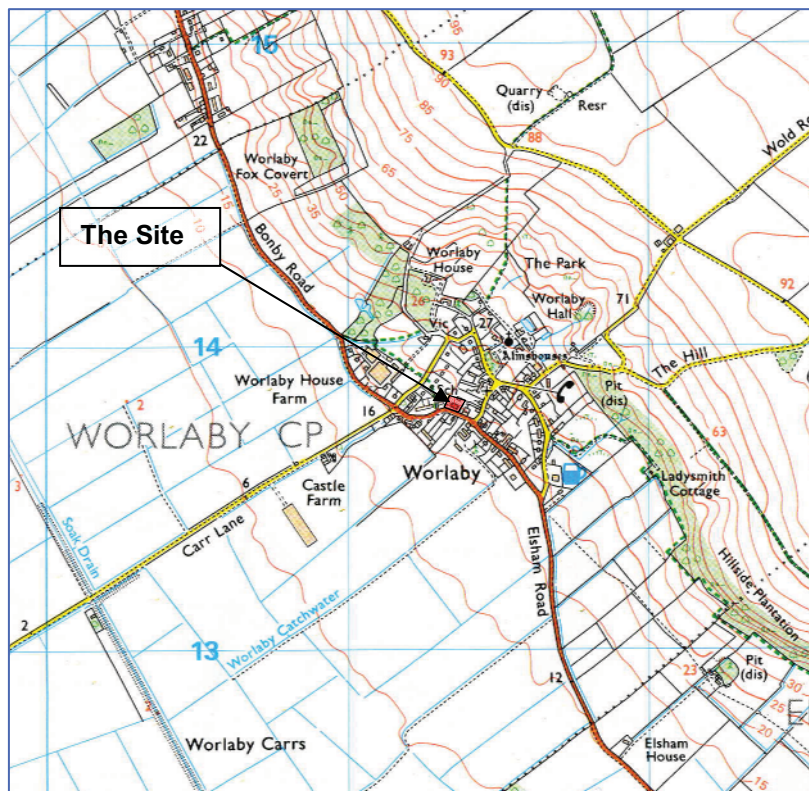


## Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a new extension to Worlabby Primary School, Low Road, Worlabby, North Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, with evidence of later prehistoric and Romano-British activity from the parish. The site also lies within the traditional historic core of the village, where evidence of medieval settlement has been identified.
- The watching brief exposed one small undated ditch and a larger ditch of medieval date, both running broadly east – west across the site. The archaeological monitoring also suggested that the site had been terraced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century prior to the construction of the original school buildings.



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

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by North Lincolnshire Council, on behalf of G. S. Kelsey Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new extension to Worlaby Primary School, Low Road, Worlaby, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IFA 1999), and a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2007).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report.

## 2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Worlaby is situated approximately 12km east-north-east of Scunthorpe, within the administrative district of North Lincolnshire. The site lies within the historic core of the village, on the north side of Low Road. It centres on NGR TA 0135 1379, at a height of approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises drift deposits of glacial sand and gravel, overlain in places by wind blown sand. The underlying solid geology is Ancholme Group Clay (British Geological Survey 1983).

## 3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the construction of an extension to provide three new classrooms and ancillary accommodation (Planning Application Number PA/2007/1261). Permission has been granted subject to conditions, one of which is for the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief will comprise the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 There is only limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the parish. A single Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead has been found to the east of the village (Archaeology Data Service (hereafter ADS) Reference 78890), and there are a number of cropmarks of possible later prehistoric date within the parish, the nearest to the site being a possible enclosure and field boundaries approximately 0.8km to the east of the site (ADS reference 78918).
- 4.2 There is more substantial evidence of Romano-British activity in Worlaby. A possible Roman villa has been identified to the east of the village, with pitched chalk footings, painted wall plaster, tesserae and flue tiles (Whitwell 1992). The base of a Roman statue was dug up in Worlaby churchyard (ADS Reference 78881), and Roman pottery and roof tile has been recovered from a site to the north of the village (ADS Reference 78890).
- 4.3 The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, suggesting some form of settlement activity in the Anglo-Saxon period. This is also suggested by a number of finds in the parish, including an inhumation cemetery overlying the remains of the Roman villa excavated to

the east of the village (ADS Reference 78893), and pottery scatters to the north of the village (ADS Reference 78890).

