## LAND OFF WINTON ROAD, NAVENBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION REPORT

Site code NGR: Planning ref: LCCM Acc No: WINA 04 SK 98937 57483 N/40/0520/04 2004.150 M4/17

Report prepared for NDC Group Ltd.

by

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August 2004



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#### Summary

- A programme of trial excavation was undertaken for NDC Group in advance of residential development on land off Winton Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire.
- An undated ditch exposed in one trench (Trench 1) reflects an earlier field system on the site: Trenches 2 and 6 revealed evidence of extensive quarrying in the western half of the site. Dating of these areas suggests that quarrying took place here sporadically from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the earthwork remains of this activity are still partially visible within the local landscape.
- Overall, it is concluded that the archaeological potential of this site is limited, and that development of the area will have a minimal impact on archaeological remains.



Fig.1: General site location (scale 1:25,000) (O.S. Copyright License No. A1 515 21 A0001)

#### 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by NDC Group Ltd. to carry out an archaeological trial excavation on land off Winton Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Heritage Team Leader at Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (IFA, 1999), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

#### 2.0 Location and description (Fig. 1, 2)

Navenby is in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 10km south of Lincoln. The site is located in the south-east corner of the village, east of the High Street (A607). It comprises a broadly sub-rectangular unit of approximately 0.5ha. Winton Road runs along the south side of the site, which is surrounded by recent development. Prior to evaluation, the ground cover consisted of overgrown pasture with some areas of scrubland, the central and eastern portions of which had been recently mown. There were several dumps of material associated with the adjacent bus depot along the south side of the site.

The local geology consists of Jurassic deposits of Lincolnshire Limestone (British Geological Survey, 1973).

The site centres on NGR SK 98937 57483.

#### 3.0 Planning background

The site is subject to an outline planning application for the erection of sixteen apartments and four detached dwellings (planning ref. N/40/0520/04). In order to inform the determination of this application, a programme of archaeological investigation has been requested.



Fig. 2: Trench location plan, showing the position of the proposed buildings (scale 1:500)

#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Numerous programmes of fieldwork have taken place in Navenby in recent years, greatly expanding our knowledge of the settlement pattern in the area. The village has long been noted for its Romano-British settlement remains, but recent fieldwork has suggested that the area was a focus of human activity from at least Neolithic or Bronze Age times.

Since 1994, a number of investigations have taken place: predominantly in a small area defined by Ermine Street, Grantham Road, and Chapel Lane. These projects were all development-led, and Ploughsound Ltd / NDC Group has funded the majority of them in advance of/during development. The current site lies to the west/north-west of this area of development.

In 1994, approximately 3.7 hectares of land on the west side of Ermine Street, immediately south of Chapel Lane, was surveyed by gradiometry (Lyall 1996), and subsequent trial excavations showed that Romano-British stone buildings lined Ermine Street in the  $3^{rd}/4^{th}$  centuries AD (Palmer-Brown, 1994). These structures sealed evidence of an earlier settlement enclosure, incorporating several circular buildings. The Romano-British occupation at the site appears to have continued until the later  $4^{th}$  or early  $5^{th}$  century AD, after which the settlement shifted westwards, closer to the limestone edge.

A watching brief on the north part of the above site identified a burial area that appears to have been in use for several millennia, perhaps preserved in the collective memory of the local community. The area yielded cremation burials of Bronze Age and Romano-British date, and Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials with grave goods. The watching brief also detected further undated cremation burials, and a stone-capped pit containing butchered horse remains and high status pottery with scored decoration (Palmer-Brown & Albone 1999).

A watching brief some 350m west of Ermine Street identified a small group of pits containing charred plant remains, fire-shattered pebbles and post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery sherds, suggesting occupation of the area in the very Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (Palmer-Brown, 1995). Similar pits were found in 1999 when a further three hectares of land west of Ermine Street was investigated in advance of development (Palmer-Brown & Rylatt 1999). Excluding these pits, however, most of the site was archaeologically sterile, with most of the activity associated with later periods occurring further to the east, closer to Ermine Street.

