

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS:  
LAND OFF STATION ROAD, KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: B/19/0074  
NGR: TF 3064 3849  
AAL Site Code: KISR 19  
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC 2019.244  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-407154



Report prepared for PJ Duffy and Son Limited

By  
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Allenarchaeology



## Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Site Location and Description.....	2
3.0 Planning Background.....	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
5.0 Aims and Objectives .....	3
6.0 Methodology .....	3
7.0 Results .....	4
8.0 Discussion and Conclusions.....	5
9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.....	5
10.0 Acknowledgements .....	5
11.0 References.....	5

### List of Plates

Plate 1: Representative section facing north, 1m and 1m scales.....	4
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### List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Summary List .....	6
Appendix 2: Figures .....	7

### List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red .....	7
Figure 2: Trench location plan and representative section.....	8

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## Executive Summary

- PJ Duffy and Son Limited commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of planning consent for a residential development.
- There is no evidence for archaeological activity in the vicinity of the site predating the late Anglo-Saxon period, with Late Saxon and medieval settlement being recorded in numerous locations in the core of the village, including on Station Road itself.
- The footings for the new building were dug in advance of any archaeological investigation which meant that a representative trench had to be excavated in a car parking area to the south of the dwellings to determine the likely impact of the development upon the archaeological resource.
- The works revealed no archaeological features or deposits, suggesting the development has not impacted upon the archaeological resource. An alluvial layer was identified that is likely to correspond to similar deposits identified on other sites in the village and likely to be of a later medieval date.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 PJ Duffy and Son Limited commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Station Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire, as a condition of planning consent for a residential development.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists code of conduct and '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2014); the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015); the specification for the programme of archaeological work (AAL 2019), and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2016).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection museum in Lincoln, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC 2019.244. The archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the report.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Kirton is located in the administrative district of Boston Borough Council, approximately 6km southwest of the centre of Boston. The site comprised a roughly rectangular area of c.0.2ha, occupied by shops on the road frontage with car park and open ground to the rear, with scattered outbuildings. It is in the centre of the village, on the south side of Station Road, centred on NGR TF 3064 3849
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises mudstone and siltstone of the West Walton Formation, overlain by superficial tidal flat deposits of clay and silt (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for '*Erection of 5 dwellings following demolition of existing outbuildings*' (Reference B/19/0074). Planning permission was granted with conditions, including for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks for the scheme.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular section of relevance being '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019)

## **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 There is no evidence for archaeological activity in the vicinity of the site predating the late Anglo-Saxon period. The site is however located in the historic core of the settlement of Kirton (LHER Reference 13589). The place name derives from Old English elements, meaning 'church village', suggesting the presence of a church prior to the Norman Conquest (Cameron 1998). The present parish church is late-12<sup>th</sup> century and is assumed to be on the site of its possible precursor.
- 4.2 Evidence for Late Saxon and medieval settlement and agriculture has been recorded in numerous locations in the core of the village. For example, approximately 120m to the northwest of the site, excavations identified pits containing crop processing evidence, post holes, and a pond. Medieval pits were also recorded, with evidence for flooding in the later medieval period. Late Saxon activity has also been recorded during archaeological work along Station Road, with a number of pits and ditches recorded in association with 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, c.50m southeast, and medieval drainage features are recorded at 16-18 Station Road.
- 4.3 In the Domesday Book, the main landowners in Kirton were Count Alan and Guy of Craon, with just six villagers recorded. A separate entry for Kirton hundred, also owned by Count Alan records 46 villagers, 2 salt houses and a church (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.4 Several sites in the village have identified alluvial layers and evidence for flooding in the later medieval period ((LHER Reference 13589), but in most cases, these layers are cut by later medieval and post-medieval features, suggesting continuity of occupation.
- 4.5 Historic mapping shows a range of buildings on the road frontage called Harvey House, present since at least 1889, with agricultural land and orchards to the rear. The road frontage appears to have been redeveloped during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, with the current layout of buildings present by c.1970.

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The purpose of the archaeological monitoring was to allow the excavation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area, where exposed by the groundworks.

