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Northern Archaeological Associates

**EXTENSION TO CONCRETE PRODUCTS FACTORY
MANOR FARM, BASTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

for

AGGREGATES INDUSTRIES UK LTD

NAA 01/33

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EXTENSION TO CONCRETE PRODUCTS FACTORY

MANOR FARM, BASTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Summary

This report presents the results of a watching brief on the site of a proposed extension to a concrete products factory at Manor Farm off Baston Outgang Road, in Baston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken to mitigate the impact of the development on potential archaeological features.

The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of 15 foundation pits through an existing concrete apron. Below the concrete, natural sand and gravel river terrace deposits were recorded. No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on the site of a proposed extension to a concrete products factory at Manor Farm in Baston, Lincolnshire (South Kesteven planning application number S7/1147/00). This watching brief has been undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) on behalf Aggregate Industries UK Ltd to satisfy planning consent (Condition 13/2).
- 1.2 A project design and methods statement for the watching brief at Manor Farm was produced by NAA in January 2001 (NAA 2001) and approved by Lincolnshire County Council. The monitoring of the excavation of fifteen foundation pits was undertaken over a period of 2 days (w/e 13.1.01).

2.0 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The factory building is located about 0.5km to the east of Baston village and setback 220m to the south of Outgang Baston Road in Baston Fen. The site of the extension to the concrete products factory lies to the immediate south-east of the present factory building, within the stockyard (grid reference TF 123 146, Figure 1, Plate 1).
- 2.2 The site is situated on sand and gravel alluvial terrace deposits c.3km west of fen peat deposits.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Fen edge is of considerable archaeological importance, particularly for remains of the prehistoric period. Numerous archaeological sites are known from this area,

many with excellent preservation. In particular a series of cropmark enclosures and boundaries are recorded to the south-west of the development site.

- 3.2 The site of the factory can be seen to lie at a significantly lower level than the surrounding fenland (c.0.5m). It is bordered to the south and the west by Manor Pit Quarry from which gravel and sand has been extracted since the 1930's.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 This methodology relates to archaeological monitoring undertaken during the excavation of 15 foundation pits. The concrete apron was cut with a stihl saw at the foundation pit locations, and the underlying deposits removed by a JCB type excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, first to where natural deposits were encountered and then to the required foundation depths.

4.2 The foundation pits were recorded both in plan and section at appropriate scales with the levels tied into Ordnance Datum. All of the foundation pits were photographed using colour prints and slides at a minimum format of 35mm.

4.3 No finds were recovered or deposits regarded as appropriate for environmental sampling

4.4 A representative sample of the natural stratigraphic sequence was recorded.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 A total of 15 pits were excavated. Ten of the pits (1 to 5 and 11 to 15) measured 2.8m by 1.8m and 1m deep and the remaining five (6 to 10) 1.5m by 1.1m and 1m deep, their locations relating to the foundation piles for the proposed factory extension (Figure 2, Plate 1).

Pits 1 to 3 and 13 to 15

5.2 All of these foundation pits had an identical sequence of deposits with decreasing levels of hardcore the further to the south-east the pit was located. Beneath the concrete apron c.0.12m thick (1), a layer of hardcore (2) was recorded (ranging from 0.37m to 0.24m thick) consisting of rounded river pebbles, angular stone and fragments of concrete. This overlay natural gravel and sand deposits (3), which extended beyond the 1m depth that was the limit of excavation (Plate 2). The water table was encountered at a depth of c.0.65m below the ground level. No features or finds of an archaeological nature were identified.

Pits 4, 10, 11 and 12

5.3 The sequence of deposits in these four pits was also identical. Beneath the concrete apron (1), a thin layer of hardcore c.12m thick overlay a layer of redeposited sand and gravel (4), which varied between 0.14m and 0.3m thick. Inclusions within context 4

consisted of fragments of concrete and plastic. This in turn overlay the natural sand and gravel deposits (3). The water table was encountered at a depth of c.0.65m below the ground level. No features or finds of an archaeological nature were identified.

