

**WORTH COURT,
BOURNE,
SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT**

Site code	WCBL 07
NGR:	TF 510206 319802
Planning Ref:	S061322
Acc No:	2007. 126
PCA Ref:	07/370

Report prepared for
Lace Housing Association

by

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Worth Court, Willoughby Road, Bourne, South Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: TF 510206 319802). This was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) on behalf of the Lace Housing Association during redevelopment.
- Later post-medieval deposits were encountered throughout the site, these consisted of farmyard/occupation layers, and localised areas containing residual pottery wasters of the 15th - 16th century date and also areas which had been subjected to intense heat.
- The watching brief concluded that previous development of the site had truncated the deposits encountered and that there were no significant archaeological features remaining within the site area.

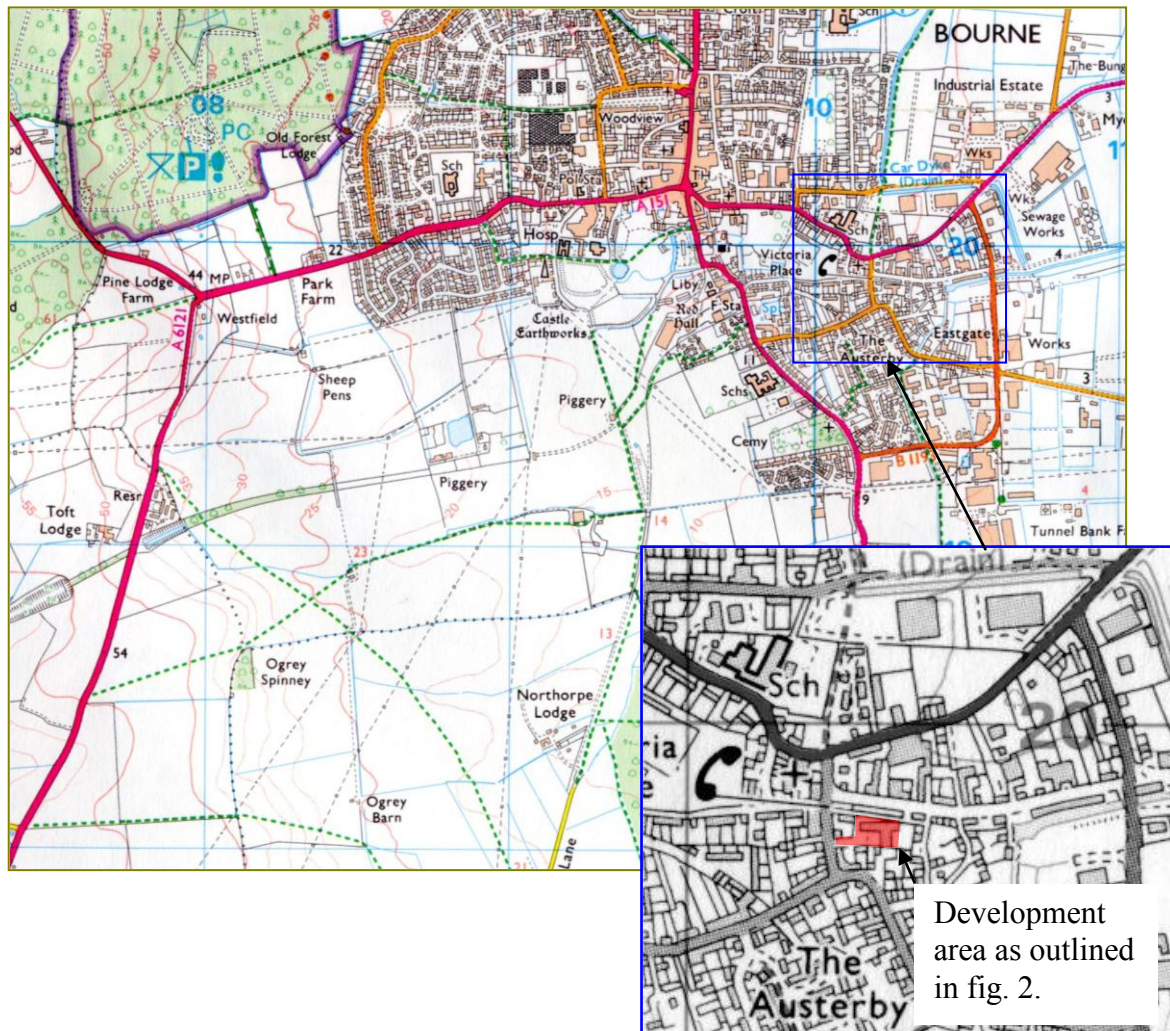


Fig. 1 General site location. Scale 1:25 000. Inset map showing site location in red. Scale 1:10 000.