## **6.0 Methodology**

- 6.1 The initially agreed programme of work comprised monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme. Unfortunately, the scheme had to be altered due to the footings of the new building being excavated and concreted without archaeological monitoring. As a consequence, it was agreed, in consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire, advising Boston Borough Council, and with the Senior Planning enforcement Officer at Boston Borough Council, that a single trench be excavated as near to the new dwellings as is possible, in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to assess what the likely impact of the development has been upon the archaeological resource.
- 6.2 These works were carried out over a single day, Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2020. The trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, removing

topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits of no more than 100mm thickness, until the first archaeological horizon or natural geology is encountered

- 6.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL trench recording sheets. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and all deposits and features were recorded by full colour photography, with appropriate metric scales and a north arrow.

## 7.0 Results

- 7.1 The works consisted of a single trench measuring approximately 14m long and 1m wide, aligned broadly east – west in a proposed car parking area to the rear of the new dwellings.
- 7.2 The earliest deposit exposed in the trench was the natural geology 102, a mid-yellow silty sand. Sealing this was 101 a mid-brown silty sand alluvial deposit that was 0.52m thick. The latest deposit overlying this was the topsoil 100, a dark brown silty loam 0.50m thick.



*Plate 1: Representative section facing north, 1m and 1m scales*

## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 The single trench excavated did not identify any features or finds, and suggests a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development and likewise, that the new dwellings were also unlikely to have impacted upon any archaeological deposits.
- 8.2 The trench did expose an alluvial layer below the topsoil. This is likely to represent a flooding episode in the later medieval period ((LHER Reference 13589), and has been identified on other sites in the village. Unlike these other sites where the layers were cut by later medieval and post-medieval features this area appears to have remained unoccupied. Historic mapping indicates that the site remained as undeveloped garden plots or orchards to the rear of properties fronting onto Station Road and High Street until the current development.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The archaeological methodology had to be changed and adapted due to construction work taking place before any archaeological investigation. As a result, a trench was placed in an area as close to the development as possible. The trench was not directly assessing the area affected by the new development, but was sufficiently close to suggest a negligible potential for the site.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank PJ Duffy and Son Limited for this commission, and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

## 11.0 References

Allen Archaeology Limited, 2019, *Specification for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording: Land off Station Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire*

Cameron K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society

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Morgan P and Thorn C., 1986, *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore & Co Ltd

## Appendix 1: Context Summary List

### Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Firm dark brown silty loam	-	-	0.50	Topsoil
101	Layer	Firm mid brown silty sand, very occasional inclusions of sub rounded pebbles	-	-	0.52	Subsoil: alluvial
102	Layer	Firm mid yellow silty sand	-	-	>0.20	Natural geology



