.A56.2008
OASIS Ref: archaeol1 41181

APS Report No: 46/2008

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a dwelling on land at Goosenest Farm, Wide Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire. The watching brief was required by the local planning authority as the site lies in an area of potential archaeological interest, in an area where numerous Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds have been discovered.

The watching brief revealed deposits of topsoil, subsoil, natural clay and natural sand.

No archaeological finds were recovered during the 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 RJH Building Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling at land at Goosenest Farm, Wide Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application P/07/1746/2. The watching brief was carried out on the 15th of April 2008.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wymeswold is located 9km northeast of Loughborough in Charnwood District, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). The site is located approximately 1.8km east of Wymeswold and situated to the rear of Goosenest Farm on the south side of Wide Lane. The proposed dwelling is to be located within an approximately 25 x 35m area immediately to the rear of the southern boundary of the plot currently occupied by the various buildings associated with farm (Fig. 2).

The site lies on generally level ground at approximately 103m OD within soils of the Ragdale Association comprising slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils developed on chalky till. (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Remains dating from the Romano-British (AD 43-409), Saxon (AD 410 - 1066), medieval (AD 1067-1539) and post-medieval periods (post AD 1540) have been recorded in the village.

Wymeswold is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Wimundewale* and *Wimundeswald* the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘Wigmund’s wald or wood’ (Ekwall 1974, 541). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Hugh of Grandmesnil, Roger of Bully, Durand Malet and Robert of Jort and contained 55 acres of meadow (Morgan 1979).

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Three possible occupation sites lies close to the application area. These are represented by three entries for the Roman period (HER

refs. MLE1161, MLE1165, MLE1166) and one of Anglo-Saxon date (MLE1160). Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

The closest of these HER entries (MLE 1165) lies approximately 120m southeast of the proposed area of development and is represented by a number of Romano-British coins and brooches recovered by metal detectorists. Similarly the HER entry of Anglo-Saxon date (MLE1160) is represented by metal detector finds from around 250m to the west of the application area, including a number of Sceattas (coins) and other metalwork. A Romano-British Brooch was also recovered by metal detector from a site the east of the proposed development.

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 for the new dwelling were excavated using a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Each deposit identified 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 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also

checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of natural sand (004) and clay (002 and 005) extended across the base of the footings to a depth of at least 0.75m (Fig. 4 Sections 1 and 2, Plates 2 and 3).

5.2 Undated Deposits

A single deposit of silty clay subsoil (003) sealed natural (004) to a depth of 0.20m in the central part of the footings (Fig. 4 Section 2, Plate 3).

5.3 Recent Deposits

The earlier deposits were sealed by a silty clay ploughsoil, 0.25m thick, which extended across the footprint of the new dwelling (Fig. 4 Sections 1 and 2, Plates 1,2 and 3).

6. DISCUSSION

Although the Leicestershire HER records the presence of three Romano-British sites (Refs. MLE1161, MLE1165, MLE1166) and an Anglo-Saxon site (MLE1160) within the vicinity of the site no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the watching brief, suggesting an absence of archaeological

activity on the Application Site. At least three of the sites recorded on the HER, were reported by metal detectorists. The presence of brooches within the assemblages, is curious as it may indicate burials disturbed through ploughing.

Medieval and post-medieval remains have also been reported at Wymeswold.

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a dwelling on land at Goosenest Farm, Wide Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, as the site lies within an area of potential archaeological interest, in an area where numerous Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds have been discovered.

In the event, however only deposits of topsoil, subsoil, natural clay and natural sand were revealed within the groundworks monitored.

