Witham Archaeology

A Report to L J Fairburn and Son Ltd January 2021



LAND OFF SHADDYS WALK, CLAXBY ST ANDREW, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

A Pascoe

LAND OFF SHADDYS WALK, CLAXBY ST ANDREW, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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LAND OFF SHADDYS WALK, CLAXBY ST ANDREW, LINCOLNSHIRE

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Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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LAND OFF SHADDYS WALK, CLAXBY ST ANDREW, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land off Shaddys Walk, Claxby St Andrew, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by L J Fairburn and Son Ltd to provide information in support of an application for planning permission to be submitted to East Lindsey District Council. The application relates to the proposed construction of a new agricultural store west of existing farm buildings.

The evaluated area is situated to the west of an earthwork enclosure recorded on 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping. Antiquarian investigations early in the 19th century in the area east of the existing farm buildings and within the boundaries of the enclosure had revealed rubble foundations, roof tile, pottery, animal bone and a small number of metal objects which were thought at the time to be Roman but are now thought to be medieval. The western side of the enclosure appears to have been levelled as part of construction of the farmstead (probably in the second half of the 19th century) and the remainder of the earthwork has since been levelled through arable cultivation.

Three trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed building, two 20m long and 1.8m wide, the other 40m long and 1.8m wide. The only cut feature revealed by the current work was a probable modern post hole which yielded a nail dated 19th century or earlier and a fragment of clay mould. A sherd of residual medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil. There was no indication of a ditch forming the western arm of the enclosure noted on 19th century mapping and it must be presumed that the feature followed a more easterly course, placing it under the farm complex which lies a short distance to the east.

In view of the findings, there is a low potential for significant archaeological remains on the site of the proposed development and the development will have minimal impact upon nearby heritage assets including the (medieval?) enclosure recorded on land east of the existing farm buildings.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a new Agricultural store on land off Shaddys Walk, Claxby St Andrew Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by L J Fairburn and Son Ltd to provide information in support of an application for planning permission to be made to East Lindsey District Council. Archaeological fieldwork was completed on 7th December 2020.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Claxby St Andrew in the parish of the same name is located in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 4 km south-west of Alford, 14km north-west of Skegness and 45km east of Lincoln.

The site at NGR TF 45135 71153 is located at the western edge of the historic core of settlement at Claxby St Andrew as defined in the Lincolnshire HER. The site lies immediately west of an unnamed

19th century farmstead and around 350m south-west of the parish church. The footprint of the proposed store is rectangular in plan and aligned north-to-south, measuring 23m wide by 42.7m long. The site is now under arable cultivation.

The site is located in a dry valley at the foot of a north-east facing slope, on solid geology of the Ferriby Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. There is no record of superficial deposits (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer). The former overlies Hunstanton Formation Chalk, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 113 and 93.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period, which outcrops in a band to the north of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric activity has been recorded close to Claxby. Sites recorded in the Lincolnshire HER include a group of probable Neolithic long barrows (LHER Refs. 42745, 43318, 43620 and 43657) known as Deadmen's Graves, located around 900m north-west of the current site. A Bronze Age round barrow (LHER 42077) was discovered during quarrying in the 1920s, at 575m north of the current site and southeast of Deadmens Graves. Three worked flints of Neolithic and/or Bronze Age date (LHER 42076) were found in plough soil north-east of the barrow. Approximately 750m south-west of the current site a cropmark enclosure and linear feature of possible prehistoric date have been identified on arable land. A scatter of worked flint including a broken knife-blade was recorded during a watching brief at a location approximately 650m south-east of the site (LHER 43818).

Roman coins, pottery and building debris (LHER 42079) have been found in the area immediately east of the 19th century farm complex off Shaddys Walk. Roman pottery of 3rd to 4th century date is also recorded from a location just over 200m north-east of the current site (LHER 42069), and a ring and annular brooch of possible Roman date were found in the same area (LHER 42073). A sherd of Roman pottery (LHER 42065) was found in the area of Deadmen's Graves and an Iron Age or Roman ring was found in the vicinity of Moon Wood, north of Candleby Road. A surviving fragment of Moon Wood is classified as Ancient Woodland (LHER 43039).