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1.0 Introduction

Between May and November 2007 Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Worth Court, Willoughby Road, Bourne, South Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: TF 510206 319802; Fig 1) on behalf of Lace Housing Association.

These works were undertaken at the request of South Kesteven District Council to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission (Ref. S061322). This approach is consistent with the *recommendations of Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1994 as revised) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998*.

2.0 Location and description

The site lies at 5m AOD and consists of approximately 0.1 hectares of land that was until recently occupied by sheltered accommodation. To the north is East Gate Road, to the south is Owen Court, the east is bounded by housing, whilst the west is occupied by Willoughby Road.

The underlying geology comprises of fen gravel overlying Jurassic Oxford Clay (British Geological Survey, 1972).

3.0 Planning

Full planning permission (Ref. S061322) was granted by South Kesteven District Council for the redevelopment of the site with the erection of thirty four flats as part of a sheltered accommodation complex. The watching brief took place to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed as a result of developing the area were recorded.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Finds relating to the prehistoric period have been discovered throughout the years in the area, including a Middle Bronze Age dagger and a barbed flint arrowhead.

Evidence for Roman settlement throughout Bourne is fairly intensive: the town lies upon the route of King Street, a 1st century road running from Water Newton to Sleaford where it joins Ermine Street, the current A15 (Whitwell 1992). Car Dyke, a 2nd century canal, also runs along the eastern edge of Bourne and possibly less than 100m west of the current development site (Fig. 1).

A Roman kiln site was excavated in the late 1950's at Bourne Grammar School, while numerous finds of pottery, tesserae, coins and other artefacts along the western edge of the town indicate a possible villa site (ADS, 2007).

The town is known to have existed during the Saxon period and is also listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

The town was the centre for an extensive pottery industry during the middle ages and exported wares throughout Lincolnshire and other parts of the country.

Within the immediate vicinity of the site to the immediate south, at Bedenhouse Bank recent archaeological investigations have suggested a re-alignment of the Car Dyke, (APS, 1996) while 200m to the north/east, 14th and 16th century pottery kilns have been recorded along with associated pottery wasters (PCA, 2002).

Map evidence from the late 19th and early 20th century shows the site being occupied by farm buildings (Fig. 3 & 4).

5.0 Methodology

An archaeological specification detailing the methodology to be used was compiled by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

The site area was reduced down to the formation level of the new development by approximately 1.m, conducted in five different phases. An additional service trench was also machined around the south and east flanking boundaries of the site, as was an escalator pit shaft (Fig.2). This was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a bladed bucket for reducing the level and a toothed bucket for spoil removal.

All archaeological deposits identified were subjected to excavation, to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions complemented by colour photographs and scale drawings in both plan and section.

The work was undertaken between 16th May and 5th November 2007 by Simon Savage, Steve Williams and Mike Daly.

6.0 Results

Area 1 and 5

The earliest deposit encountered was natural alluvium 003, at c.0.85m Below Present Ground Level (BPGL). This was sealed by redeposited rubble and topsoil 002 which was in turn sealed by imported topsoil 001.

Areas 2-4

The earliest deposit encountered was natural alluvium 003, at c. 0.85m BPGL. This was sealed by a farmyard layer with kiln waste dumping 009, dated to the late medieval period.

Layer 009 was covered by sporadic spreads of 'burnt', 011, and unburnt, 012, silty clay. Covering 'burnt' deposit 011 were spreads of pottery fragments and wasters 008 consistent with dumping from a nearby kiln site. This was sealed by imported topsoil 001.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Evident across much of the site area was context 009; this was representative of a farmyard occupation layer and possibly associated with the former use of the site area as a farm during the previous two centuries. Within this context were dumps of pottery, including wasters from a nearby kiln site. These dumps may originate from a site immediately to the north-east of Worth Court where pottery wasters and a kiln were previously discovered (APS, 1996).