In 2001, ten trenches were placed to the west of Ermine Street within the 'south' field to investigate anomalies highlighted by the 1996 geophysical survey (Allen 2001). These trenches confirmed the presence of well preserved Romano-British stone structures adjacent to Ermine Street and a minor road extending westwards from it. At the junction of Ermine Street and the minor road, an unusual polygonal structure was identified. The morphology of this structure suggests that it was not of domestic origin, and it could even represent the remains of a temple or shrine. A number of Romano-British inhumation burials were exposed to the west of the settlement. Earlier activity at the site is represented by low numbers of prehistoric worked flints. The extent of the Romano-British roadside settlement has never been established, although current evidence suggests that its northern limit does not extend more than 200m north of Chapel Lane. A fluxgate gradiometer survey of 2.14 hectares to the north of Centurion Close did not identify anomalies of potential archaeological significance (Bunn & Hardwick 2000), and subsequent trial excavations exposed no evidence of the stone buildings that occur to the south (J Hockley, *pers. comm.*).

The current site is believed to lie to the west of the main focus of Roman settlement, which straddles Ermine Street. However, metal detector finds from immediately to the east of the site include coins, a lead goblet and a bronze bell of Romano-British date. To the south of the site, possible enclosures, and pits of Middle – Late Iron Age date have been identified.

The continuity of occupation after the end of the Romano-British period is attested by the presence of Anglo-Saxon inhumations, although there is no archaeological evidence of associated settlement activity. The place name evidence however, does suggest occupation in the Scandinavian period, being derived from the Old Danish meaning 'Nafni's farmstead/village' (Cameron, 1998). Subsequently the Domesday Book reports that after the Conquest estates in Navenby, which formerly belonged to Rothulfr, were passed to Durand Malet (Morgan & Thorn, 1986).

#### 5.0 Methodology

To evaluate the current site, a total of six trenches were investigated, comprising approximately 3% of the total development area (fig. 2). Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6 were 10m long, and Trenches 2 and 5 were 20m.

Initial excavation was carried out using a JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching blade. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits not exceeding 0.2m, until the first archaeological or natural horizon was exposed. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, all further excavation was by hand.

Archaeological features were sample excavated to establish depths and profiles and, where possible, date and function. Features were recorded in plan and in section at appropriate scales (1:50 and 1:20), with associated context information. A photographic record was maintained throughout the project, and selected prints have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was directed by S A Savage, with the assistance of two experienced field archaeologists. The excavations took place over a period of five days: Monday July 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2004.

#### 6.0 Results

#### 6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the site, approximately 5m from the eastern hedge line. The trench was 10m in length and aligned NNE-SSW.

The topsoil, 100, consisted of a mid greyish brown sandy loam, 0.25m - 0.3m in thickness, which sealed a thin mid brown sandy clay subsoil (101), below which the underlying limestone brash natural (104) was exposed. This sequence broadly reflects the basic stratigraphy recorded in all of the evaluation trenches. In Trench 1, a linear feature was seen, approximately 3m from the northern end of the trench and aligned NW-SE. This feature [103] proved upon excavation to be a ditch, some 1.06m wide and 0.27m deep, filled by a mid orange brown clayey sand with some small-medium irregular limestone inclusions (102). Unfortunately, despite the total excavation of the exposed fill, no datable material was recovered from this feature; the only find being a fragmented animal bone.

#### 6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was originally located on the western side of the site, approximately 10m from the western boundary: however this area proved to consist of a depression some 1-1.5m deep which was heavily overgrown with mature trees and the trench was consequently relocated 5m further to the east. The trench was 20m in length and aligned NNE-SSW.

The modern topsoil, 200, consisted of a thin layer of greyish brown sandy loam, which sealed a very mixed series of modern dumped deposits (201-209), which in turn sealed a buried topsoil, 210. Again, sealed below the buried topsoil, a further series of dumping/ levelling deposits were revealed (211-213, 216); however these appeared to be fills within a linear cut [214]. Pottery recovered from context 213 has been dated to the  $18^{th}/19^{th}$  century.

