

Summary

- *A scheme of monitoring works on land adjacent to Oslo House, Vicarage Lane Wellingore did not expose any significant archaeological remains or artefactual evidence indicating pre-modern use of the area.*
- *The development site is situated within the medieval core of the village and next to 'Pottergate Road' a possible Roman Road with prehistoric origins.*

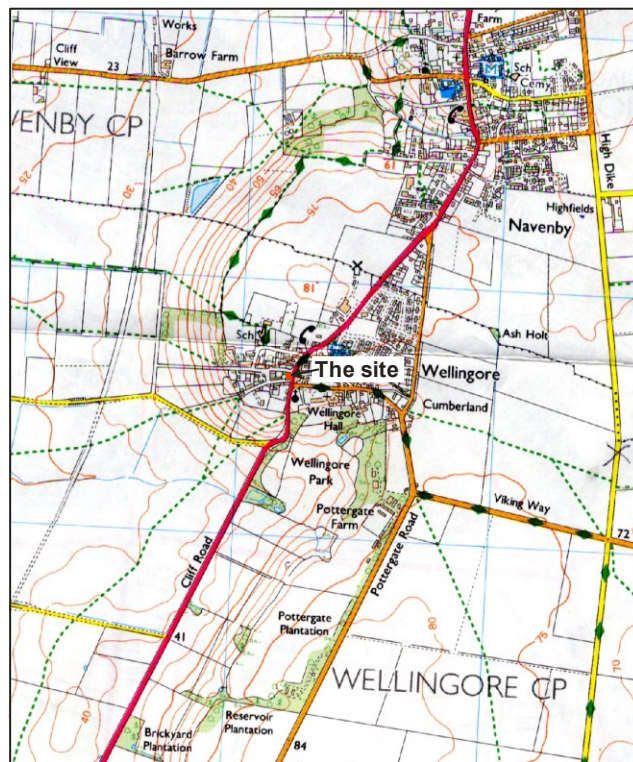


Fig 1: Site location at scale 1:25000
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1.0 Introduction

Planning permission was granted to construct a single bungalow and garage on land adjacent to Oslo House, Vicarage Lane Wellingore, Lincolnshire. The permission was granted subject to the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works that would ensure the preservation, by record, of any archaeological remains disturbed or destroyed as a result of developing the area.

The fieldwork and reporting methodologies described in this report are 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, 1999) and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Site location and description

The site is located within the parish of Wellingore in the administrative district of North Kesteven, c 16km south of Lincoln. Wellingore is located on the Lincoln to Grantham Road (A 607) on a promontory of the Jurassic Limestone ridge, approximately 75m above sea level and overlooking the valley of the River Brant.

The development site is within the modern village opposite the church, occupying a plot of land that is bordered to the east by the A 607, to the north by Barnes Lane, to the south by Vicarage Lane, and to the west by Oslo House. Its most recent use has been as a predominantly flat grassed garden area centred on SK 982 566, where the underlying geology comprises Jurassic Crossi Limestone beds with no overlying drift deposits (BGS 1968).

3.0 Planning background

North Kesteven District Council granted planning permission for a single bungalow and garage (planning ref; N73/1643). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of monitoring during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance; to record archaeological remains that would potentially be disturbed or destroyed as a result of developing the area.

4.0 Archaeological context

The site is adjacent to 'Pottergate' Road which is believed to follow a Roman alignment – centred on a previous prehistoric trackway that extended along the western scarp of the Lincolnshire limestone ridge.

The Roman road Ermine Street also passes through the parish to the east of the village centre and casual finds of this date have been made in the low fields in the parish (LHER no. 61726 & 61727). The site is also less than 2km from the Roman small town of Navenby.

Saxon inhumation burials off Pottergate Road were recorded as a result of metal detecting in 2002, potentially indicating the proximity of contemporary settlement in this area (LHER no. 62628). Middle Saxon remains have been recorded in the village (LHER no. 60757).

The parish church of All Saints incorporates 12th century architectural elements but documentary evidence suggests that there was an earlier structure in the parish. A church at Wellingore, is mentioned in the *Registrum Antiquissimum* of 1070-1087 and the *Domesday Survey* of 1086. At the time of Domesday the manor was held by the king and later granted to the Bishop of Lincoln. By 1086 the royal manor had a total of nine plough teams (LHER no. 63253). The current site is located close to All Saints Church and is likely to be within the centre of the medieval village. There are a number of significant post-medieval stone buildings surviving within the village centre - all listed on Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

5.0 Methodology

The scheme of monitoring and recording was applicable to all works associated with the excavation of footing trenches for the bungalow and garage (Fig 2). Initially the planning consent specified that the following works would also be subject to monitoring:

- (i) Any preliminary landscaping, ground preparation or geotechnical work.
- (ii) The excavation of associated service trenches.
- (iii) Any ancillary works, such as new access routes, car parking areas, etc

After direct consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, these minor works were removed from the scheme, which was monitored by the author on June 1st 2009.

The excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out using a machine fitted with 0.60m toothed bucket, although it was indicated in the project specification that, where possible, all excavation would be carried out using a smooth blade. In the event, this proved impracticable due to the nature of the natural limestone geology.

Following the excavation of the foundation trenches and the checking of soil for artefactual remains, sample section drawings were prepared at a scale of 1:10, and a plan at scale 1:50. Context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets, and a colour and digital photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

The depth of foundation trenching varied. At the northwest of the footprint, trenches were excavated to approximately 1m (Fig 3, App.1, Plate 3). The majority however were approximately 0.40-0.50m deep (Fig 3, Plates 4 & 5).

The earliest deposit recorded on the site was of geological origin. This was a layer of limestone brash (101), approximately 0.20 – 0.30m below the modern ground surface. Overlying this along the eastern boundary of the site was a layer of modern concrete, (103). This formed the bedding for a row of limestone blocks (102) (Fig 3, Plate 4). . The single row of blocks (averaging 0.28-0.33m wide x 0.12m deep) was the remnants of a boundary wall; demolished prior to the commencement of this development.

Across much of the site was a 0.20 – 0.30m thick layer of dark brownish-black silty clay topsoil.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the development site being situated within the core of the medieval village and adjacent to ‘Pottergate Road’, which is believed to have originated in the prehistoric era, no finds or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded. Furthermore, there was no evidence to suggest that the site had been anything other than an area of open ground.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of this development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of archaeological potential to be established, which was deemed to be moderate to high in this particular area of the village.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr. Kevin Allen for this commission.

10.0 References

BGS 1968 *British Geological Survey; England and Wales, Solid and Drift: Sheet 114 Lincoln*. Scale 1: 3000.

Morgan P.& Thorn C., (eds) 1986, *Domesday Book: 31 Lincolnshire* Chichester, Phillimore.

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months. The global accession number for this scheme is LLN CC: 2009. 75.