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services (APS) wishes to acknowledge the assistance of RJH Building Construction Ltd who commissioned both the fieldwork and this report. The project was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who, along with Tom Lane edited this report. APS also wishes to acknowledge the help provided by Richard Clark, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, who provided information on the development's archaeological setting.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Jim Robertson
Illustration and plates: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin
Post-excavation analysis: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (4th Edition)

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, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Morgan, P., 1979, *Domesday Book: Leicestershire* **22**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
DoE Department of the Environment
GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
HER Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

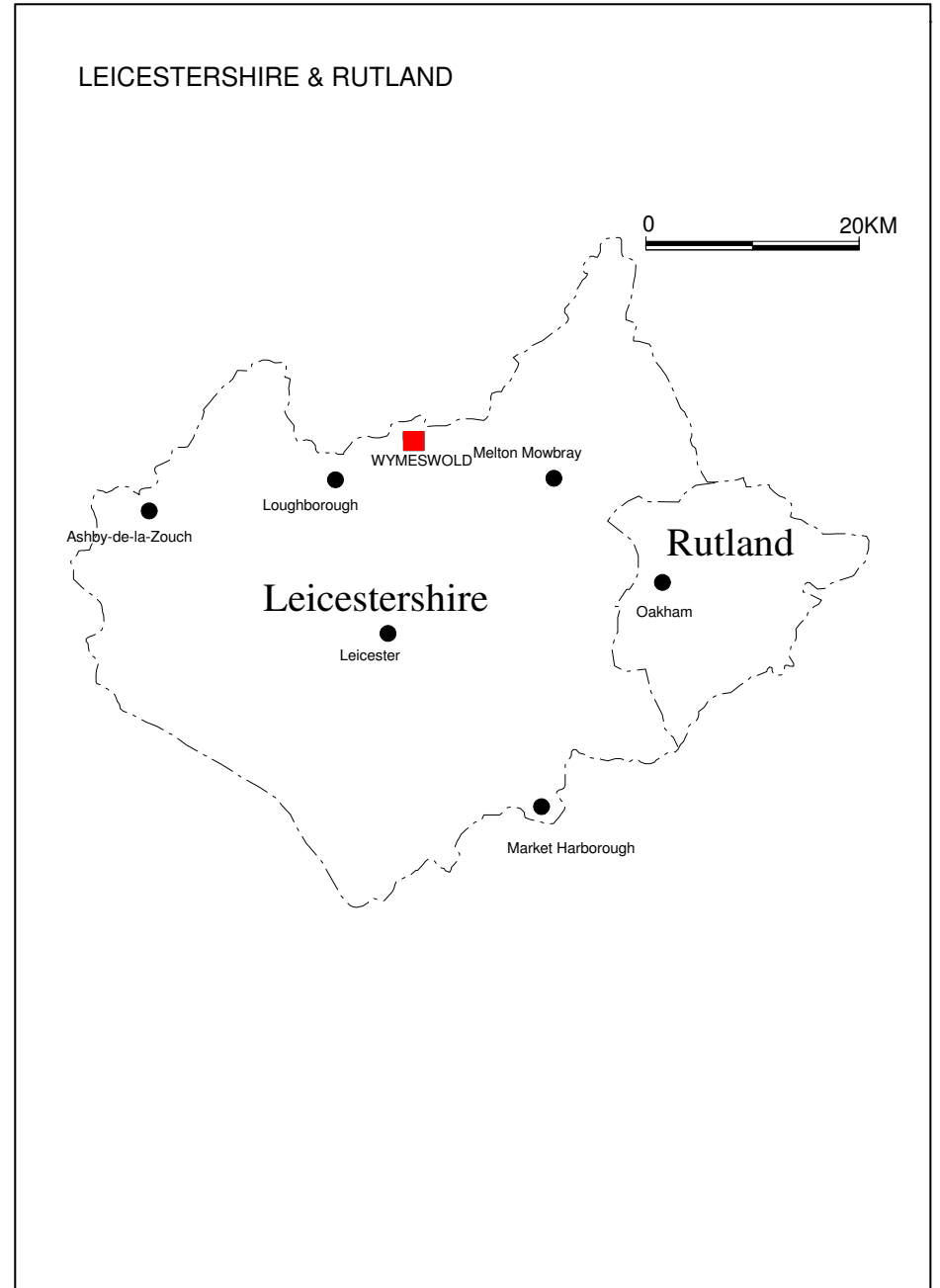


Figure 1: General location map

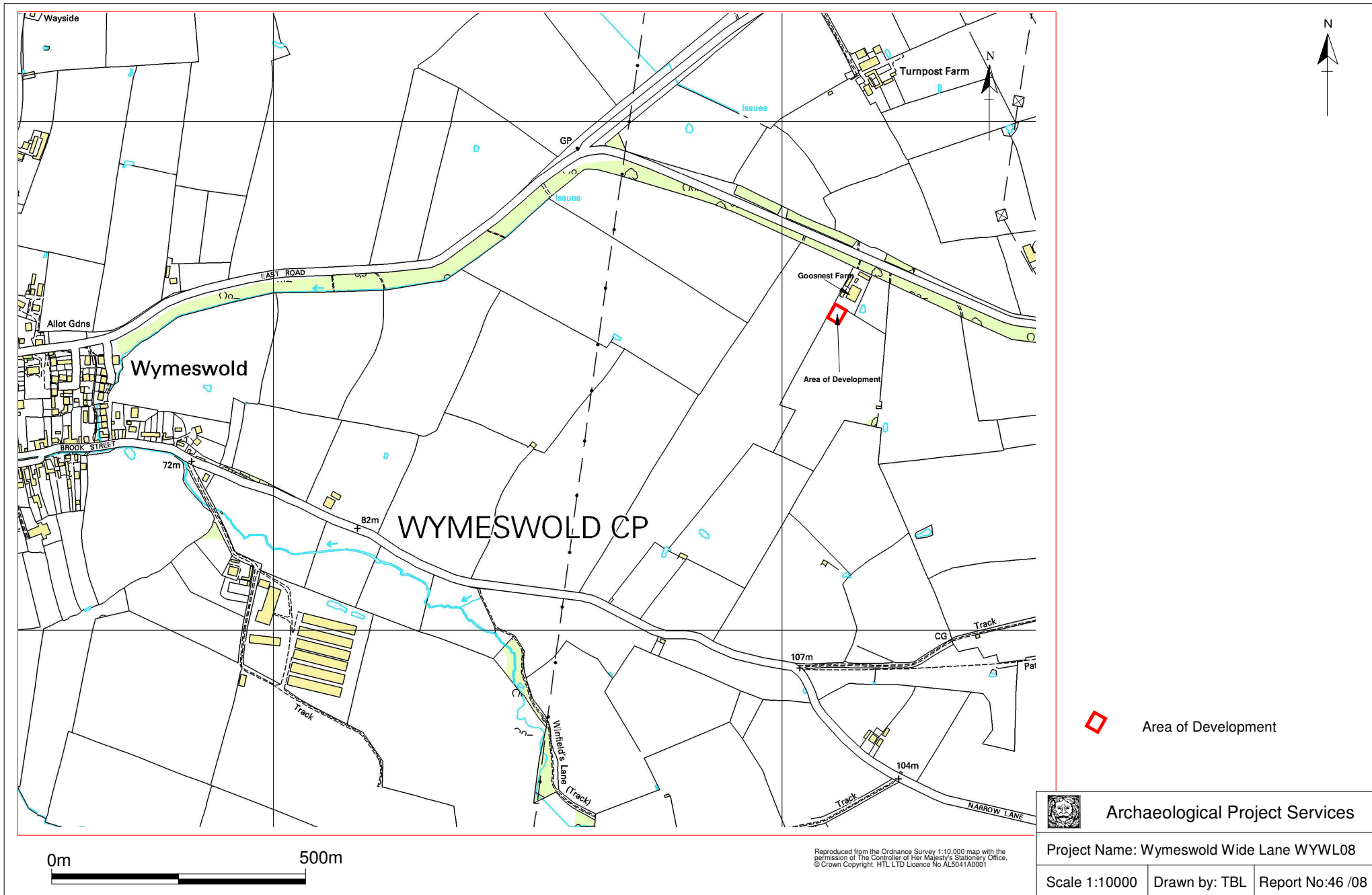


Figure 2 Location of development

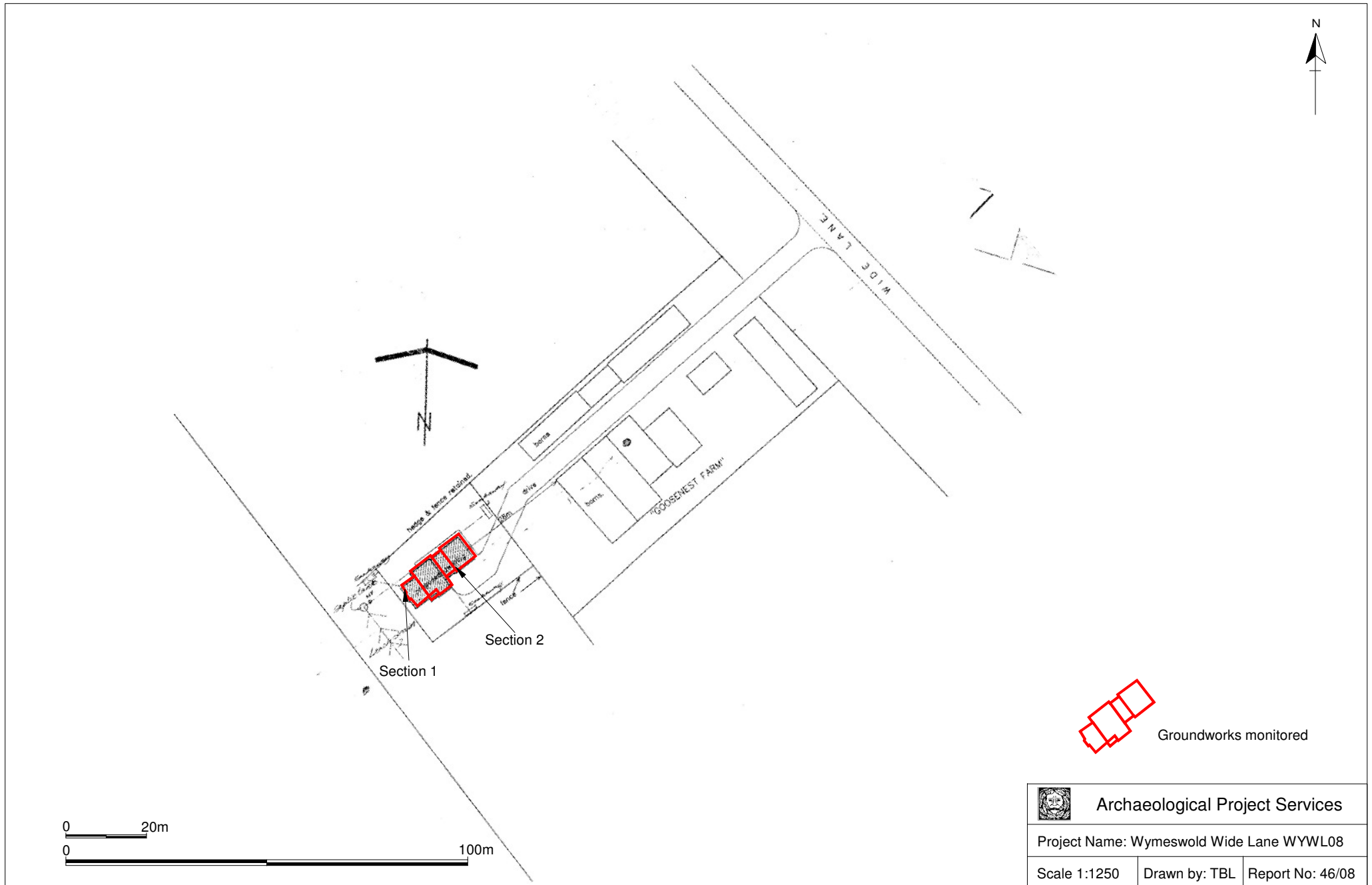

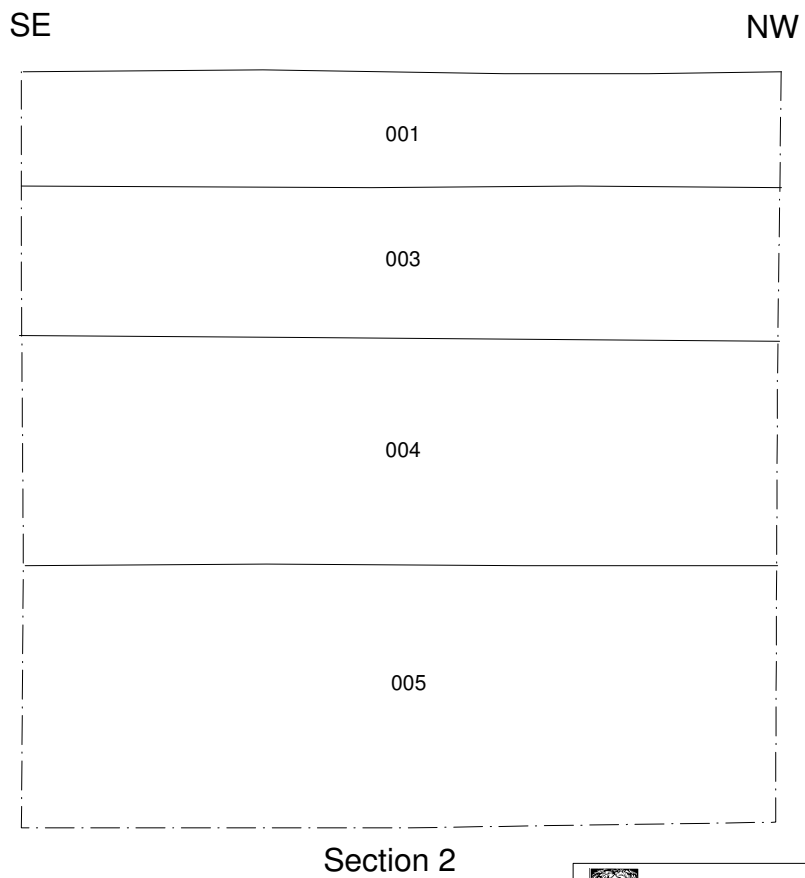
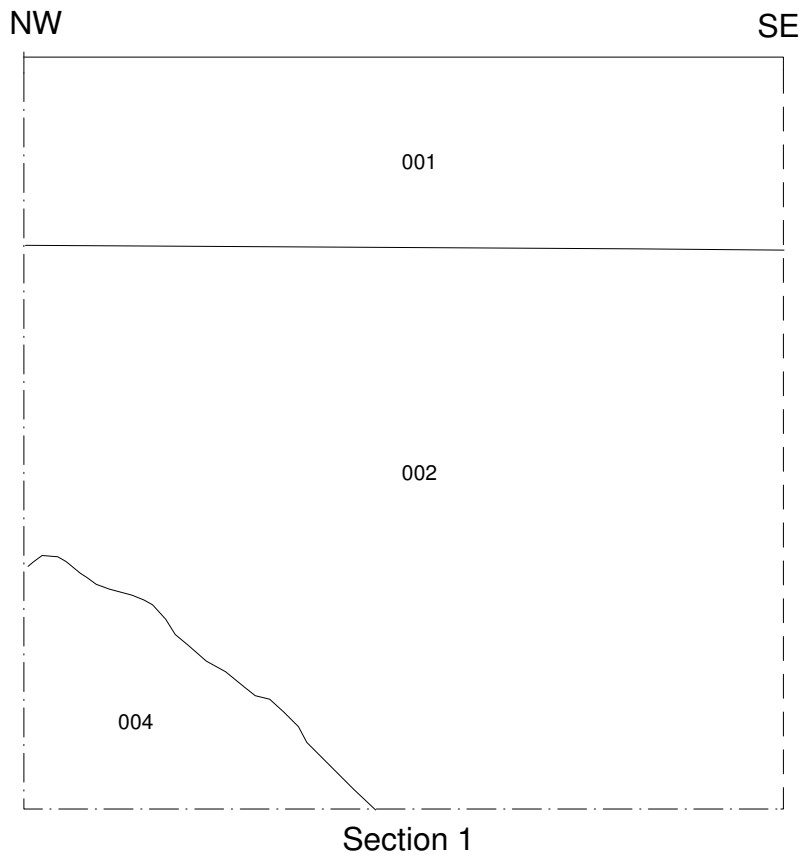