It seems likely that this trench intersected the edge of a former quarry, the relict profile of which remains as the earthwork depression immediately to the west of the trench. The lower sequence of fills (211-213, 216) probably represent partial backfilling of waste material at the edge of the quarry cut during quarrying activity and the buried topsoil which has developed after this suggests that a considerable period elapsed after the quarrying stopped, before waste material including demolition rubble was dumped in this area, probably to restore the level of the land. This last activity has not completely filled in the quarry, as the deep depression to the immediate west is witness.

#### 6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 was located on the eastern side of the site, 15m to the south of Trench 1 and approximately 5m from the eastern hedge line. The trench was 10m in length and aligned WNW-ESE.





Fig. 4: Trench 2 plan and sections (scales 1:50 and 1:20)



Fig. 5: Trench 3 plan and sections (scales 1:50 and 1:20)

The same sequence of topsoil (300) and subsoil (301) overlying limestone brash natural (306) as seen in Trench 1 was exposed. Two small irregular features were investigated [303/305], both filled with a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions (302 and 304 respectively). These features were interpreted as small solution hollows in the surface of the weathered natural bedrock.

#### 6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

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Trench 4 was originally located on the eastern side of the site, approximately 8m from the eastern hedge line: it was 20m in length and aligned NNE-SSW. However, the southern 10 - 15m of the site consisted of several large heaps of dumped modern material and the trench was consequently relocated 3m further to the north.

The same sequence of topsoil (400) and subsoil (401) overlying limestone brash natural (406) as seen in Trench 1 was exposed. In Trench 4, two features were investigated [403/405], both filled with a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions (402 and 404 respectively). The irregularity of these features, coupled with the homogenous nature of their fills lead to their interpretation as natural solution hollows in the surface of the weathered natural bedrock, the linear nature of [405] being suggestive of glacial frost-wedging.

#### 6.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Trench 5 was originally located in the middle of the site, close to the southern boundary. However, because of the presence of several large heaps of dumped modern material on the south side of the site, it was relocated 3m further to the north. Trench 5 was 20m in length and aligned WNW-ESE.

The same sequence of topsoil (500) and subsoil (501) overlying limestone brash natural (506) was exposed. In Trench 5, two further features were investigated. Feature [503] was a small irregular 'pit', located at the western end of the trench and filled by 502, a mid orange brown silty clay material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions. It was again interpreted as a natural solution hollow in the surface of the weathered natural bedrock. Feature [505] was curvilinear, located at the eastern end of the trench and was filled with a mid orange brown silty clay material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions streaked with some large concentrations of fine limestone derived gravels (generally concentrated near the edges of the feature (504). Upon excavation, the irregular nature of the feature, coupled with the clean character of the fills lead to an interpretation as glacial frostwedging, or a natural streambed associated with glacial run-off.

#### 6.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 8)

Trench 6 was originally located in the south-west corner of the site, approximately 5m from the western boundary and aligned NE-SW. However, again because of the





Scale 1:50



Fig. 6: Trench 4 plan and sections (scales 1:50 and 1:20)







presence of large heaps of dumped modern material, the trench was relocated. Because linear earthworks were seen in the area to the north of the intended position of Trench 6, and these were aligned NE-SW, it was decided to move the trench and turn it 90° to investigate these. Trench 6 was 10m in length and aligned NW-SE.

At the eastern end of the trench, a similar sequence of topsoil (600) and subsoil (601) overlying limestone brash natural (608) was exposed. However, at the western end of the trench, the topsoil (a layer of greyish brown sandy loam, varying in thickness between 0.1m and 0.38m) sealed a very mixed series of dumped deposits (602-607), which appeared to be fills within a linear cut [609]. The feature was excavated to a depth of 1.4m before a loose limestone fill was encountered, and excavations were discontinued as it was considered that this fill was too fragile to support the dense fills above it in section: only the eastern edge of the feature was seen within the trench. Pottery was only recovered from 603, one of the upper fills of this feature, and this proved to be mainly of 13<sup>th</sup> century date; two further sherds of Roman date are probably residual.