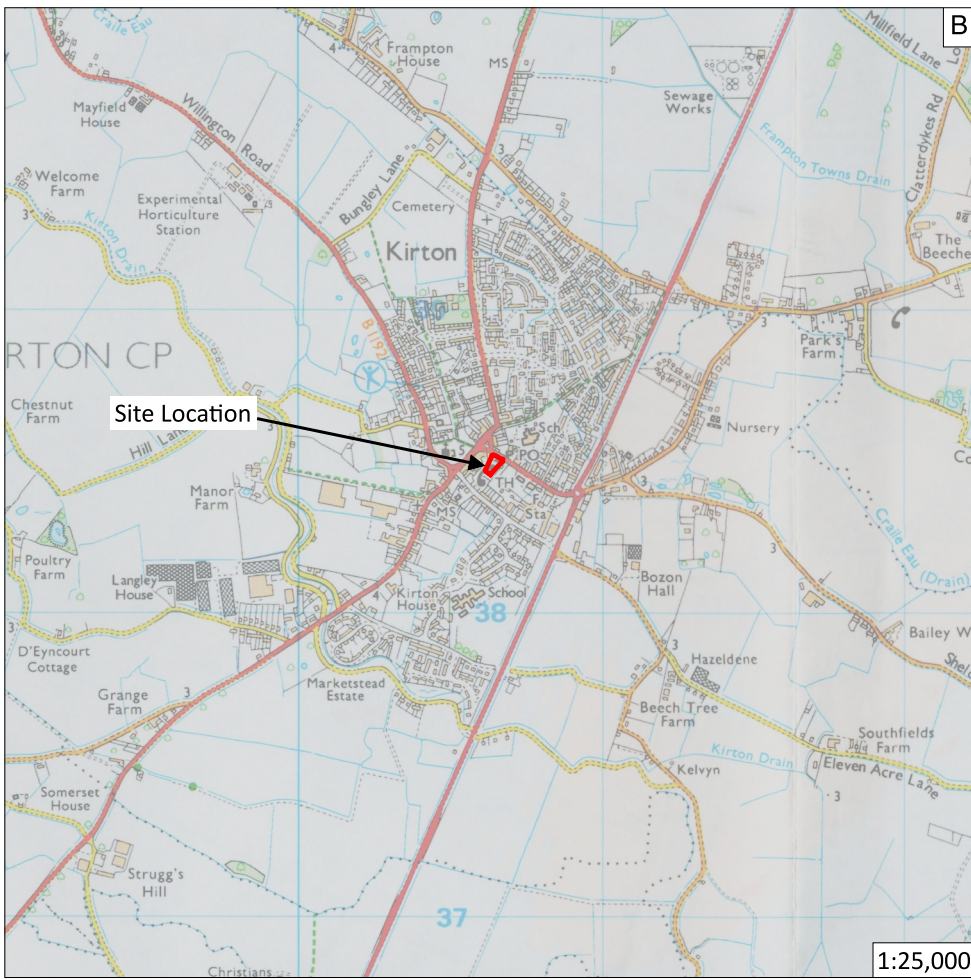
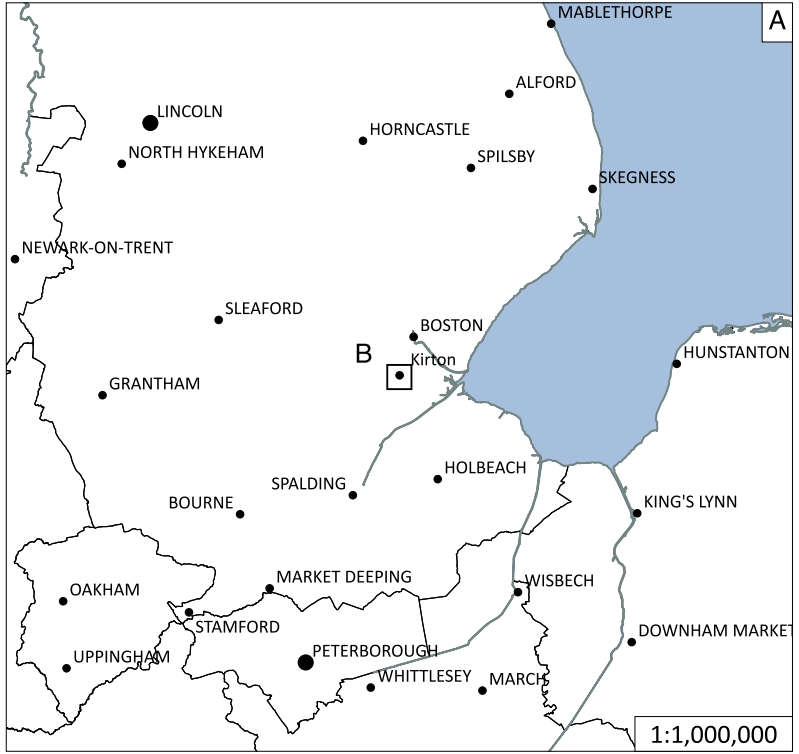
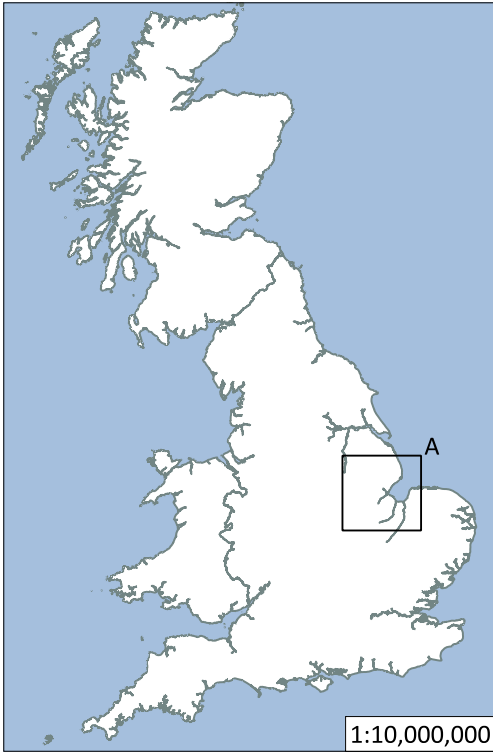


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	KISR 19
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	25/11/2020

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