Figure 3 Plan of development showing location of groundworks monitored and sections recorded

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Wymeswold Wide Lane WYWL08		
Scale 1:1250	Drawn by: TBL	Report No: 46/08




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Wymeswold Wide Lane WYWL08		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by:TBL	Report No: 46/08

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 Southwest facing view across development showing completed groundworks



Plate 2 Southwest facing view Section 1



Plate 3 Northeast facing view Section 2

Appendix 1
**LAND AT GOOSENEST FARM, WIDE LANE WYMESWOLD, LEICESTERSHIRE
SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

March 2008

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Archaeological monitoring and recording is required during construction of a dwelling on land at Goosenest Farm, Wide Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of potential archaeological interest, in an area where numerous Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds have been discovered.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site. Archaeological features 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 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 a dwelling on land at Goosenest Farm, Wide Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, located at National Grid Reference SK 6210 2362.
- 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 Wymeswold is located 9km northeast of Loughborough in Charnwood District, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). The site is located approximately 1.8km east of Wymeswold and situated to the rear of Goosenest Farm on the south side of Wide Lane. The proposed dwelling is to be located within an approximately 25 x 35m area immediately to the rear of the southern boundary of the plot currently occupied by the various buildings associated with farm (Fig. 2).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application P/08/0100/2) has been granted by Charnwood Borough Council for construction of a dwelling. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the provision of professional archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies on generally level ground at approximately 103m OD within soils of the Ragdale Association comprising slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils
-

developed on chalky till. (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Remains dating from the Romano-British (AD 43-409), Saxon (AD 410 - 1066), medieval (AD 1067-1539) and post-medieval periods (post AD 1540) have been recorded in the village.
- 6.2 Wymeswold is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as Wimundewale and Wimundeswald the name is derived from the Old English and means 'Wigmund's wald or wood' (Ekwall 1974, 541). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Hugh of Grandmesnil, Roger of Bully, Durand Malet and Robert of Jort and contained 55 acres of meadow (Morgan 1979)..
- 6.3 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Three possible occupation sites lies close to the application area. These are represented by three entries for the Roman period (HER refs. MLE1161, MLE1165, MLE1166) and one of Anglo-Saxon date (MLE1160). Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.
- 6.4 The closest of these HER entries (MLE 1165) lies approximately 120m southeast of the proposed area of development and is represented by a number of Romano-British coins and brooches recovered by metal detectorists. Similarly the HER entry of Anglo-Saxon date (MLE1160) is represented by metal detector finds from around 250m to the west of the application area, including a number of Sceattas (coins) and other metalwork. A Romano-British Brooch was also recovered by metal detector from a site the east of the proposed development.

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 archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes attendance during 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 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 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department; and to the County Council 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 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 project will be entered into the OASIS database. A report of the findings of the evaluation will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. If appropriate notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval*

Settlement Research Group for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman 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 seven days notice in writing 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.
- 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 monitoring 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	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, 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 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.
- 18.3 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. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (4th Edition)

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**

Morgan, P., 1979, *Domesday Book: Leicestershire* **22**

**APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING ON LAND AT
GOOSENESTFARM, WIDE LANE, WYMESWOLD, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Specification: Version 2, 1st April 2008

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
001	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt clay	0.25m	Cultivated topsoil
002	Firm olivey greyish brown/ mottled reddish brown clay	0.75m	Natural clay
003	Friable mid greyish brown slightly silty clay	0.2m	Subsoil
004	Loose soft reddish brown sand	0.3m	Natural sand
005	Firm olivey greyish brown/ mottled reddish brown clay	0.34m	Natural clay

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	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.
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Drawing sheets
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.A56.2008

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WYWL 08

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.