

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 14-18 WILLINGTON ROAD,  
OFF CHURCH MEADOWS, KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 30416 38505  
Planning ref.: B/11/0080/FULL  
PCAS Job No.: 787  
Site code: WRKM 11  
Archive acc. code: 2011.121

Report prepared for

T. Clarke & Sons (Construction) Ltd.

on behalf of Horizon Properties Ltd.

by

R. D. Savage

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX  
Tel. 01522 703800  
Fax. 01522 703656  
e-mail [info@pre-construct.co.uk](mailto:info@pre-construct.co.uk)

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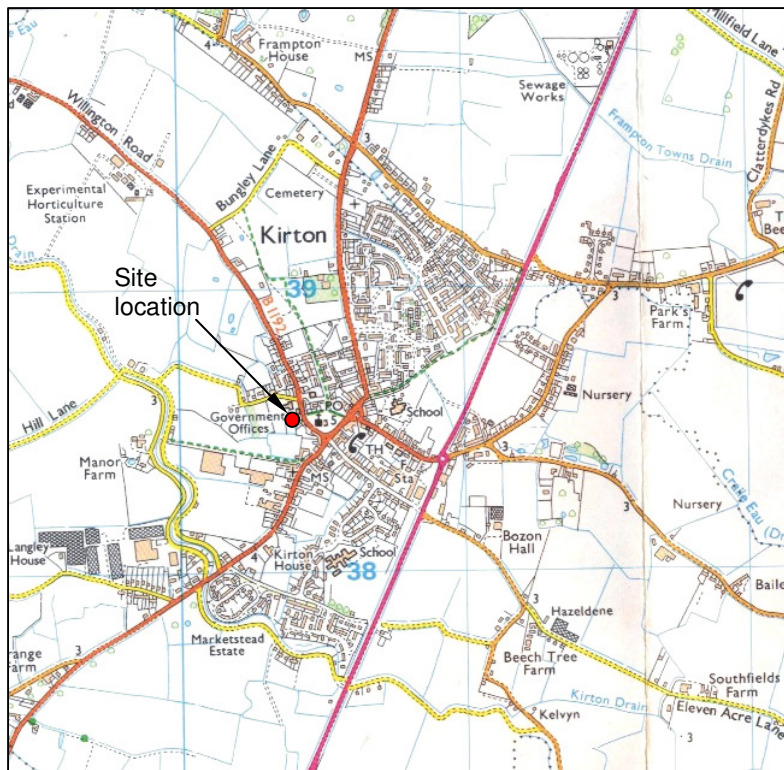
## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of two new houses on land at Church Meadows, Kirton in Holland, Lincolnshire.

The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological importance: previous evaluation on an adjacent site suggests that the site is located within the late Saxon boundaries of Kirton, as well as within the town's medieval core.

An archaeological evaluation carried out previously on an adjacent plot had revealed remains dating to the early medieval period, although no such remains had been encountered in the area closest to the current development site.

No features other than a post-medieval brick-lined well were seen during the construction groundworks. A small corpus of pottery retrieved from the topsoil proved to be 18<sup>th</sup> century and later in date.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000: the position of the site is shown in red (© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by T. Clarke & Sons (Construction) Ltd., on behalf of Horizon Properties Ltd., to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings.

The development site lies in an area of archaeological importance; therefore the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire advised that this development had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits relating to the late Saxon/early medieval settlement of Kirton. The early settlement of Kirton is diffuse in nature and the development site lies relatively close to one of its known farmsteads. The development, therefore, might have impacted upon that or a neighbouring farmstead, or provided information to help define the extent of the early settlement of Kirton (J. Young 2011).

## 2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Kirton is situated approximately 3km to the south of Boston town, in the administrative district of Boston. It is centred around the junction of the Willington Road (B1192) with the B1397, the old road from Spalding to Boston (now superseded by the A16, which bypasses the village). The development site is located slightly to the west of this junction, on the south-western edge of the village core at the junction of Willington Road with the recent development of Church Meadows.