All of the pottery finds from this site date to the later medieval period (15th-16th century) suggesting that any earlier archaeology may be sealed by alluvial deposit 003 or truncated by later medieval activity. Two clay tobacco pipes were recovered from context 009 dating to the late 17th century suggesting that the re-deposition of kiln debris and waster sherds occurred towards the end of the 17th century or perhaps at the beginning of the 18th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology required the monitoring of all groundworks associated with the development. The initial topsoil removal was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a bladed bucket; this insured a clean surface was achieved and made identification of the natural soil and any possible features and deposits clearer. Representative sections were hand cleaned; this insured a detailed record of the deposits encountered and a full interpretation to be made.

9.0 Acknowledgments

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank the Lace Housing Association for this commission and the ground workers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

APS 1996 *15a Potters Close, Bourne, Lincolnshire*

British Geological Survey, 1972. *Bourne. England and Wales Sheet 143. Solid and Drift Geology 1: 50 000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Whitwell J.B, 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

11.0 Site archive

An archive of written, drawn and photographic elements is in preparation and will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, Lincolnshire within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the Lincolnshire County Council Museum accession number 2007.126.



Fig 3 Approximate area of site outlined in red as shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. Not to scale.



Fig 4 Approximate area of site outlined in red as shown on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map. Not to scale.

Appendix One: Colour plates



Plate 1; View of Site from north-east corner looking south-west



Plate 2; Pottery dump (008) looking east



Plate 3; Area 4 looking north

Appendix 2: Context list

Observed Groundworks	
Context	Description
(001)	Topsoil. Dark brown grey silty clay. 0.35m in depth
(002)	Layer. Mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments, stone frags and modern brick. $\leq 0.50\text{m}$ in depth
(003)	Layer. Natural Alluvium. Mid orange brown sandy clay.
(004)	Layer. Mid grey black clay, occasional angular stone and brick fragments. Possible post-medieval farmyard layer and very similar to context (009).
(005)	Layer. ? Natural Alluvium. Mid greyish silty clay.
(008)	Layer. Pottery spreads.
(009)	Layer. Farmyard layer with kiln waste deposits. Mid blackish grey silty clay.
(010)	Layer. Interface between (008) and (011). Mid blackish grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks. 3mm in depth
(011)	Layer. Mid reddish orange silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.
(012)	Layer. Dark greyish black silt, with occasional charcoal flecks.
(013)	Layer. Same as (001)
(014)	Layer. Same as (009)
(015)	Layer. Modern rubble hard core put down after strip and before excavation of foundation trenches.

Appendix 3 Finds

Pottery Archive for Worth Court, Bourne (WCBL07)

Jane Young

A small assemblage comprising entirely of medieval and post-medieval Bourne wares was recovered from the site. All of the medieval Bourne-type ware (BOUA) found was recovered from context 009. None of the medieval pottery was obviously waster material and one vessel has an internal 'kettle fur' deposit, perhaps suggesting that this is domestic rubbish. The bulk of the pottery is of late medieval to early post-medieval date (mid 15th to 16th) and is of post-medieval Bourne type (BOU). A number of these vessels exhibit signs of misfiring, including overfiring, underfiring, spalling and cracking during firing. Most of this later pottery is in a fairly fresh condition and probably represents waste material dumped on the site, possibly for levelling or consolidation. A dripping dish with a finger-pressed rim and an large unknown form with a perforated base (context 008) are of note.

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description
002	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	large jug	1	1	32	BS	
002	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	jug	1	1	25	BS	cu glaze;internal deposit
002	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	jug	1	1	16	BS	misfired cu glaze
002	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	small jug/jar	1	1	32	BS	
003	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug	12	1	138	base & BS	waster;spalled & cracked during firing;laminating;thick base;cu glaze
004	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	jug/jar	1	1	14	BS	
004	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy + ca	jar	1	1	22	rim	
004	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	jug/jar	1	1	16	BS	cracked during firing;glaze across break
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	large unusual form	1	1	81	base	slab built;rectangular/square;pierced base;unmatured int glaze
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	jug	1	1	55	handle	folded strap handle

