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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land at Fonaby, Caistor  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TA 109 030**

**Site Code.: HAFC 05**

**Accession No.: 2005.260**

**Planning Application Reference: MO1/P/1032**

**Report for**

**William Green & Sons Ltd**

**by**

**M. McDaid**

**LAS Report No. 890  
December 2005**

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the stripping of an access road. Much of the access road cut through ground which had previously been disturbed by services. Natural geology was recorded in the remaining area.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by William Green & Sons Ltd in February 2005 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the above site (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the brief set by the Lincolnshire County Council Senior Built Environment Officer for West Lindsey District Council, dated November 2001, and general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced, 05/12/05 and was completed, 06/12 2005. The site was recorded by Doug Young.

**Site Location and Description**

The rectangular development plot is located on the west side of the main road, through the village, on the former site of Castle Farm and associated outbuildings (Fig. 2, Pl. 1).

**Planning Background**

Full planning permission has been granted for the use of land as a caravan/chalet park for mobility impaired and disabled persons subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during groundworks for the development.

**Archaeological Background**

Caistor was an important Roman town with a walled enclosure built in the late 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century on top of the hill. There was also an extensive Roman settlement to the west of the walled area. It appears to have retained its importance in the Anglo-Saxon period and is thought to have been the capital of the North Riding of Lindsey with an early minster church located inside the Roman walls. It was a royal manor both before and after the Norman Conquest and in the medieval period was a thriving market town.

Fonaby was a parish in its own right before being absorbed into nearby Caistor. A pagan Saxon cemetery was discovered in the 1950s and recorded during quarrying of the site for sand on the east side of the road. Land on both sides of the road was quarried, although a small area along the



southern boundary is thought to have been untouched. There was potential for the presence of additional evidence for Saxon burials along the eastern boundary of the site next to the road (A1084).

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

### **Method**

The groundworks, which were machined by a 360° excavator, were monitored by an experienced archaeologist attending when required. A full written and photographic record was made of the site, including a sketch plan.

A context numbering system for archaeological recording was in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on the CAS and MOLAS models.

### **Results** (Fig. 2, Pl. 2)

The access road was 30m long x 40m wide, at its widest point, and 0.50m deep. The depth of the access road reflected the depth of topsoil, **1**. Excavation of the access road exposed only deposits associated with service trenches, **2**, for c.5m, from the eastern end of the access point. A manhole within the service disturbance was investigated, exposing a chamber c.2m deep which contained fibre-optic cables. To the west of the service trenches was yellow brown natural sand, **3**, which showed signs of animal disturbance at the south-west. The ground was noted to be c.6m higher, at the highest point on the access road, to the area of back filled quarry to the west (Pl. 3).

### **Discussion**

The access road revealed no archaeological features partly due to the presence of service trenches and animal disturbance.

### **Conclusion**

The access road did not impact upon any archaeological remains.

Mick McDaid  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
December 2005

**Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank William Green & Sons Ltd for their help. This report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Doug Young.