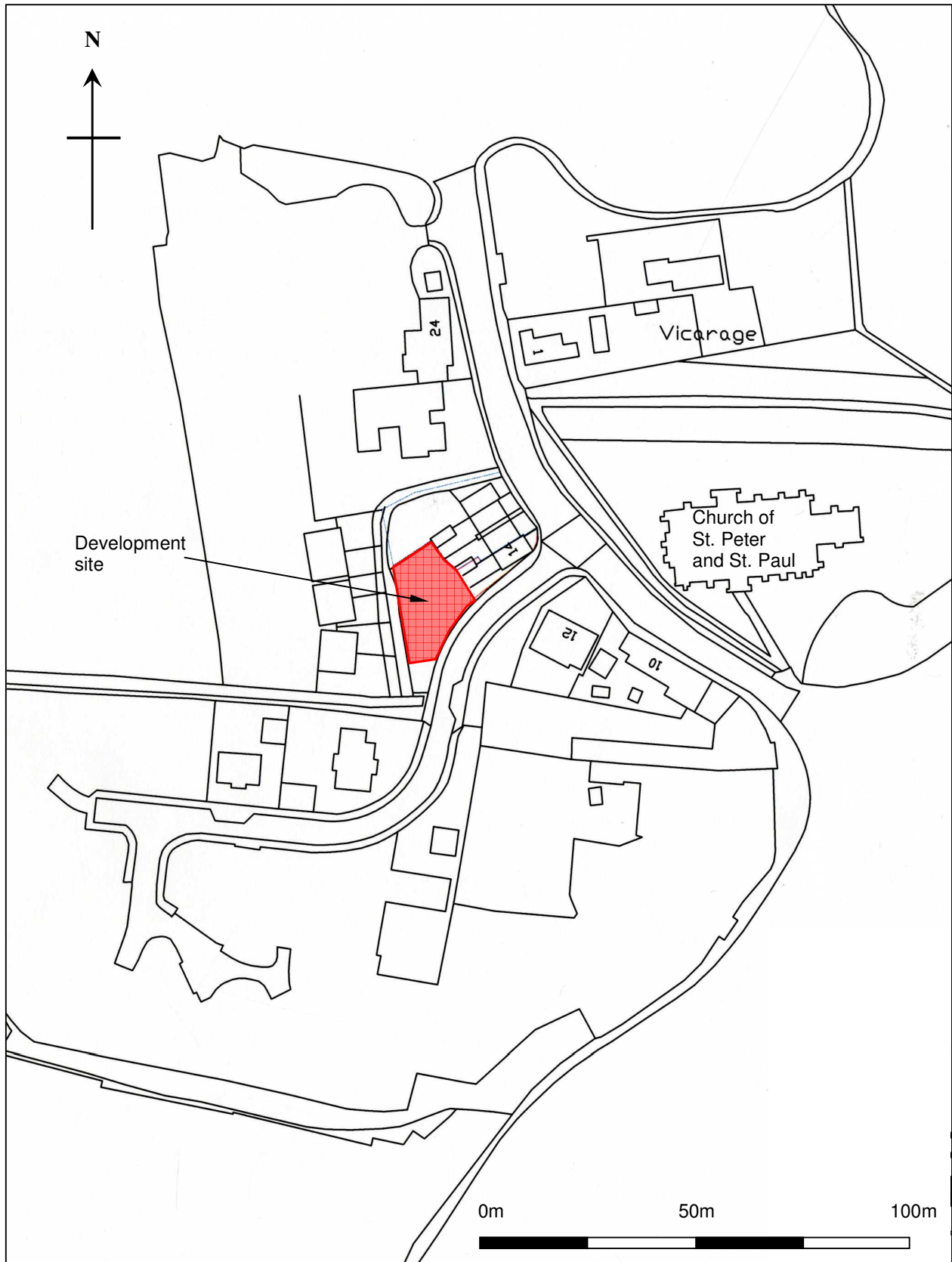
The site is bounded to the north-east and north-west by the back gardens of four dwellings, including no. 14, which forms part of the development. To the south-east is Willington Road, with the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (Kirton parish church) on the opposite side. To the south-west is the modern residential cul-de-sac of Church Meadows, with further dwellings beyond.

The site covers an area of c. 0.22ha and is centred on NGR TF 30416 38505.