contex	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	151	base	cu speckled internal glaze
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	108	base	some large ca lumps;internal glaze
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	47	BS	internal glaze
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	near vitrified	large bowl	1	1	39	BS	internal glaze;cracked during firing;glaze over break
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	vitrified	jug/jar	1	1	3	BS	glaze
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug/jar	1	1	81	base	heavy base
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly bumpy + ca	jug	1	1	148	rim with handle	strap handle with central hollow almost folded
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	large jug/jar	1	1	44	BS	
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	22	rim	sloping rim
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	large jug	1	1	184	handle	slightly odd;wide strap handle with 5 grooves & poss piercing;cu mottled
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug	1	1	95	base	heavy base;trimmed;waster;cracked during firing aon base
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	bunghole vessel	1	1	63	bung	plain applied bung;reduced fabric
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	81	rim	sloping/slightly everted rim
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	large bowl	1	1	115	rim	sloping slightly hollow internal rim;fabric has spalled where there are occasional large ca lumps
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	large bowl	1	1	78	rim	slightly everted rim
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	large bowl	1	1	45	rim	sloping slightly hollow internal rim
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	63	rim	sloping slightly everted hollow internal rim
008	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	small jug/jar	2	1	38	BS	cracked during firing but re-sealed
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jug/jar	1	1	7	BS	flake

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	B	?	1	1	13	base	
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jar	8	1	84	base & BS	internal glaze
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jar	1	1	25	base	internal glaze
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jug	1	1	44	BS	
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B + ca lumps	small jar	1	1	28	BS	ridged shoulder
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jar	2	1	49	rim	flanged rim;lipped or occasional pressing
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	2	1	79	base	internal glaze
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B/C	jar ?	1	1	6	BS	
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B + fe	jug/jar	1	1	16	rim	very abraded;internal deposit
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	jug	1	1	38	handle	folded strap handle
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	?	1	1	1	BS	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	small jar ?	1	1	2	BS	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	small jar ?	1	1	1	BS	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	?	2	1	6	BS	spalled flakes no surfaces
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	?	1	1	4	BS	spalled flake
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug/jar	1	1	14	BS	slipped + glaze patch
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	large jug ?	1	1	59	BS	dark internal deposit
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug/jar	1	1	51	BS	abraded;cracked during firing
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	small jug/jar	2	1	9	BS	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly bumpy + ca	large bowl	1	1	66	rim	everted rim
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	62	rim	sloping rim with internal hollow

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	large bowl	1	1	55	rim	everted rim;groove along outer edge of rim
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	jug	1	1	94	rim with UHJ	strap handle with central hollow;flat rim
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	jug/pipkin	1	1	79	base	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	bunghole vessel	3	1	209	base & BS & bung	cracked during firing for about 5cm along base;plain small hole - no apparent applied bung
009	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	?	1	1	3	BS	
009	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth + ca	large bowl	1	1	60	base	internal glaze;cracked during firing ?
u/s	BOU	Bourne D ware	smooth	dripping dish	2	1	363	rim to base	thrown cylinder added to slab base;mid 15th to 16 th

Dating Archive for Worth Court, Bourne (WCBL07)

Jane Young

context	date	comments
002	mid 15th to 16th	includes misfired
003	mid 15th to 16th	single waster
004	mid 15th to 16th	includes kiln waster/second
008	mid 15th to 16th	includes wasters

009

mid 15th to 16th

includes wasters

Clay tobacco pipes by Jenny Mann

Context	Description	Date
009	Swollen, forward leaning bowl with partial groove below rim; flat oval heel (SB5)	<i>c.</i> 1650-80
009	Similar, but slightly larger and straighter; flat oval heel. Internal and external sooting	<i>c.</i> 1650-80

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Animal Bone by Emily Rowe

All bones are identified by species and skeletal element and the completeness of each element is identified by zones based on Dobney and Reilly (1988), with zones for the skull based on Maltby (2000) unpublished. All bones were assessed for butchery and gnawing marks and indicators of age.

Only two fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site, both of which were unstratified.

Context	Species	Element	Side	Zones	No. frags	Fusion	Weight	Preservation	Butchery
u/s	Sheep/Goat	Radio-ulna	L	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	1	advanced	36g	Good	4 cut marks on anterior lateral surface of zone 5
u/s	Red deer	Antler	R	1	1	n/a	234g	Good	n/a

The unstratified nature of this material prevents any meaningful interpretation beyond suggesting that the lack of fragmentation and weathering on the bones suggests that they were not exposed to the elements for an extended period of time.

References

Dobney, K. and Reilly, K 1988 A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones *Circaea* Vol 5, No. 2 pp79-96

Appendix 4

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OASIS ID: preconst3-35970

Project details

Project name Worth Court, Bourne, Lincolnshire

Short description of the project A Watching brief was undertaken prior to the development of land at Worth Court, Bourne. Dumps of late medieval (15th-16th Cenury) pottery including wasters were found indication the presence of a late medieval kiln nearby. No other archaeological features were identified.

