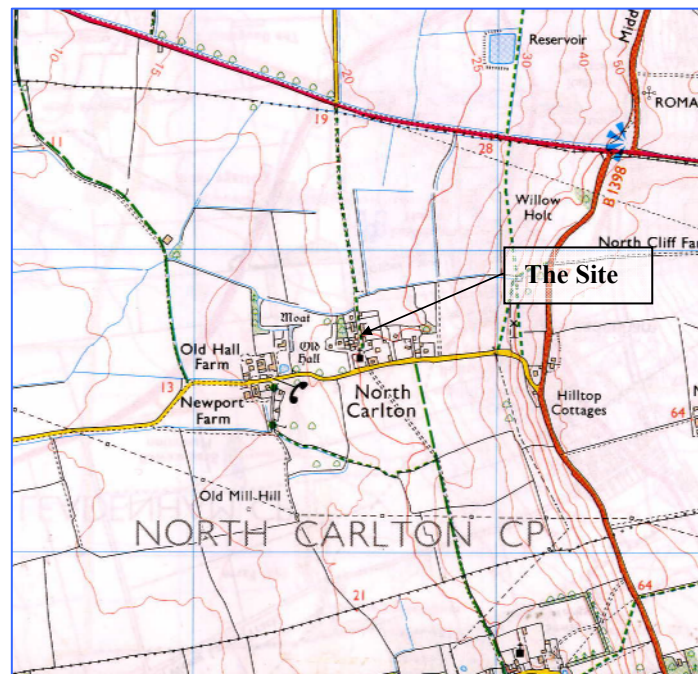


## Summary

- A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out off Church Lane in North Carlton following the erection of a dwelling.
- The site is situated within the traditional core of the village, to the north of the Parish Church of St Luke.
- Due to access restrictions, a single trench measuring 5m long was excavated within the front garden of the new dwelling. The excavations revealed a modern limestone wall foundation within the modern topsoil.



**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Mr G Fawcett and Mr P Hangar to carry out an archaeological evaluation following the construction of a new dwelling at Plot A, off Church Lane in North Carlton, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations*' (IFA 2001), procedures that are set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC 1998), and a specification prepared by this company (Allen 2007).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to the museum in Lincoln (The Collection) for long-term storage.

## 2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 North Carlton lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire, and is located approximately 7km to the north-north-west of the centre of Lincoln. The site lies close to the traditional centre of the village, to the north of the parish church. Church Lane lies immediately to the east of the site, with houses to the north and south.
- 2.2 The site centres on NGR SK 945 777 and lies at approximately 25m OD on the Lincolnshire Limestone escarpment. At the time of the fieldwork, the trench was positioned within the front garden of the new dwelling.
- 2.3 The plot lies along the geological boundary between Jurassic deposits of Marlstone Rock Formation and Charnmouth Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1999).

## 3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 The development was granted planning permission in the early 1990's (Planning References W/71/209/91 and W/71/167/92), subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation to assess the archaeological resource in advance of development. Unfortunately the archaeological works were not undertaken prior to development so the Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council, who advises West Lindsey District Council on archaeological planning matters, requested the undertaking of a programme of archaeological trenching following the completion of the new build to satisfy the archaeological planning condition.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 The site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential. A prehistoric routeway, known as the Jurassic Way, ran north – south along the limestone edge to the east of the site. This was later formalized by the construction of Ermine Street, a Roman military road running from London, through Lincoln to York.
- 4.2 In the Romano-British period, there was an extensive pottery industry operating in the neighbouring village of South Carlton. The kilns were producing mortaria and decorated and painted finewares during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, that are commonly found in excavations in Lincoln (Whitwell 1992).

- 4.3 Substantial quantities of Saxon pottery of 6<sup>th</sup> century date have been found in the area of the deserted village of Middle Carlton, suggesting settlement by Saxon invaders soon after the end of the Romano-British period. Carlton is an Old English place name and means ‘the village of the free peasants’, derived from *ceorl*, a free man below the rank of noble (Cameron 1998).
- 4.4 In the Domesday Book, the area was assessed in the land of ‘Svartbrandr and other Thaness’, and included a church and a priest, which may be a precursor to the existing Norman parish church of St. Luke (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 In order to evaluate the archaeological resource within the development area, a programme of intrusive archaeological investigation was undertaken on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007. This required the excavation of a trench measuring 6m x 1m within the front garden of Plot A, between the house and Church Lane (Figure 2). The location of the trenches was agreed with the Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council prior to the works. The trench was located with measuring tapes, offsetting from the site boundaries.
- 5.2 Excavation of the topsoil and subsoil deposits was undertaken using a 3 tonne mini digger fitted with a 1.0m wide toothless bucket, in spits no greater than 0.2m in depth. All excavations were undertaken under close archaeological supervision, to a depth of approximately 0.5m.
- 5.3 A full written record of all archaeological features and deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeological Associates recording sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at an appropriate scale (1:20). A full photographic record was also made, and selected prints have been included in this report.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 Due to the gradient of the garden slope the trench was excavated in slots down the bank rather than across the bank. The uppermost deposit encountered was 01, a shallow 0.1m deep dark grey/brown humic silt 01 that had been imported by the client to form a garden soil for the new dwelling. At the southern end of the trench this sealed a shallow lens of hardcore, 04, imported for formation of a ramp towards a new carport.
- 6.2 Throughout the trench the modern topsoil was sealed by a 0.3 – 0.4m thick layer of mid grey coarse silt with occasional gravels and abundant roots, 02. Layer 02 was identified as former topsoil of modern date. This overlay 03, the natural geology, ferruginous sandy limestone.
- 6.3 A limestone wall comprising medium and large sub-angular stones, 05, was removed along the length of the trench. Pieces of plastic from within the wall showed it was of modern construction. The wall was a modern garden wall that had been built to separate the previous garden from Church Lane (information provided by a local resident).

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology, a ferruginous limestone, c. 0.5m below the modern ground surface. This was sealed by modern topsoil 02, which was in turn sealed by a soil layer imported by the client to form a garden soil for the new dwelling. A modern garden drystone wall (limestone) lay within the former topsoil 02.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

- 8.1 Although the trenching was retrospective it demonstrated that the development is unlikely to have impacted upon significant archaeological deposits.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Mr Fawcett and Mr Hangar for this commission, especially Mr Fawcett for his assistance throughout the project.

## 10.0 References

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## 11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, within six months, where it will be stored under the unique archive code 2007.144.

## **Appendix 1: Colour Plates**

**Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts**

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Grey/brown humic silt	Imported topsoil
02	Layer	Grey coarse silt with occ gravels and abundant roots	Modern topsoil
03	Layer	Sandy ferruginous limestone	Natural geology
04	Layer	Gravels in a yellow sand	Modern hardcore
05	Feature	Med and large limestones	Modern garden wall