- 4.4 The Domesday Book lists three principal landowners in Worlaby; The Bishop of Lincoln, Earl Hugh and Hugh son of Baldric (Morgan and Thorn 1986). At this time the village was known as *Ulricebi*, a name derived from an Old Danish personal name and an Old English suffix, meaning 'Wulfric's farmstead, village' (Cameron 1998).
- 4.5 The school is situated within the medieval core of the village. Recent excavations in the village, off Main Street identified well stratified medieval deposits and successive phases of medieval stone buildings. A possible Anglo-Saxon grubenhauser was also tentatively identified (Williams 2007).
- 4.6 The school itself was built by Dunlop and Bryant in 1872 and is described by Pevsner and Harris (2002) as 'mildly gothic'.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Prior to the commencement of the watching brief, a temporary classroom at the north end of the site was demolished. Subsequent machine excavation was carried out using a 180° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The groundworks were monitored by Phil Chavasse and the author through a series of visits between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008.
- 5.2 During excavation all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on standard watching brief record sheets, and sections showing archaeological features and the general stratigraphic sequence were completed at scales of 1:20 and 1:50.
- 5.3 A photographic record (in monochrome and colour slide) was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow. Due to a fault in the winding mechanism of one camera however, a number of colour slides were lost during removal of the film from the camera.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit throughout the development area was a very dark grey/brown garden soil, 100, which was between 0.2m and 0.5m deep. Seven sherds of pottery were recovered from this deposit which were largely of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date, although a single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> century Humberware was also included. It sealed a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks, 101, which may represent a buried topsoil horizon. This layer was between 0.2m and 0.4m deep, and was at its shallowest towards the north-west corner of the site, perhaps indicating the artificial levelling of the site prior to the construction of the school. This in turn sealed a probable former subsoil layer, 105, comprising light brown/grey silty sand with occasional chalk flecks.
- 6.2 Below subsoil 105, the natural geology was exposed, comprising an orange/brown sand, 106, with lenses of chalky gravel and occasional iron pan.
- 6.3 The excavation of foundation trenches in the south-east corner of the site exposed the footings of the existing school building. These rested within a steep sided construction cut, 102, which had been backfilled with a very dark grey/brown silty sand, 104, very similar to deposit 100.

The foundations themselves, 103, comprised three courses of brickwork below the ground surface, with each course being stepped out by half a brick width from the course above.

- 6.4 The natural geology was cut by two parallel linear features, [107] and [109], which were aligned broadly east to west. Ditch 107 was approximately 1.85m wide and was filled by a very dark grey, slightly humic silty sand, 108, with occasional chalk fragments and charcoal flecks. The fill was likely to represent a natural silting deposit with some dumping of domestic waste attested by the presence of pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone within the fill. The ceramic assemblage comprised four sherds of medieval pottery, a fragment of possible daub of uncertain date, and a residual fragment of Roman roof tile. A single flint flake of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was also recovered.
- 6.5 The profile and orientation of the ditch was clear towards the west side of the site, although it was less evident towards the east side of the site, where rising ground water and water from a burst water pipe combined with collapsing foundation trenches to make it difficult to accurately plot the location of the ditch.
- 6.6 The smaller ditch, [109], lay to the north of 107 and was only 0.4m wide. It contained a single undated fill of dark brown silty sand, 110.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

- 7.1 The watching brief identified two linear features running across the site on a broadly east – west alignment. Both are stratigraphically earlier than the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century school, although dating evidence was only recovered from the larger of the two, [107]. This suggested the feature was open during the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, although residual material in the form of a fragment of Roman roof tile and a flint flake are tentative indicators of earlier activity near the site. Rylatt (See Appendix 3) suggests that the lack of abrasion evident on the single worked flint suggests it was most likely disturbed from a prehistoric context during the digging of the medieval ditch and rapidly incorporated into the fill from the immediate locality.
- 7.2 The ditches were cut into the natural sand, and were sealed by deposits interpreted as buried topsoil and subsoil horizons. The most recent deposit was a thick garden earth, which is likely to have been deliberately imported to raise and level the site during construction of the school in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site sits on a platform of land that is noticeably higher than the road to the south, and the dwellings to the west of the site, forming a terrace into the natural slope of the ground, which rises gradually from south to north.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It demonstrated that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank North Lincolnshire Council for this commission and the staff of G. S. Kelsey Limited for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

## 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 submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months, where it will be stored under the North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code WORAN.



