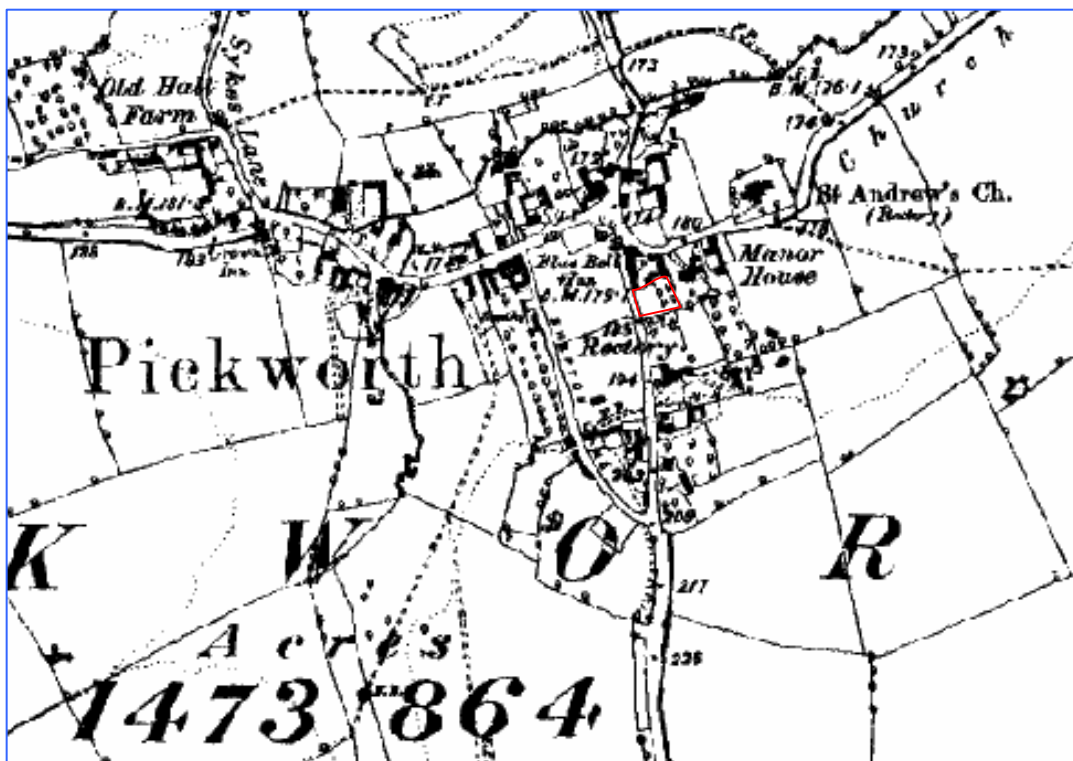


## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:

### LAND TO THE REAR OF THE BLUE BELL INN, FOLKINGHAM ROAD, PICKWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: S06/0547/62  
LCCM Accession Number: 2007.132  
NGR: TF 0433 3358  
AAA Site Code: PICK 07  
OASIS Reference: allenarc1-44879



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## Contents

Summary	1
<b>1.0</b> Introduction	2
<b>2.0</b> Site location and description	2
<b>3.0</b> Planning background	2
<b>4.0</b> Archaeological and historical background	2
<b>5.0</b> Methodology	3
<b>6.0</b> Results	3
<b>7.0</b> Discussion and conclusion	3
<b>8.0</b> Effectiveness of methodology	3
<b>9.0</b> Acknowledgements	3
<b>10.0</b> References	4
<b>11.0</b> Site archive	4
 <b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1: Colour plates	5
Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts	6

## List of Figures

- Figure 1:** Location map with the site outlined in red, at scale 1:25,000  
**Figure 2:** Site location at scale 1:2500. The proposed new buildings are shown in grey, with the site boundaries outlined in red  
**Figure 3:** Site plan at scale 1:200, with the site outlined in red. Monitored foundation trenches are shaded grey. Drawn sections A - B and C - D are shown on Figure 4  
**Figure 4:** Sample sections A - B and C - D, located on Figure 3. Scale 1:20

## List of Plates

- Plate 1:** General view of the development area, looking south-east  
**Plate 2:** View along north side of Plot 1 footings, showing remains of former brick built soakaway. Looking east-north-east  
**Plate 3:** Stratigraphic sequence exposed at south side of Plot 2. Looking north

## Document Control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Chris Clay	04/07/2008
Report edited by:	Mark Allen	07/07/2008
Report produced by:	AAA 2008/039	08/07/2008

## Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for two new dwellings on land to the rear of The Blue Bell Inn, Folkingham Road in Pickworth, Lincolnshire.

