
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 2 MAIN STREET,
WHITWELL,
RUTLAND
(WHMS 08)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr P Clayton

May 2009

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

Planning Application No: FUL/2008/0676
National Grid Reference: SK 9229 0884
Museum Accession No: OAKRM: 2008.109
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-58371

APS Report No. **30/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land adjacent to 2 Main Street, Whitwell, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches and a service trench for a new detached dwelling.

Iron Age (800 BC-50 AD) and Romano-British (AD 50 –410) settlement has been identified to the west of the village. The site lies to the northwest of St. Michael and All Angels' church which may have Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) origins and on the periphery of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village core.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil with no archaeological features identified. No artefacts were recorded or collected from the investigation.

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 Clayton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development on land adjacent to 2 Main Street, Whitwell, Rutland. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application FUL/2008/0676. The watching

brief was carried out between the 23rd December 2008 and the 31st March 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Whitwell is located 7km east of Oakham and 10km west of Stamford in the county of Rutland (Fig. 1).

The site is located 93m northwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St. Michael and All Angels at National Grid Reference SK 9229 0884 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 100m OD on land that slopes down to the south, towards Rutland Water, and to the east.

Local soils are of the Elmton 1 Association, typically brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, Lower Estuarine Series and Northampton Sand (BGS 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Whitwell lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. Located southwest of the village, an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement was excavated in advance of the construction of Rutland Water and Roman coin hoards are also known from this vicinity (Bland and Johns 1994, 151).

The parish church of St. Michael and All Angels has stonework indicative of a Saxon date and suggests an aisleless nave (Pevsner 1992, 521). The remainder of the church is of 13th century date and later (*ibid.*).

Whitwell is first mentioned in the

Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Witewelle* the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘white stream’ (Bourne 1977, 30). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by the Countess Judith and contained a church with a priest, a mill, 20 acres of meadow and woodland over 6 furlongs long by 3 furlongs wide (Thorn 1980). Earthwork remains south of the church may indicate the former extent of the medieval village.

A watching brief undertaken adjacent to the church identified no archaeological remains apart from a stone soakaway (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 1).

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

Initially, a hand excavated service trench was opened. Later the footprint of the new building was stripped of topsoil. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were 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 sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. 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 within the service trench was a natural layer of brownish yellow sandy silt and limestone fragments (003). This was overlain by a 0.58m thick subsoil of brownish yellow limestone fragments and sandy silt (002).

The earliest natural deposits encountered within the foundation trenches comprised yellow sand (006) along the southern edge of the development with grey limestone (008) to the north of this. This was overlain by greyish brown limestone (005) that was up to 0.5m in thickness.

Subsoil was only encountered in Section 3 (Fig. 4) where it comprised a 0.16m thick layer of brown sandy silt (007).

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil of brown silt (001) and greyish brown sandy silt (004).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise limestone and sands of the underlying solid geology. Intermittent subsoil was also encountered and due to its absence in places may imply that the area had previously been lowered. Topsoil completed the sequence of deposits recorded.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was

undertaken at Main Street, Whitwell, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day, notably close to the medieval core of the village.

However, no archaeological remains were encountered. Instead a sequence of natural geology, subsoil and topsoil was recorded. No finds were retrieved from this investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P Clayton for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Neil Parker, Fiona Walker
 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