## Appendix 1: Colour and monochrome plates



**Plate 1:** General view of the development area, looking north-north-east.



**Plate 2:** Footings of the existing school building exposed in the south-east corner of the development area. Looking south-south-west.



**Plate 3:** Monochrome plate showing ditches [107] and [109] at the west side of the development area. Looking west-north-west.

## Appendix 2: Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material assessment report

By Dr Anne Boyle

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* 2001 and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for North Lincolnshire. Eleven sherds from ten vessels, weighing 784 grams were recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. A summary of the pottery is included in table 1; a full archive list of the pottery is included in archive catalogue 1. The assemblage contains medieval and post medieval pottery.

### Condition

The pottery is in fairly fresh condition, as indicated by the average sherd weight of 71 grams; however, some of the low fired vessels are abraded.

### Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	3	2	329
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	4	4	380
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1	22
PGE	Pale Glazed Earthenware	1600	1750	2	2	36
RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	1600	1850	1	1	17
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>784</b>

### Provenance

The medieval vessels are mainly regional imports from the Humberware kilns and this type is common in assemblages from North Lincolnshire. A single sherd from context (108) is an unrecognised ware type which is likely to have a local origin. The later vessels are more difficult to provenance but are likely to be locally made or regional imports (possibly from the Humber region).

The pottery in context (108) is associated with ditch [107]. This material is all medieval in date and consists of large, fresh sherds, which may represent primary deposition.

### Range

The expected range of forms (jugs, jars and bowls) are present in the assemblage.

### Potential

The assemblage offers no problems for long term storage and should be retained.

### Summary

A small medieval and post medieval assemblage was recovered from the site. The condition of the pottery suggests activity occurring on or close to the site during these periods.

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the ACBMG guidelines (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 295 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in table 2.

### Condition

The fragment is large but abraded.

### Results

*Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive*

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
108	RTIL	Roman tile	OX/R/OX; fine sandy	1	295	Possible TEG; abraded; possibly cracked during firing	Roman

### Summary

A single fragment of residual Roman tile was recovered from context (108). The fragment should be retained.

## FIRED CLAY

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in table 3.

### Results

*Table 3, Fired Clay Archive*

Cxt	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description
108	Oxidised; fine sandy + calc	1	82	Possible daub - lath impressions?; soot

### Summary

A single fragment of possible daub was recovered from context (108). The fragment should be retained.



**SPOT DATING**

The dating in table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 4, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
100	17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	
108	Late 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	Contains residual Roman tile and fired clay.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

**REFERENCES**

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**ARCHIVE CATALOGUE**

*Archive catalogue 1: Post Roman Pottery*

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Comment	Date
100	BERTH		Straight sided jar	1	1	154		Base	Worn basal angle; overfired; ?ID or Blackware	
100	BERTH		Bowl	2	1	175		BS	Unusual external pressing; fe slipped; abraded; same vessel?	
100	HUM		Jug	1	1	92		Handle	Small strap handle with central hollow; ?ID or odd BEVO	13 <sup>th</sup> ?
100	PGE		Jar/ bowl	1	1	19		Base	Internal glaze; abraded	
100	PGE		Jar/ bowl	1	1	17		Base	Internal glaze	
100	RGRE		Jar	1	1	17		BS	Abraded	
108	HUM		Jug	1	1	39		Base	Glaze and sand on underside of base	
108	HUM		Jug	1	1	73		BS	Concretions	
108	HUM		Jug	1	1	176	Two pressings at upper handle join	Rim with handle	Flat top rim with oval handle	
108	MEDLOC	Reduced; fine sandy	Jug	1	1	22	Incised horizontal lines	BS	Reduced pocked glaze; light reduced/reduced, fabric has a laminated clean background and sub round to round quartz 0.1 to 0.3mm + occasional larger up to 0.5mm + common small white round grains	

## Appendix 3: Worked lithic materials assessment report

By Mr Jim Rylatt

### 1.0 Introduction

This report concerns one piece of worked flint recovered during an archaeological watching brief at Worlaby Primary School. This artefact is characteristic of the lithic technologies practiced during the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

### 2.0 Method of study

The lithic artefact was physically examined in order to create an archive catalogue. Its attributes were noted in order to determine its place in the reduction sequence, describe observable characteristics of the lithic technology utilised and provide an assessment of its functional potential. The catalogue also records the presence of patination, cortex and whether the piece has been burnt. The piece has been weighed and metrical data is recorded if it is a complete flake, tool or core. It was examined with a x3 hand-lens to determine whether there is any evidence of localised modification that could be indicative of use.