There is evidence of possible later prehistoric activity in the parish, and the site lies in the medieval core of the village.

No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks, and no archaeological artefacts were recovered.



**Figure 1:** Location map with site outlined in red, at scale 1:25,000  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by JB Design Architectural Services to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for two new dwellings on land to the rear of The Blue Bell Inn, Folkingham Road in Pickworth, 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), the local guidelines set out in the '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 Collection, Lincoln, within six months of completion of the project, and will be accessible under the LCC Museum Accession Number 2007.132.

## **2.0 Site location and description**

- 2.1 Pickworth is in the administrative district of South Kesteven, approximately 39km south-south-east of central Lincoln and 13km east-south-east of Grantham. The site is located at the core of the village on the east side of Folkingham Road, and centres on NGR TF 0433 3358.
- 2.2 The site occupies an elevated position at c.55m above Ordnance Datum, on a geological boundary between Blisworth Limestone to the north, and Blisworth Clay to the south (British Geological Survey 1972). No drift geological deposits are recorded in the area.

## **3.0 Planning background**

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for the construction of two new dwellings in May 2006 (Planning Reference S06/0547/62). The permission was granted subject to an archaeological watching brief on all associated groundworks by a suitably competent archaeologist.

## **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

- 4.1 There is limited evidence of archaeological activity in the parish before the medieval period, the nearest being a group of cropmarks c.500m to the east of the site that indicate the presence of probable later prehistoric settlement activity and enclosures (Archaeology Data Service, hereafter ADS, Reference: NMR\_NATINV-1042275).
- 4.2 The development is situated in the historic core of the medieval village of Pickworth. The place name is Old English in origin, meaning 'Pica's Enclosure', suggesting that the settlement originated some time during the Anglo-Saxon period. Further evidence of the early origins of the settlement, in the form of pottery sherds of Late Saxon date has been recovered from around the village (South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist's comments, May 2006).
- 4.3 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records three principal landowners in the parish: the Bishop of Durham, Gilbert of Ghent and Kolsveinn. The Bishop of Durham and Kolsveinn shared control of a church in the village, which may be a precursor to the existing parish church of St. Andrew, the earliest elements of which are 12<sup>th</sup> century (Morgan and Thorn 1986, Pevsner and Harris 2002).
- 4.4 To the north-west of the village, approximately 500m from the site, the Archaeology Data Service records a possible medieval settlement site indicated by cropmarks, a building platform

and pottery scatters (ADS Reference: NMR\_NATINV-892629). It is not clear from the available data whether this site represents a component of a deserted medieval village or a single farmstead.

## **5.0 Methodology**

- 5.1 Machine excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out using a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide bucket. The footings were mainly excavated to approximately 1.2m deep, extending to a depth of 2m in the north-east corner of Plot 1.
- 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 context record sheets. A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow. The groundworks for Plot 1 were monitored by Phil Chavasse on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2007, and Plot 2 (house and garage) was monitored by Jen Wood on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## **6.0 Results**

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence was largely consistent across the two plots. It comprised a 0.3m deep garden soil deposit, 01, overlying a 0.4m deep deposit of orange/brown sandy silt, 02, interpreted as a subsoil layer of colluvium or hillwash. The underlying natural geology, 04, was a brown/grey silty clay that extended beyond the limit of excavation. Towards the south side of Plot 2 however, 02 sealed an intermittent lens of orange sand, 03, the origin of which was unclear.
- 6.2 Towards the north side of Plot 1 was a large sub-circular pit filled with bricks and modern rubbish (including a fridge), which may have been a former soakaway of early modern date. A former septic tank was removed from the south-east corner of the same plot.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

- 7.1 The watching brief failed to identify any finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance within the development area. Despite its location in the historic core of the village, it appears that the site has not witnessed any permanent settlement activity, and it is likely to have been utilised for agricultural purposes. The 1891 Ordnance Survey map of the village (see front cover) shows the development area as an undeveloped plot that was probably agricultural or pasture land, with trees shown in the eastern half of the site indicating a possible orchard. There are buildings shown to the north of the site, with another unoccupied plot to the south, reflecting a dispersed settlement plan in this part of the village, with a higher density of housing along Village Street to the 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 JB Design Architectural Services for this commission, and Phil Chavasse and Jen Wood for carrying out the fieldwork.

## 10.0 References

Allen, M., 2007, *Specification for an archaeological watching brief: rear off The Blue Bell Inn, Folkingham Road, Pickworth*, Allen Archaeological Associates

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Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 2002, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, Second Edition*, Penguin, London

## 11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months, where it will be stored under the global Accession Number 2007.132.