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

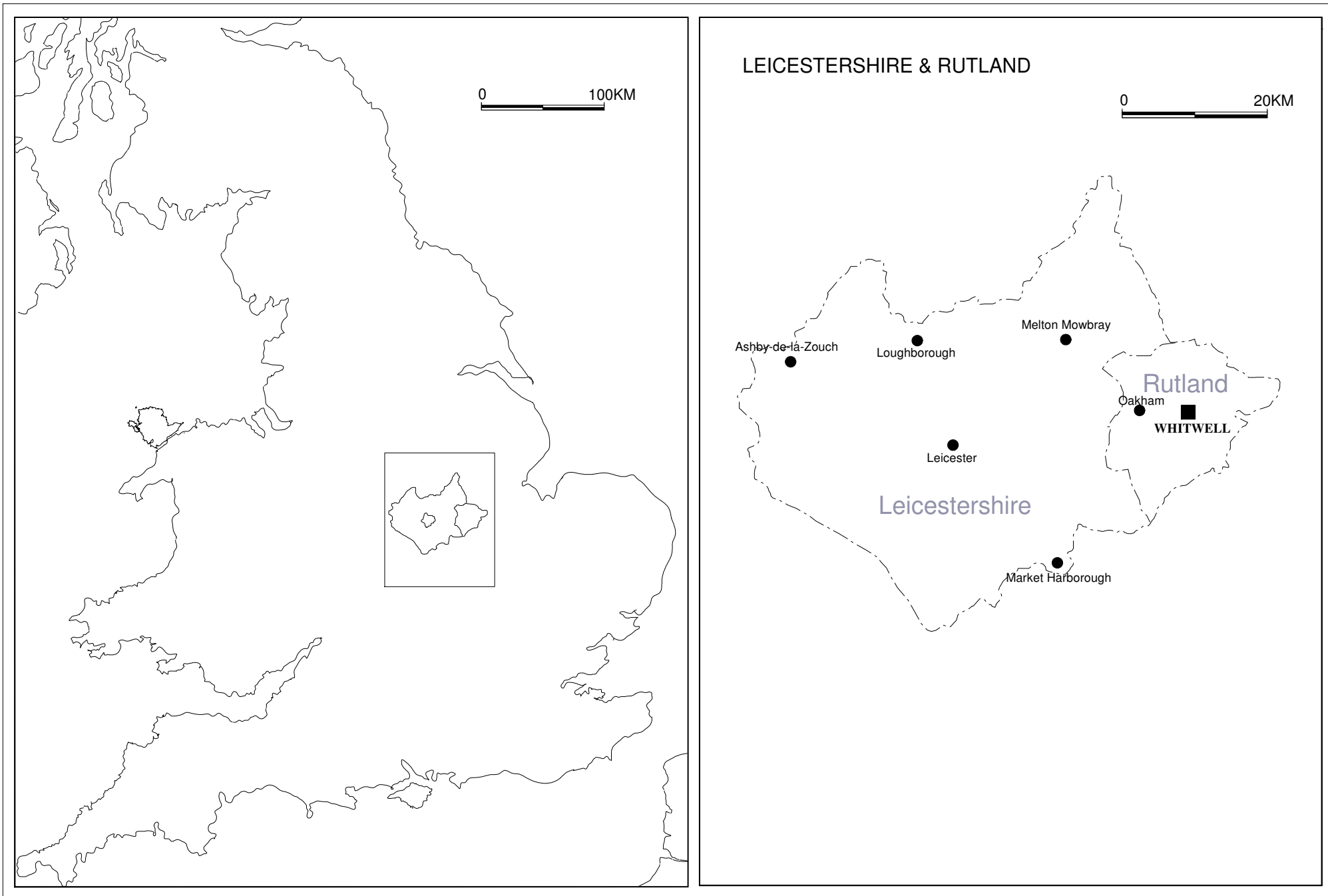
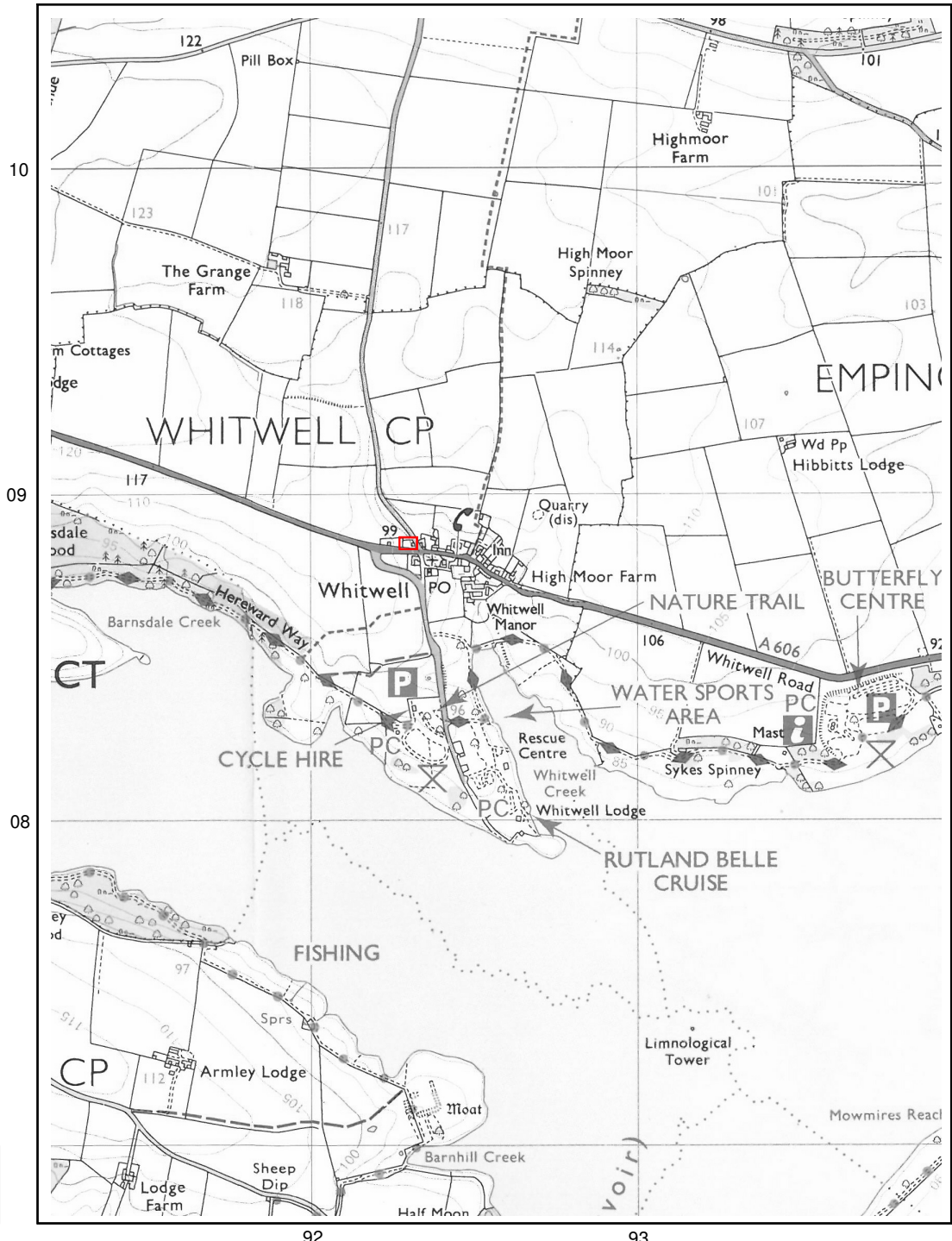