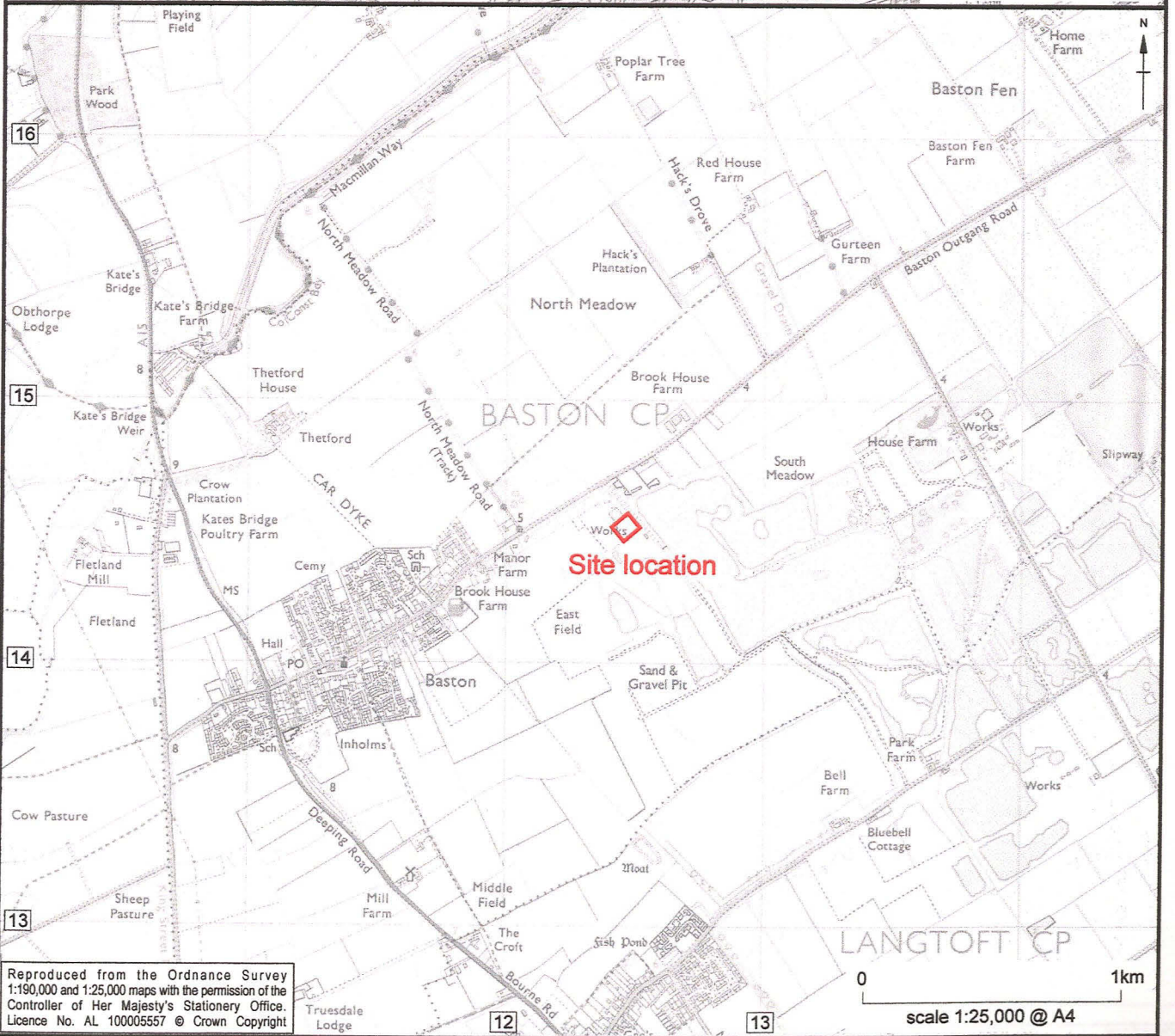