## 3.0 Geology and topography

The local soils are of the Tanvats Association; stoneless silty or silty over clayey soils (Hodge *et.al.*, 1984). These overlie drift geology of Terrington Beds, which (generally) comprise younger Marine Deposits (Romano-British to present day), salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits (sandy silt, sand and clay). These in turn overlie a solid geology of Ancholme Group clay deposited during the Jurassic period (British Geological Survey, 1995).

The land in and around Kirton is level and low-lying, less than 5m above sea level: several major drains (significant enough to be named on OS 1:25,000 mapping) indicate that the land is largely reclaimed, as do the many local field boundaries that incorporate drains.



**Figure 2:** Plan of the proposed development (marked in red), at scale 1:1250. Plan supplied by Core Plus Architects Ltd.

#### 4.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted by Boston Borough Council for a residential development of two dwellings with new vehicular access on land to the rear of 14-18 Willington Road, off Church Meadows, Kirton, Lincolnshire (Planning Ref.: B/11/0080/FULL).

Previous archaeological work carried out on an adjacent site suggested that the current site had the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered during development. In response to this, the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire requested a programme of continuous archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

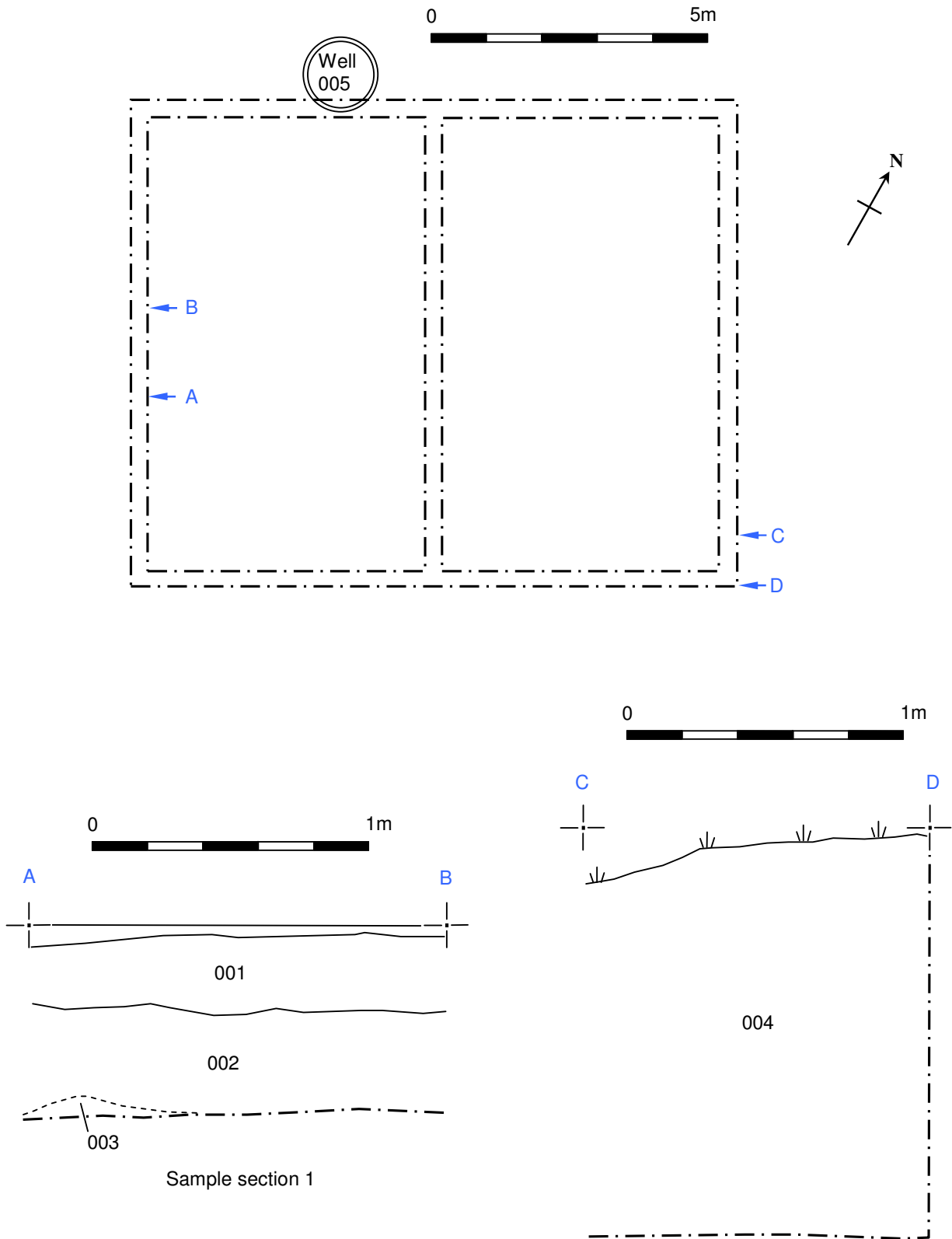
There is no currently recorded evidence of pre-Saxon occupation at Kirton. However, flooding from the sea was a constant risk in the area until the extensive reclamation projects of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; layers apparently derived from flooding were recorded at depth during archaeological work in the vicinity, and it is possible that early archaeological horizons may be buried so deeply under marine incursion sediments that they have not yet been exposed (Kitch, 2005).