**Contents of the Site Archive**

Sketch plan

Sketch sections

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 05/1287/12a – 22a



## THE FIGURES



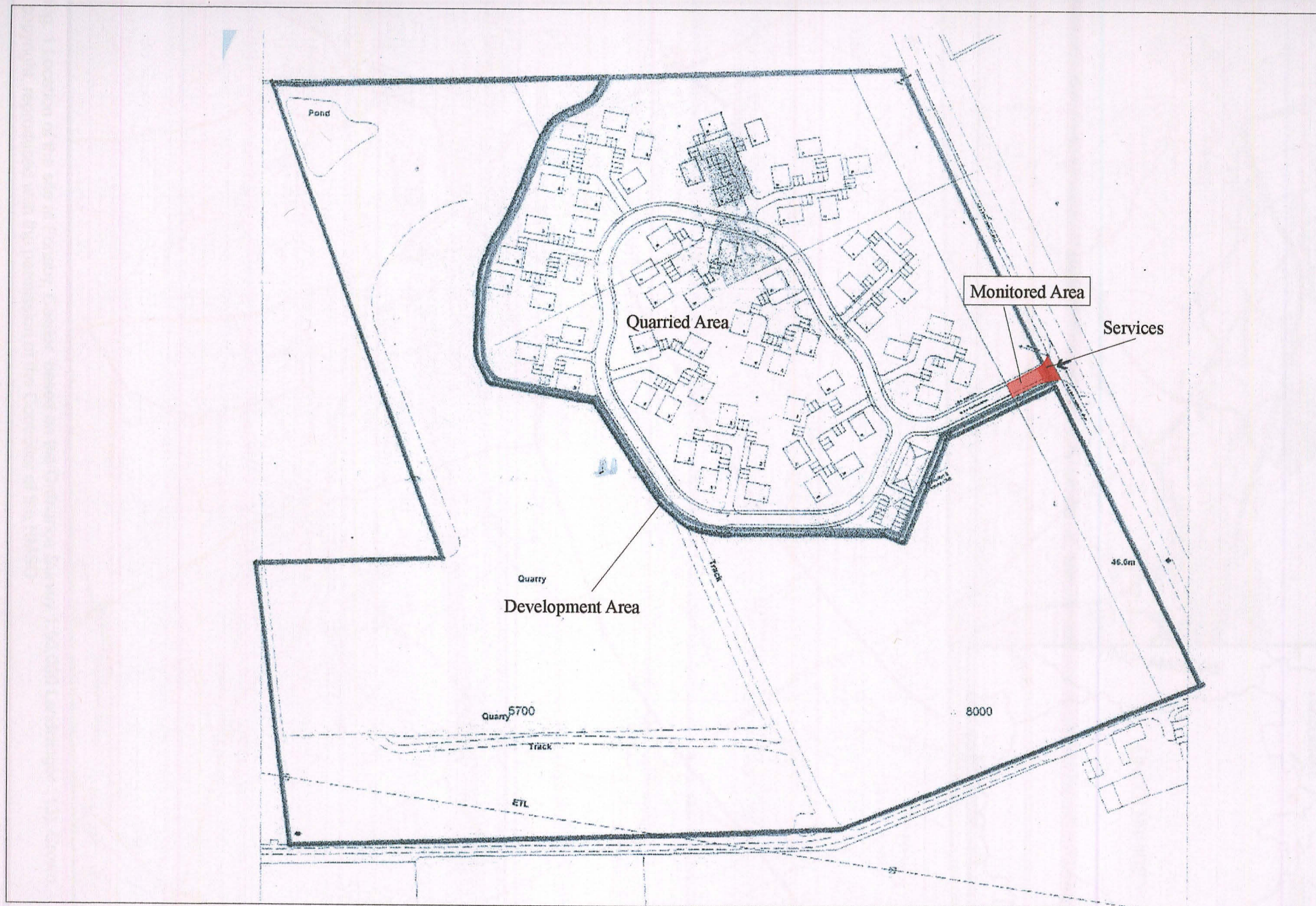


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored access road.



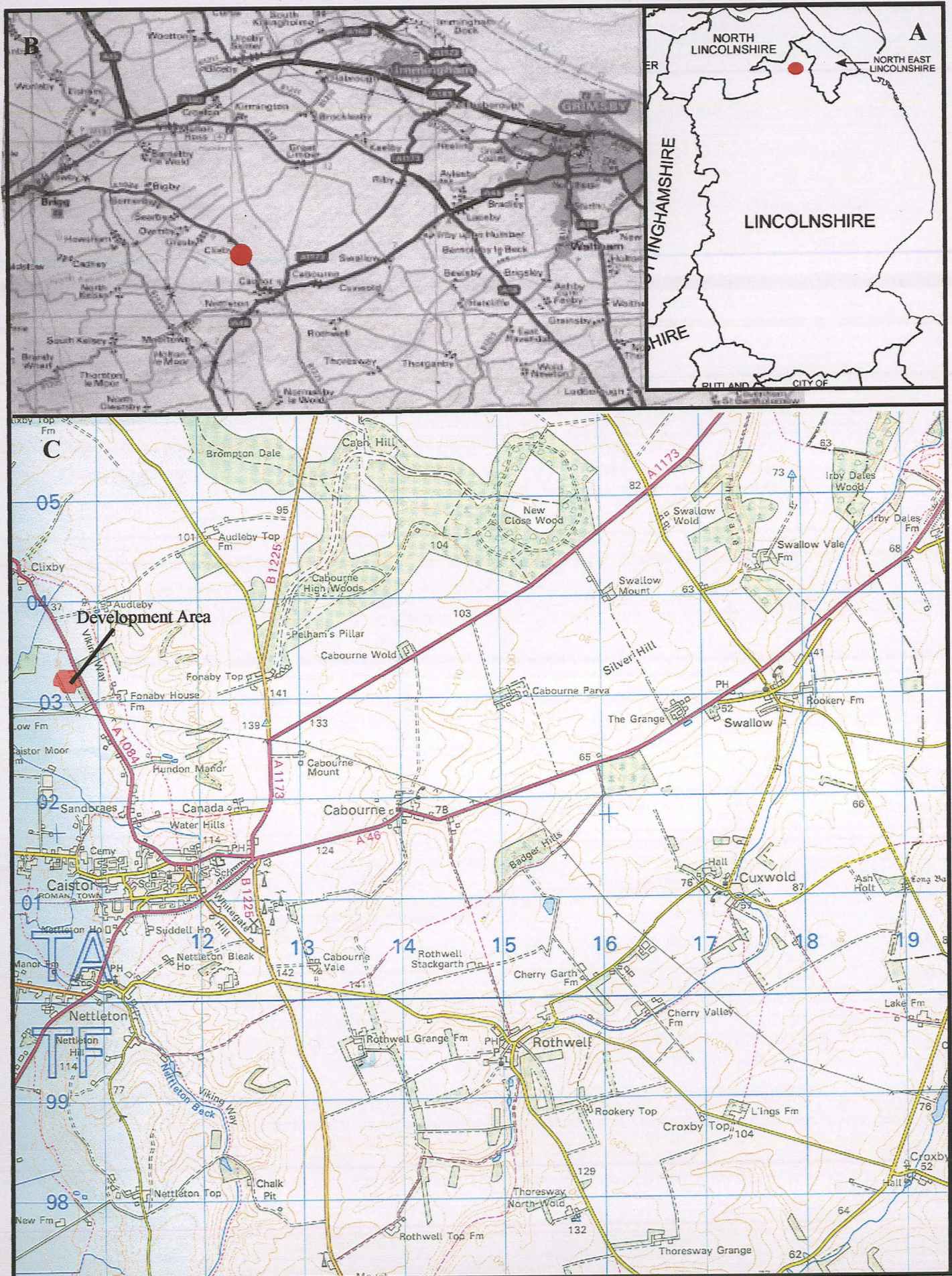


Fig. 1 Location of the site at Fonaby, Caistor based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger 113). Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO.



THE PLATES





Pl. 1 The location of the access road, looking north-west.



Pl. 2 General view of the access road after stripping, looking west.





Pl. 3 Height difference between the quarried land and the monitored area.