Figure 1 - General location map



□ Area detailed in Figure 3

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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Main Street, Whitwell WHMS08		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 30/09

Figure 2 - Site location plan

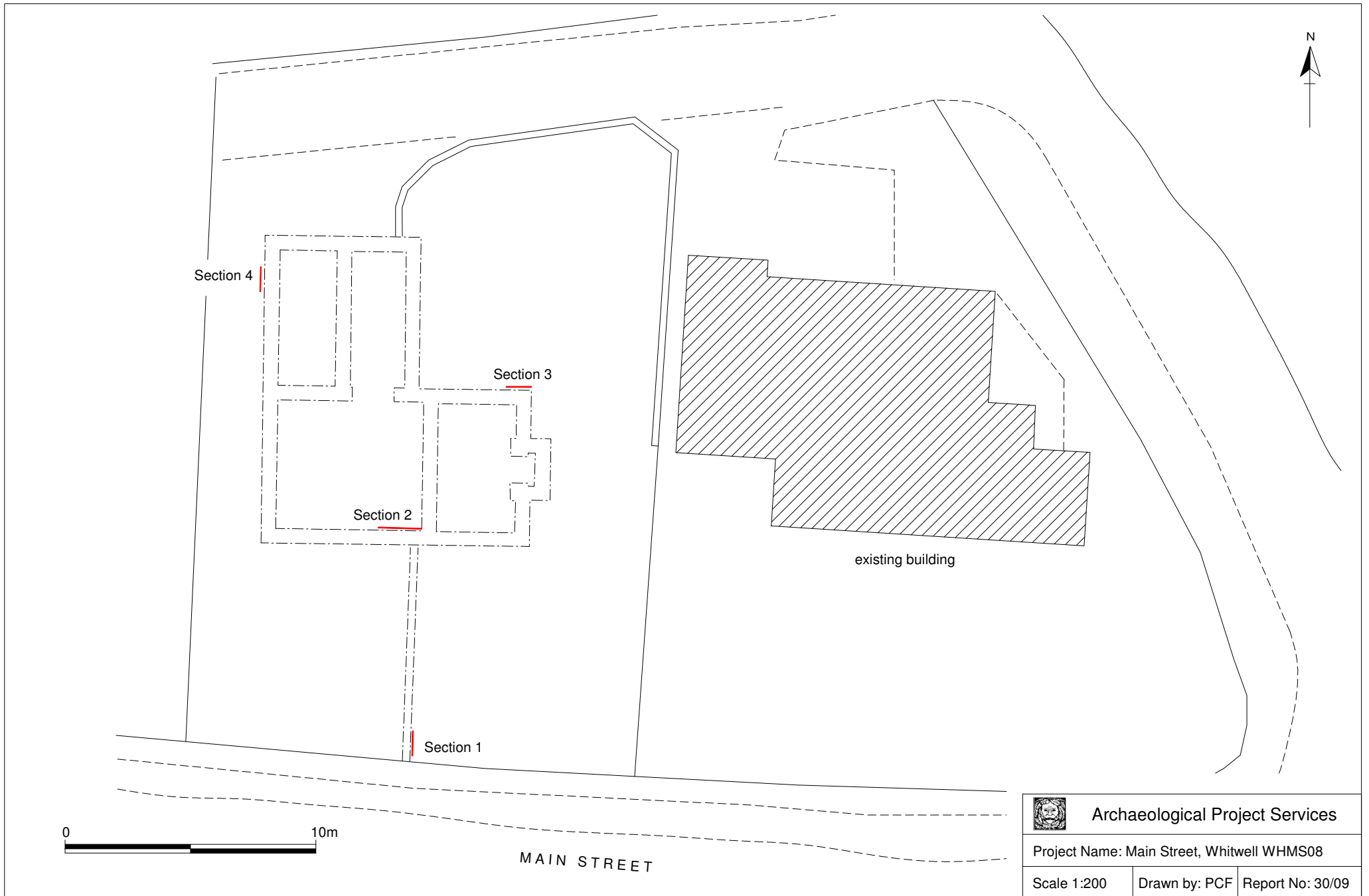
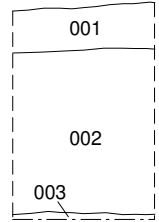


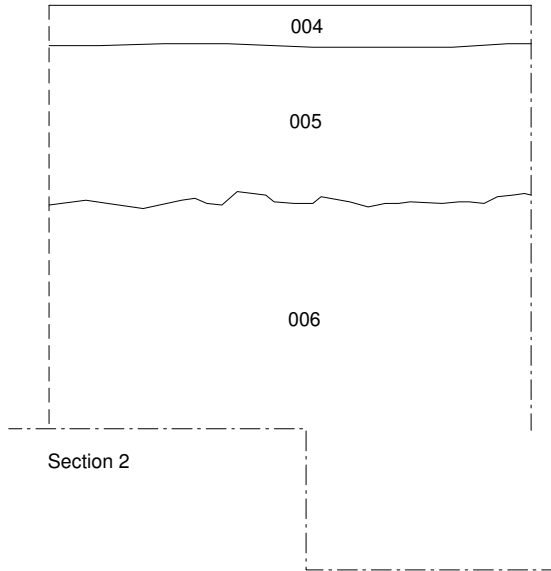
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