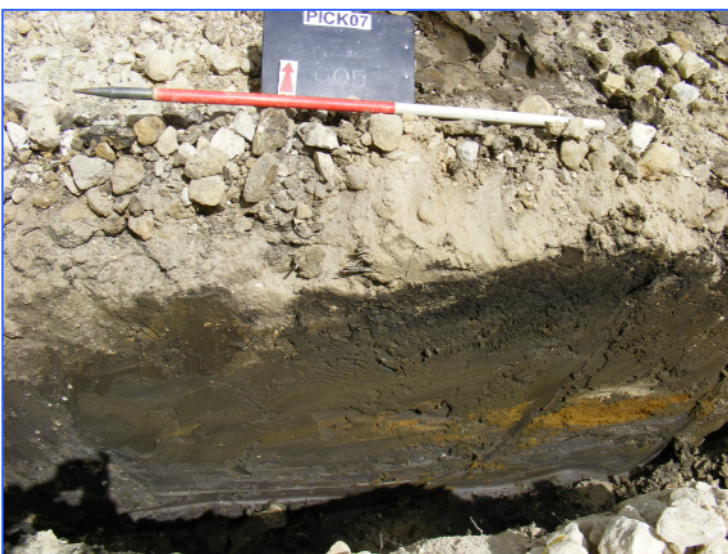
## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view of the development area, looking south-east from the north-west corner of the site



**Plate 2:** View along north side of Plot 1 footings, showing remains of former brick built soakaway. Looking east-north-east from north-west corner of the site