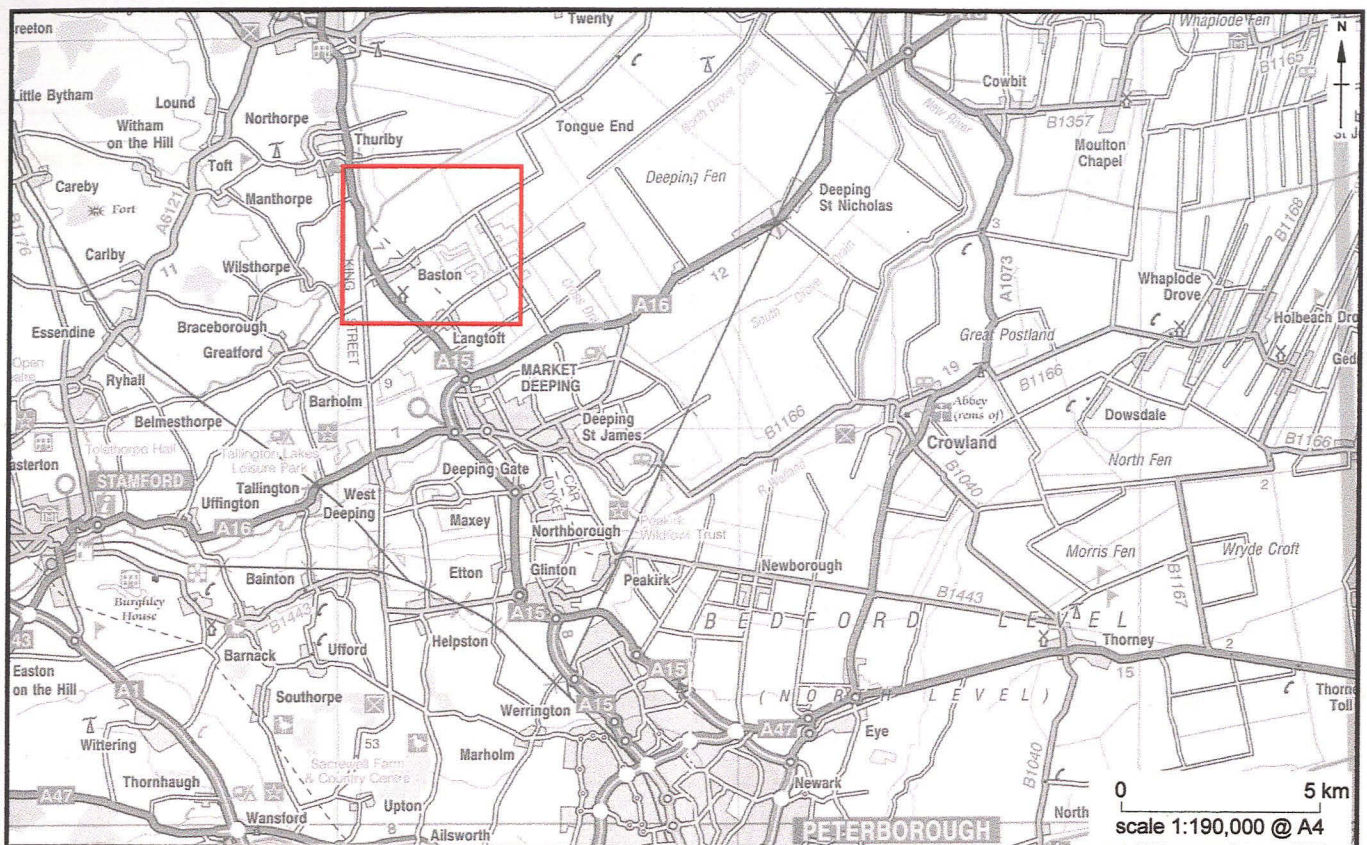
Pits 5 to 9