Kirton is first documented in the Domesday Book, where it is listed as *Chirchetune*, from the old English *cirice*, 'church', and *tūn*, 'village'; the first element was later replaced by one derived from the Old Norse word for 'church', *kirkja*. Archaeological works undertaken within the village core encountered features of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman to early medieval date, confirming the pre-Conquest origin of the settlement (Kitch, 2005). Domesday Kirton was a place of some significance, hosting the wapentake (administrative assembly) for the region. The manor of Kirton itself was small, with four taxable households farming arable and pastoral land, administered by Count Alan's overseer Toli, but other holdings in Kirton hundred were well populated: a church, presumably the *cirice* of the place-name, is recorded, and salt manufacture as well as agriculture was taking place (Williams and Martin, 1992, pp. 906, 907, 950).

Kirton continued to thrive until the early post-medieval period: it was a prosperous market town, reputed to be the third largest settlement in Lincolnshire, during the reign of Elizabeth I. The settlement was seriously reduced by disease in 1590 (LFWI, 1990). Its former size and prosperity is attested by the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul (opposite the site), which is of substantial dimensions today and was even larger before extensive rebuilding in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner *et al.*, 1989).

In 2004, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) conducted an archaeological watching brief off Station Road in Kirton, c. 650m east of the current development site. The site had been subject to significant disturbance and extensive ground-raising activity associated with mid-20th century construction, and no significant archaeological deposits were observed (Munford, 2004).

The following year, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at the junction of Church Lane and Willington Road, immediately south and west of the current site. Six trial trenches were excavated, revealing three linear ditches of late 9<sup>th</sup> to late 10<sup>th</sup> century date at the south side of the site. Artefacts recovered from the features suggested general domestic activity on the site. The only other features encountered were a ditch tentatively dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century and a large 19<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit; no features at all were seen in the northernmost part of the site (Kitch, 2005).



**Figure 3:** Plan of the footings trenches at scale 1:100, showing the location of well 005, with two sample sections at scale 1:20.

## 6.0 Methodology

A vegetation strip, using a 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket, was carried out as the first part of the groundworks; initial works also included the felling of a tree in the south-east corner of the site and the demolition of a brick outhouse in the north-east corner. The same machine was then used to excavate the footings trenches for the new building, which were 0.60m wide and a maximum of 1.50m deep (plate 1).

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The footings trenches were completed on the same day; the excavation of a short length of service trench, to connect the drainage facilities of the new buildings to an existing manhole, took place at a later date without archaeological supervision. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Karen Francis.

## 7.0 Results (fig. 3)

Natural sand 003 was exposed at the base of the footings trenches on the west side of the site. This was overlain by a subsoil layer 002 (plate 2).