Excavation showed the earthworks in this area to be mainly a topsoil feature, and deeper excavation proved that quarrying was also present here. However, the discrepancy between the dating of the deposits here with those in Trench 2 seems to indicate that quarrying activity moved northwards and this area was backfilled and used as access – the earthworks are consistent with an access track.

The purpose of this quarry seems likely to be for building materials, probably for the houses which front onto the high street, or perhaps their precursors, to the rear of which it is located.

#### 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation has shown that little activity of archaeological significance has taken place in this area. Trench 1 shows signs of an earlier field system, as yet undated, and other features seen in the majority of the other trenches have proved upon excavation to be of natural origin.

The presence of a quarry (Trenches 2 and 6) on the site is interesting, and this and its later access still survive as partially filled-in earthworks in the western half of the site. The disparity between the dating of the fills within the two areas sampled suggests that quarrying either took place continuously over a period of some 500 years or, more likely, that the quarrying activity was of a sporadic nature. It seems likely that this quarry was the source for building materials for the houses which front onto the high street, to the rear of which it is located.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed at the Winton Road site has allowed a reasonably comprehensive understanding of the archaeological potential of the site, and the potential threat that redeveloping the area may have. It appears from the results of the evaluation that the archaeological resource will remain largely unaffected by the

construction of eight new buildings and their associated infrastructure, however the developer should note that the western side of the site contains a largely backfilled quarry, which appears to contain some unconsolidated fills, which may present some problems with the structural integrity of buildings in this area.

#### 9.0 Acknowledgements

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Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank NDC Group Ltd for commissioning the work and the assistance of their staff during the evaluation. Thanks are due to R Barnett and Kath Stone for their hard work. Thanks go also to J Young and M Darling for the specialist finds archive/reports.

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## Appendix 1: Colour Plates

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**Plate 1 (left):** General view during machining in Trench 5, looking east.

Plate 2 (right): General view of the site from the southeast corner, looking north. Trench 4 is in the foreground, with Trenches 3 and 1 beyond on the right side of the frame, while Trench 2 can be seen in front of the trees in the middle of the picture





Plate 3 (left): Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, looking south.
Plate 4 (below): Post-excavation shot of Ditch [103], looking northwest.





Plate 5 (left): General view of Trench 2 after initial machining, looking northwest.



Plate 6 (right): General view of Trench 2, with exploratory slots excavated, looking northwest.



Plate 7 (left): Post-excavation shot of Trench 3, looking west.



Plate 8 (right): Post excavation view of Trench 4, looking North.



**Plate 9 (left):** Postexcavation view of the northern end of Trench 4, showing solution hollows [403].



Plate 10 (above): Post-excavation shot of Trench 5, looking west.



Plate 11 (above): Post-excavation shot of Trench 6, looking west.



Plate 12 (left): Postexcavation view of the quarry cut [609], looking southwest. The earthwork remains of the trackway can be clearly seen in section.

Appendix 2

# REPORT 169 ON POTTERY FROM NAVENBY, LINCOLNSHIRE, WINA04

# for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

#### by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

#### 12 August 2004

# **QUANTITY AND CONDITION**

The pottery finds consist of 2 sherds, weighing 11g from a single context. The condition is poor and abraded. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. An extract from the archive database is attached (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study.

The sherds from context 603 are both rims, fragmentary and abraded, in light grey fabrics, one being fairly micaceous. One is probably from a jar with an everted rim, the interior of the rim being flaked. The other fragment in the micaceous fabric is less certainly identifiable, but is from an open form, probably a small bowl, with an outsloping grooved rim, possibly having a constriction or perhaps a cordon after the fracture. Alternatively it could be from a carinated bowl form which often have relatively small diameters, as with this example; it is unfortunate that it is so fragmentary as the rim type is unusual.