- 5.4 No hardcore was recorded in these pits; the concrete apron instead overlay a layer of redeposited sand and gravel (4) measuring c.0.12m thick. This in turn overlay the natural sand and gravel deposits (3). The water table was encountered at a depth of c.0.65m below the ground level (Plate 3). No features or finds of an archaeological nature were identified.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The increased depth of hardcore towards the existing factory building most likely relates to the levelling of the ground surface prior to the construction of the concrete apron. The layer of redeposited sand and clay also relating to ground disturbance during the laying of the concrete apron.
- 6.2 The absence of any archaeological remains could be a result of groundworks undertaken during the construction of the factory, the ground level of the factory site being significantly lower (c.0.5m) than the surrounding fields.

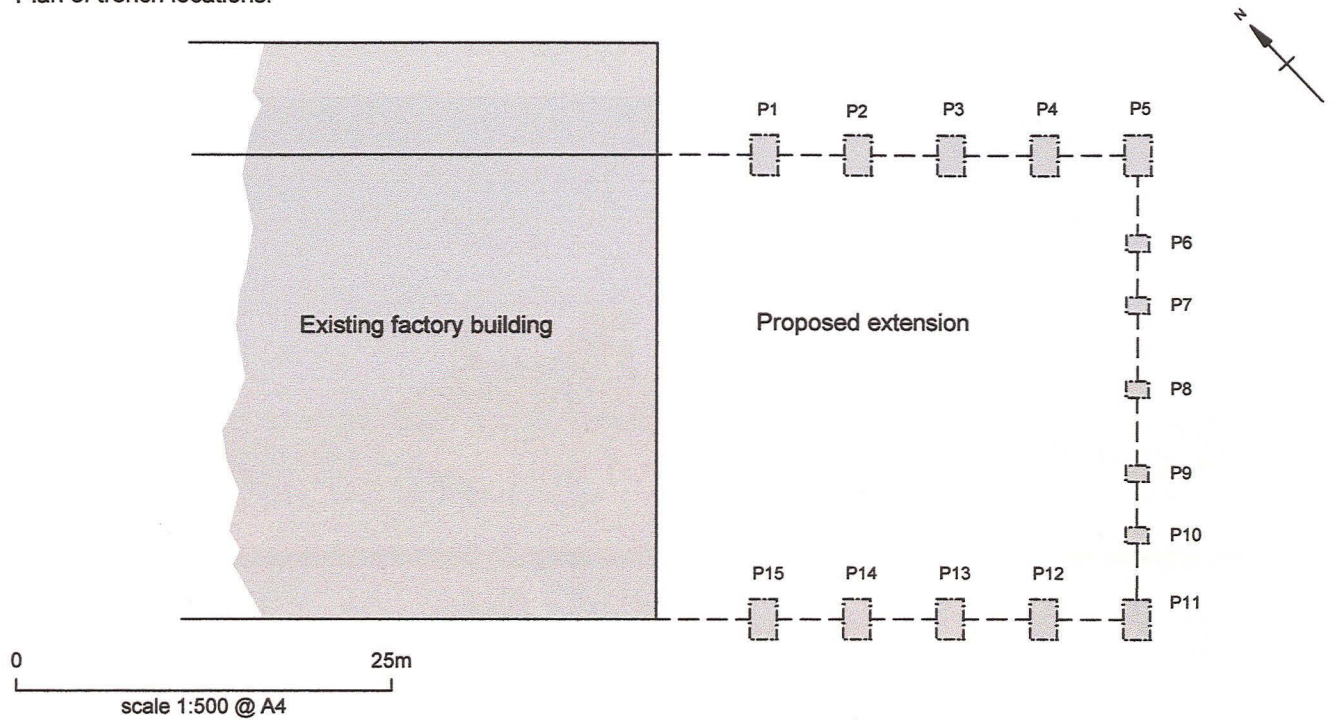
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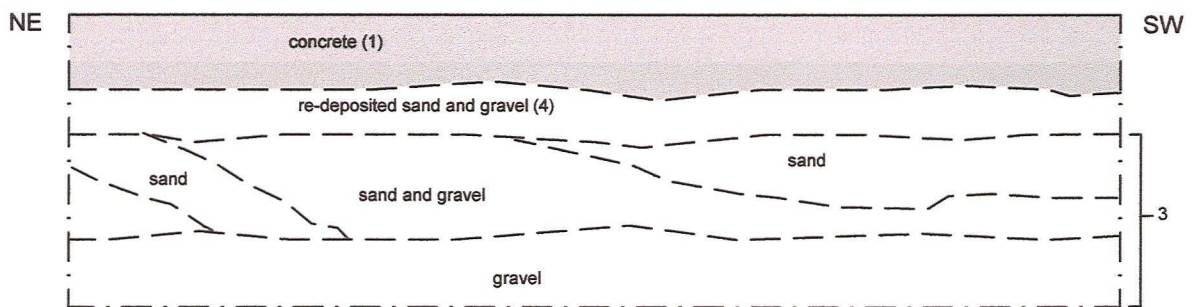
Figure 1 Manor Farm, Baston: location plan

Plan of trench locations.



Sections

Section of Pit 5



Section of Pit 15

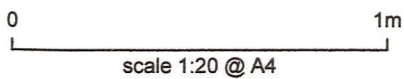
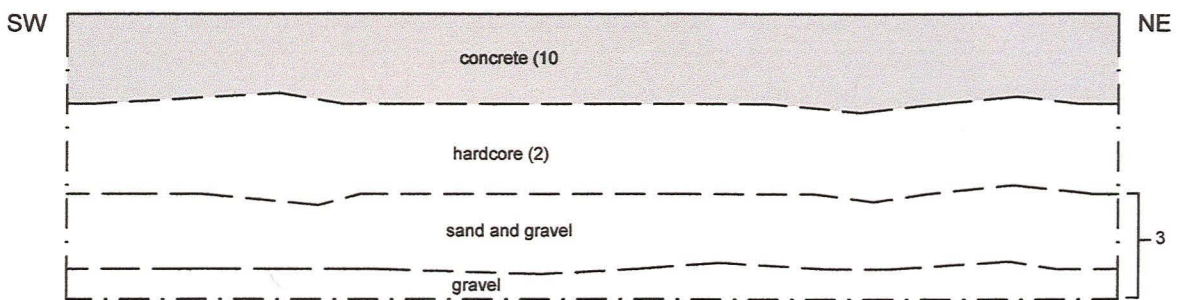


Figure 2 Baston Manor Farm: Foundation Pit locations and sections.



Plate 1 Site location showing excavated pits



Plate 2 Foundation pit 2 showing hardcore layer overlying natural gravel



Plate 3 Foundation pit 5 showing layering of natural deposits below the concrete platform