Project dates Start: 16-05-2007 End: 05-11-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN DENTON Worth Court, Bourne

Postcode	PE10
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 10206 19802 52.7642161545 -0.366506274635 52 45 51 N 000 21 59 W Point
Height OD	Min: 5.00m Max: 5.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Project director/manager	S. Johnson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Physical Archive ID	2007.126
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive	The Collection, Lincoln

recipient

Paper Archive ID 2007.126

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Section'

Entered by Emily Rowe (emily@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 21 January 2008

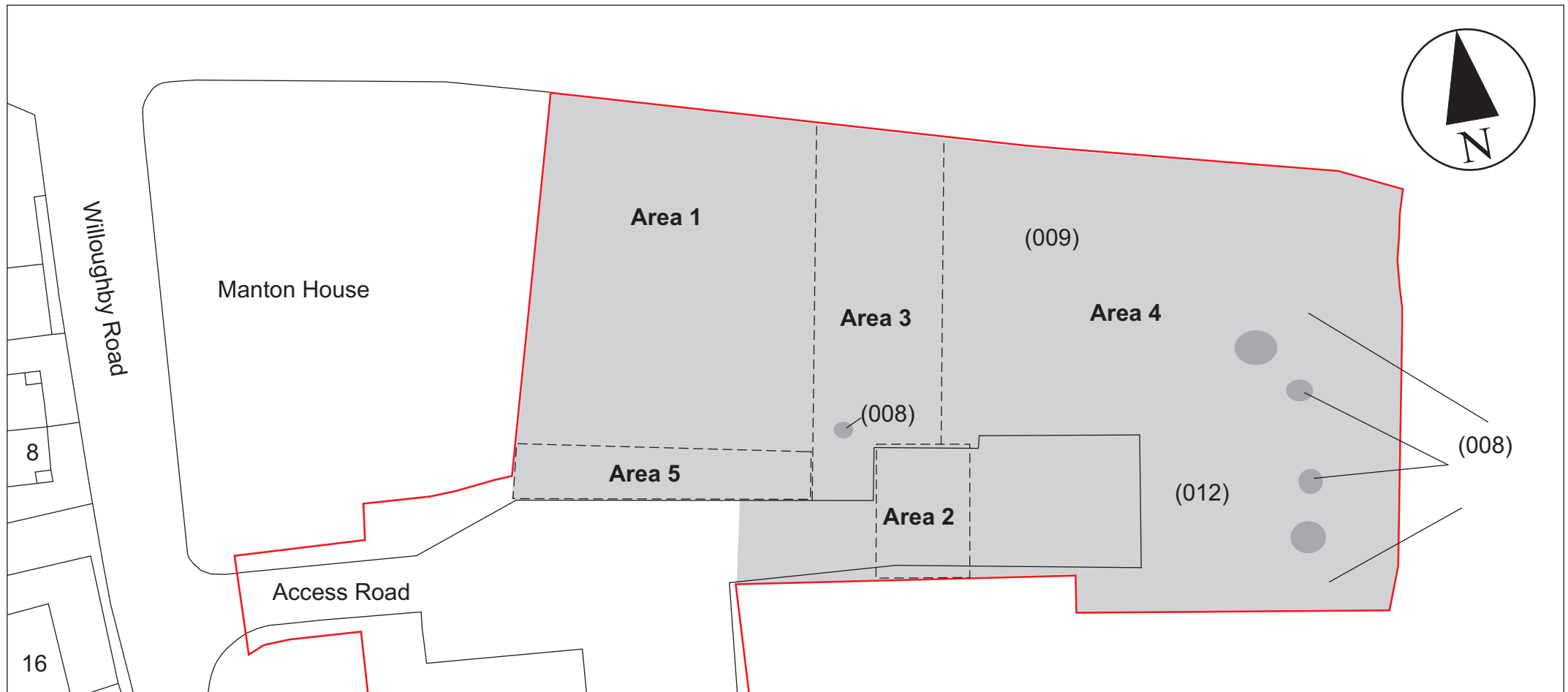
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Fig.2 Observed Groundworks Scale 1:500

Site ———
Observed Groundworks ■
Pottery Spread ●

0 50m
Scale