The fragmentary nature precludes close dating, but these vessels are likely to lie in the range of 2nd to 3rd century. The bowl fragment is possibly more 2nd century than later.

© M.J. Darling, 2004

#### **ARCHIVE** extract

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Details	Shs	Wt
603	GREY	JEV?	RIM FRAG;FLAKED ON INT;LTGRY;DIAM14	1	5
603	<b>GMIC</b> ?	<b>B</b> ?	RIM FR;EXT GROOVE BELOW RIM;SPLAYED	1	6
			?CONSTRICTED BELOW?;DIAM12;F.MICAC		
603	ZDATE	-	2-3C?	-	-

# Appendix 3 Pottery Archive WINA04

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
213	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware			1	1	5		BS		18th to 19th
213	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed		mug	1	1	12		handle		18th
213	BL	Black-glazed wares		bowl	4	1	190		rim & BS		18th
603	MISC	Unidentified types	micaceous clay comm fe sparse-mod white clay incl	cbm ?	1	1	10		BS	comm fine-med quartz	•
603	LSW1/2	12th-13th century Lincoln Glazed ware		jug	1	1	4		BS	internal deposit	early 13th
603	LSWA	Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	light firing	jug	2	1	7		BS		early 13th
603	MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	reduced;fine-med sandy;hard	jug	1	1	7		BS	pocked reduced green glaze; int deposit; abun	13th
603	LSW1/2	12th-13th century Lincoln Glazed ware		jug	1	1	9		BS		early 13th
603	LSW1/2	12th-13th century Lincoln Glazed ware		jug	1	1	8	fe painted vert strip	BS	pocked glaze	early 13th

# Appendix 4: Context Summary

# **Trench** 1

Context	Description
100	Topsoil
101	Subsoil
102	Fill of 103 - mid orange brown clayey sand with some small-medium irregular limestone inclusions
103	Linear Ditch
104	Natural Limestone Brash

# Trench 2

Context	Description
200	Topsoil
201	Stony pinkish brown sandy clay - redep. Nat.
202	Redeposited topsoil
203	Redeposited limestone brash
204	Dumped brown sandy loam
205	Dumped pinkish brown sandy clay - redep. Nat?
206	Dumped building waste - modern
207	Redep material – same as 205
208	Redeposited topsoil
209	Dumped building waste/rubble - modern
210	Buried topsoil
211	Redeposited subsoil
212	Yellowish brown sandy clay - redep. Nat.
213	mid brownish sandy clay, occ limestone
214	Quarry cut
215	Natural Limestone Brash
216	Redeposited Limestone lens

# Trench 3

Context	Description		
300	Topsoil		
301	Subsoil		
302	Fill of 303 - a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions		
303	Small solution hollow		
304	Fill of 305 - a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions		
305	Small solution hollow		
306	Natural Limestone Brash		

# **Trench 4**

Context	Description		
400	Topsoil		
401	Subsoil		
402	Fill of 403 - a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions		
403	Irregular solution activity at N end of trench		
404	Fill of 405 - a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions		
405	Linear solution hollow - ?ditch		
406	Natural Limestone Brash		

# **Trench 5**

Context	Description
500	Topsoil
501	Subsoil
502	Fill of 503 - a mid orange brown clayey sand material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions
503	Irregular solution hollow
504	Fill of 505 - a mid orange brown silty clay material with occasional small irregular limestone inclusions streaked with some large concentrations of fine limestone derived gravels
505	Curvilinear solution hollow -geological
506	Natural Limestone Brash

## **Trench 6**

Context	Description
600	Topsoil
601	Subsoil
602	Redep. Nat limestone in [609]
603	Mid brown silty sand in [609]
604	Yellowish brown sandy clay with 1/s frags below 602
605	Mid brown silty sand sim 603 below 604
606	Yellowish brown sandy clay with 1/s frags sim 604 below 605
607	Mid brown silty sand sim 603/5 below 606
608	Natural Limestone Brash
609	Quarry cut