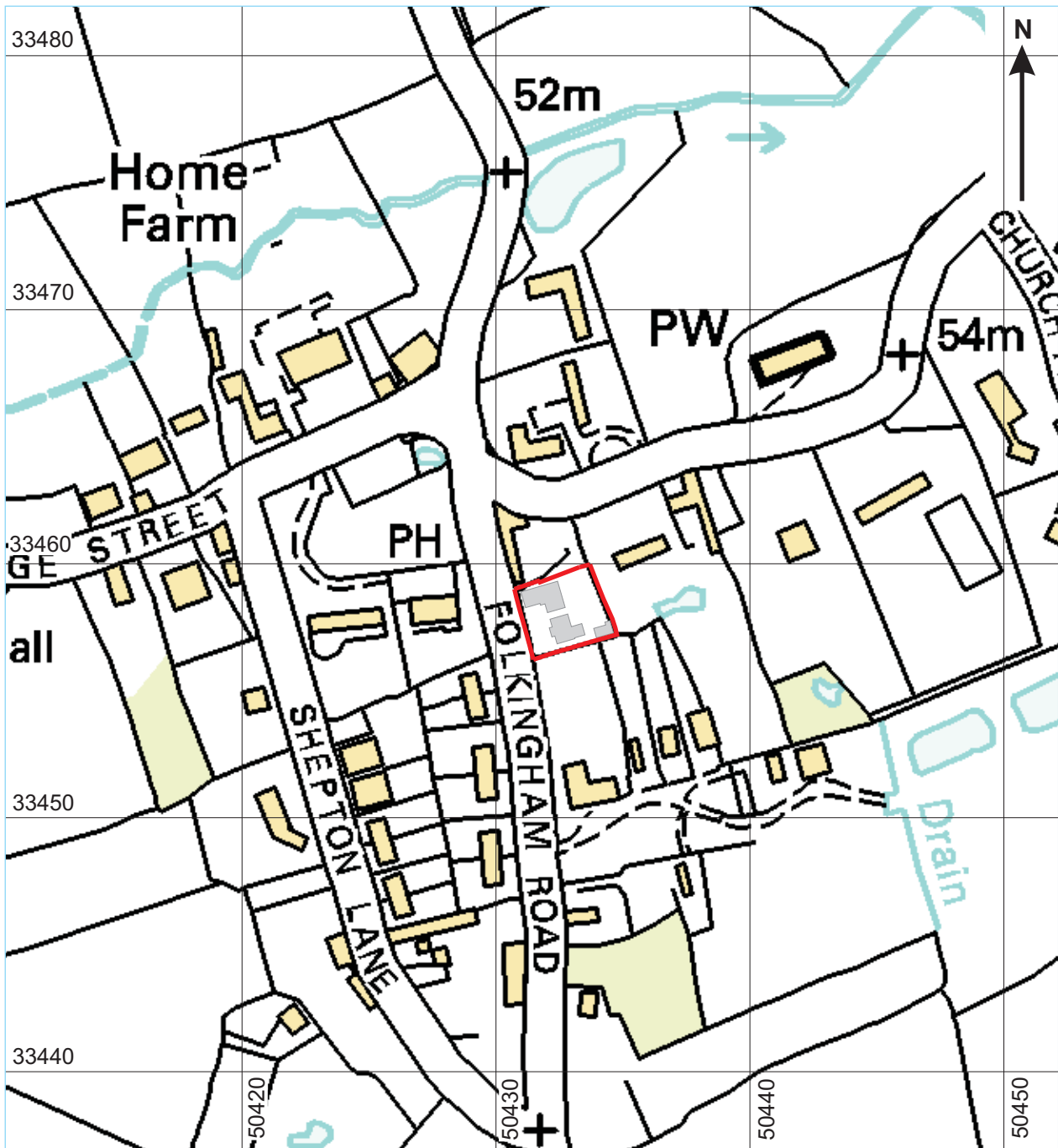


**Plate 3:** South-south-east facing section towards south-west corner of Plot 2. Looking north-north-west.



**Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
01	Layer	Very dark greyish brown clay sandy silt	Modern garden soil
02	Layer	Orange/brown fine sandy silt	Subsoil/colluvium
03	Layer	Loose orange brown sand	Unknown
04	Layer	Mid brown/grey clayey silt	Natural

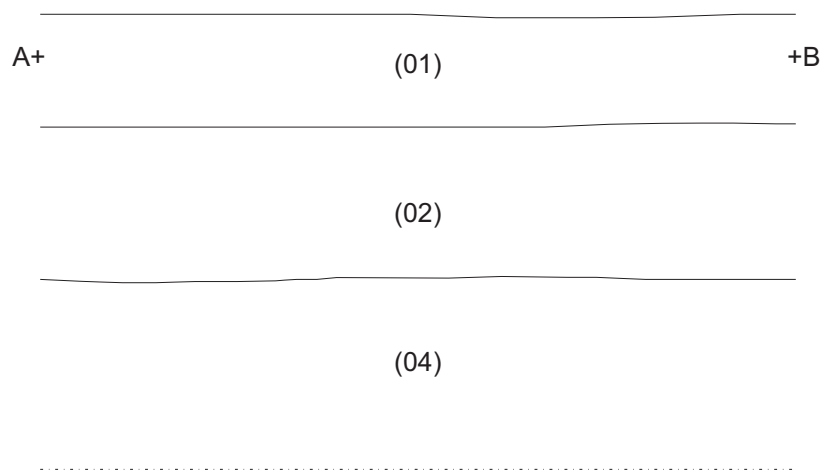


**Figure 2:** Site location at scale 1:2500. The proposed new buildings are shown in grey, with the site boundaries outlined in red



**Figure 3:** Site plan at scale 1:200, with the site outlined in red. Monitored foundation trenches are shaded grey. Drawn sections A - B and C - D are shown on Figure 4

SSE-Facing Section, Plot 1



SSE-Facing Section, Plot 2

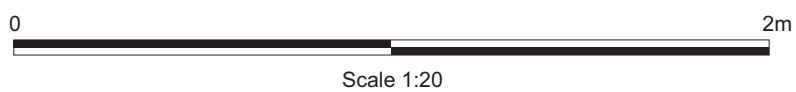
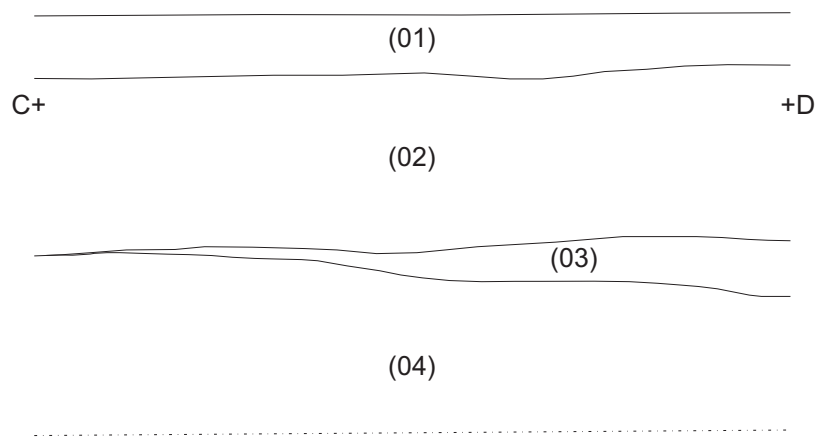


Figure 4: Sample sections A - B and C - D, located on Figure 3. Scale 1:20