### 3.0 Catalogue

Context	Type	Dimensions	Description
108	knife	- 14.0g	Distal fragment of irregular flake, deliberate snapped truncation creating broad flat scar – scars of 2-3 smaller flakes possibly removed from same platform, but could be thinning of piece after truncation; c.60% of distal end retouched by removal of small spalls/scale-flakes, shallow/invasive & not fully removing cortical surface - created semi-abrupt margin, probably backing; other lateral edge bifacially retouched by removal of invasive flakes/scale-flakes – created slightly serrated margin; small abrupt flake detached from junction of lateral edge & distal end – backing?; thin, rounded & abraded cortex (c.40%); partial milky patination across surface – no evidence of post-depositional damage; mid brown to caramel-brown opaque flint (prob. Wolds beds)  L.Neo/EBA

**NB:** measurements are only given for complete flakes, tools and pieces - the first figure relates to the maximum length, measured perpendicular to the striking platform; the second to maximum breadth, measured at a right angle to the length; the third to maximum thickness.

### 4.0 Comments

This invasively retouched flint knife provides an indication of a later prehistoric presence on the site. However, the recovery of only a single piece of worked lithic material suggests that it results from a brief and ephemeral episode of activity. It is notable that although the flint knife was a residual artefact recovered from the fill of a medieval ditch, [107], it did not exhibit any evidence of post-depositional damage. This suggests that it was liberated from a stratified prehistoric context during the digging or weathering of the ditch and was rapidly incorporated into the fill; the survival of further prehistoric material can therefore not be discounted.

This artefact is a product of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age core reduction strategies. Although it exhibits far less formal structure in its manufacture, it does have affinities with plano-convex knives, which were manufactured during the early Bronze Age. While it is possible that the broader, semi-abruptly retouched distal margin could have been used as a scraper edge, it is probable that it also served as a backed edge enabling pressure to be applied through the opposing section of bifacially retouched margin.

## Appendix 4: Animal bone assessment report

By Mrs Jennifer Wood

### Introduction

A total of 4 (781g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during watching brief works undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates. The remains were recovered from a ditch [107].

### Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996). An *equid* innominate was stained brown, suggesting that the remains were deposited in a humic/organic rich context.

No evidence of burning, butchery, gnawing or pathology was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
108	<i>Equid</i> (Horse Family)	Innominate	L	1	359	Stained brown
	<i>Equid</i> (Horse Family)	Tibia	L	1	371	309mm Greatest length
	Dog	Radius	R	1	23	
	Pig	Tooth	R	1	28	Lower M3, unworn

As can be seen from table 1, the majority of the remains are identified as *Equid*. An *equid* tibia was recovered from an animal 13.4 hands high, suggesting a pony sized animal.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals on site.

### References

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**Appendix 5: List of archaeological contexts**

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Very dark grey/brown loamy soil	Possible ground raising/levelling deposit during construction of school
101	Layer	Grey/brown sandy silt, occasional chalk flecks	Probable former topsoil deposit, sealed by 100.
102	Cut	Steep sided construction cut, containing wall 103 and backfill 104	Construction cut for wall of original school building
103	Wall	Three stretcher courses of mortared brick work, each course stepped out half a brick width from course above	Foundations of original school building, contained by cut 102.
104	Fill	Very dark grey/brown silty sand	Backfill of construction cut 102
105	Layer	Light brown/grey silty sand, occasional chalk flecks	Possible former subsoil, sealed by 102
106	Layer	Orange/brown sand, occasional lenses of chalky gravel, occasional iron pan	Natural drift geology
107	Cut	East – west aligned ditch. Contains 108	Linear boundary feature of probable medieval date, parallel and to south of ditch [109].
108	Fill	Very dark grey, slightly humic silty sand, occasional chalk fragments, occasional charcoal flecks	Natural silting of ditch [107]
109	Cut	East – west aligned ditch. Contains 110	Undated linear boundary feature, parallel and to north of ditch [107]
110	Fill	Dark brown silty sand	Natural silting of ditch [109]