N S



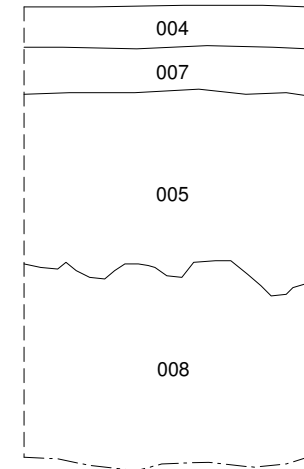
Section 1

W E



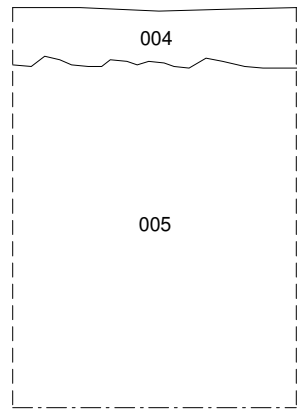
Section 2

W E



Section 3

S N



Section 4




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Main Street, Whitwell WHMS08		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 30/09

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 – View of the service trench, looking southeast



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east



Plate 3 – View across the development area, looking south



Plate 4 – Section 2, looking north



Plate 5 – Section 3, looking north



Plate 6 – Section 4, looking west

Appendix 1

LAND ADJACENT TO THE RETREAT, 2 MAIN STREET, WHITWELL, RUTLAND - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Archaeological monitoring and recording is required during residential development on land adjacent to The Retreat, 2 Main Street, Whitwell, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The site is of archaeological potential, lying in the historic core of the settlement.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will comprise an enhanced watching brief on areas of the site where development may disturb buried archaeological remains.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the monitoring. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring during residential development on land adjacent to The Retreat, 2 Main Street, Whitwell, Rutland, located at National Grid Reference SK 9229 0884.
- 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 Whitwell is located 6km east of Oakham in the county of Rutland on the northern edge of Rutland Water. The proposed development site is located on the north side of Main Street, within the centre of the village and close to the parish church of St Michael & All Angels. An approximately rectangular area measuring 0.45 hectares is proposed for residential development and currently comprises grassed paddock areas.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No. FUL/2008/0676) for construction of a dwelling is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works. This will comprise archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are well-drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Association developed on Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). The site lies on an east-facing hillside at a height of approximately 100m above OD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Whitwell is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, indicating that the settlement was well

established by the late Saxon period. Extant remains of the medieval period are restricted to the church of St. Michael and All Angels which may date from as early as the Saxon period (a church is recorded within the Domesday entry: Williams, A. and Martin 2002, 548) with 13th century and later additions.

- 6.2 The proposed area of development lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Whitwell village. It is likely that the village evolved from a core at or close to the centre of the modern settlement, probably during the later 1st millennium AD. The early C19th OS Surveyor's map appears to show a structure and possible road within the proposed development area.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the monitoring 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 monitoring 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 investigations.

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 will comprise the monitoring of all phases of ground disturbance.

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 investigations 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 investigations 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 investigations 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; Rutland County Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record..

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigations 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 such investigations 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 – Dr A Boyle, APS with B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - Dr A Boyle, APS with J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - Dr A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch, Independent Specialist
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, 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

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Specification: Version 1, 9 December 2008

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid to dark brown silt, 0.16m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light to mid brownish yellow limestone fragments and sandy silt, 0.58m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm light to mid brownish yellow sandy silt and limestone fragments, >50mm thick	Natural deposit
004	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
005	Hard light greyish brown limestone, 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
006	Soft mid yellow sand, >1.3m thick	Natural deposit
007	Firm mid brown sandy silt, 0.16m thick	Subsoil
008	Indurated light grey limestone, >	Natural deposit

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 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).
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 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.
Prehistoric	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 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
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:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	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:

Rutland County Museum
Catmose Street
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HW

Accession Number:

OAKRM: 2008.109

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

WHMS 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.