At the north-western edge of the area of groundworks, a circular brick-built structure [005] was encountered. This was 1.35m in diameter, and was filled with a mixture of soil and rubble which was excavated to a depth of 1.50m. The bricks were dry-laid in a single thickness, chiefly in stretcher bond with occasional single headers. A slight curve at the upper edge of the structure suggested that it had originally incorporated a domed cap. The structure was recorded as a well, but a ceramic pipe entering from the north side suggested that it may in fact have been a drainage tank or rainwater cistern, or that it had been adapted for use as one.

Neither subsoil nor natural were seen on the eastern side of the site, in the area previously occupied by the brick outhouse; the trench was dug to full depth through deposit 004. This material resembled the modern topsoil that covered the rest of the site, and, like topsoil 001, contained fragments of modern glass and ceramic building material including drain pipe.

Finds were retrieved only from the topsoil: subsoil 002 produced no finds, and the finds from deposit 005 were discarded on site. The small pottery assemblage retrieved from topsoil 001 was sent for specialist dating, and proved to cover a period between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (appendix 3). It appeared to represent a typical range of domestic utensils and ornaments discarded after breakage.

## 8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These findings are in line with those of the 2005 evaluation, which recorded no features in the area closest to the current development site.



## 9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank T. Clarke & Sons (Construction) Ltd. and Horizon Properties Ltd. for this commission.

## 11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') by December 2012, with the exception of the finds, which are to be discarded.

## 12.0 Bibliography

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## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General shot of the site during the groundworks, looking north-east from its south-eastern corner.



**Plate 2:** The completed trench at the south-eastern corner of the building plot, looking north-east, showing sample section 1.



**Plate 3:** Brick structure 005, cut by the north-western footings trench and partially excavated, looking north-west.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Mid-brown sandy topsoil, up to 0.30m deep; former garden soil associated with adjacent dwellings	Glass bottles; CBM including ceramic drain pipe fragments; animal bone; pottery
002	Layer	Light orange-brown sandy loam subsoil, up to 0.40m deep	None
003	Layer	Mid-brownish-yellow natural sand, exposed at limit of excavation on the W side of the site	None
004	Layer	Modern made ground at E side of site: dark brown to black sandy loam, resembling topsoil 001 but base not reached at 1.30m depth.	Modern glass; CBM including ceramic drain pipe fragments; mortar fragments. All finds were discarded on site.
005	Structure	Circular brick well, 1.35m in diameter, excavated to a depth of 1.50m. Constructed chiefly in stretcher bond with occasional headers; incorporates a ceramic pipe. Overhanging surviving edge suggests a rounded cap.	Red bricks, apparently machine-moulded, 230mm x 95mm x 60mm; no identifying marks. Not retrieved.

### Appendix 3: Post-medieval pottery report

by Dr. Anne Irving

#### 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 Lincolnshire, as published in Young et al. (2005). A total of nine sherds from seven vessels, weighing 428 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 pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. All the pottery dates to the early modern period and was recovered from topsoil context (001).

#### Condition

The sherds are in fairly fresh condition.

#### Results

Table 1, Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Decoration	Description	Date
001	CREA	Cream ware	Closed	1	1	3	BS	Brown transfer print		19th
001	CREA	Cream ware	Closed	1	1	7	BS	Moulded body, brown transfer print with coloured over-glaze painting		Mid 18th to 19th
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Straight sided jar	1	1	260	Complete	Fluted	Jam or lard jar	19th to 20th
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Bottle	1	1	126	Rim and neck			19th to 20th
001	ENPO	English Porcelain	Open	1	1	6	Base	Pink transfer print and moulded body		19th to 20th
001	ENPO	English Porcelain	Figurine	1	1	22	Head	Handpainted	Ornamental female figurine	19th to 20th
001	WHITE	Modern White ware	Various	3	1	4	Handle, Rim, BS	Two transfer print	All same vessel?	19th to 20th
			TOTAL	9	7	428				

### **Potential**

All of the pottery is suitable for discard. No further work is required on the assemblage.

### **Summary**

A small collection of re-deposited early modern pottery was recovered from topsoil.

### **Spot Dating**

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

**Table 2, Spot dates**

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comment</b>
001	19th to 20th	

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

### **REFERENCES**

~ 2010, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

## **Appendix 5: OASIS summary**