A Saxon 9th century strap end together with a bronze rivet, a bronze mount and two pieces of a razor were found to the north of the farm buildings off Shaddys Walk (LHER 43117), while a silver sceatta (LHER 42071) was found just east of the buildings in 1977.

The site lies at the western edge of medieval settlement in Claxby as conjectured in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER 42078). The area of probable medieval occupation includes an earthwork enclosure shown on the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition County map. The enclosure comprises a straight boundary on the south side, a straight east side and curved boundary on the north side. The western side of the enclosure is overlain by the farmstead, but the northward return surviving at the south-west corner indicates a western boundary more or less in the line with the western edge of the farm complex. Antiquarian excavations carried out in 1906 in the interior of the earthwork (just east of the farm complex), revealed rubble foundations, roof tile, pottery, animal bone and a small number of metal objects. The excavator (Tatham 1907) interpreted the remains as Roman, but they are now thought more likely to have been medieval. The area east and south of the farm is now under arable cultivation and the monument is only visible from soil marks. A medieval spindle whorl was recovered from the area (LHER 42068).

A settlement was in existence at Claxby St Andrew in 1086, at the time of the Domesday Survey. The settlement, in the hundred of Calcewaith, had a recorded population of 17 households and three landholders are mentioned: Count Alan of Brittany, Gilbert of Ghent and Hugh, son of Baldric (Opendomesday.or/place/TF4571/claxby-st-andrew/). The placename is believed to derive from the old Norse personal name Klakkr and the old Norse 'by' indicating a farmstead or village (kepn.nottingham.ac.uk).

The existing 19th century parish church (see below) located 350m north-east of the current site replaced a thatched building. The age of the earlier building and whether it was in fact medieval is not clear from the available sources.

Earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded on land immediately east of Grange Farm, around 375m south of the current site.

Claxby Hall (LHER 47504) located east of the church was constructed in the mid-18th century and is marked 'Vicarage' on Ordnance Survey mapping.

The existing church (LHER 47503) was built in 1846 and is a Grade II listed building. The churchyard has been in existence from at least 1846 (LHER 49512).

The farmstead immediately east of the current site is shown in a courtyard E plan on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition County map of 1889. There has since been a partial loss of the traditional farm buildings.

Another 19th century farm complex, Grange Farm (LHER 42074), lies approximately 375m south of the current site.

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning permission is being sought for the erection of a new agricultural store on land immediately west of L. J. Fairburn and Son Ltd's existing farm buildings off Shaddys Walk. An earlier planning application (ELDC N/033/01897/20) was withdrawn.

Owing to the site's proximity to known remains of medieval settlement at Claxby St Andrew, the archaeological adviser to East Lindsey District Council (hereafter, the Planning Archaeologist) has advised that the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation should accompany the application. The layout of trenches was agreed in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 21st November 2020, were to:

- provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.
- assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.
- provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.
- provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.
- produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER).

6.0 METHODOLOGY

Three trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed building, each measuring 1.8m wide and totalling c 80m in length. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, provisional trench locations were

agreed with the Planning Archaeologist, focussing upon those areas most likely to be affected by development groundworks.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1: 20. This record was augmented by digital photographs taken in RAW format with an APS-C digital camera, and written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.

7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (*Plate 1*) was located at the northern end of the area of investigation aligned east to west and measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide. The area had already been reduced for the laying of an area of hardstanding, resulting in the loss of topsoil to a depth of at least 0.30m (see extent in Fig. 3). Following excavation to the top of natural, a sondage up to 0.38m deep was excavated through natural deposits at the eastern end of the trench.

The earliest deposit encountered in the sondage comprised compact grey-white chalk fragments with light greyish-red clay lenses (102) interpreted as a layer of eroded natural chalk. The latter was overlain by another geological deposit comprising hard white crushed chalk interspersed with compact brown to reddish brown clay (101). The natural was sealed by a loose light grey and brown silty sand (100) mixed with frequent crushed bricks, concrete, wood fragments and other refuse materials forming the area of hardstanding (Figure 4, Section 1, *Plates 2, 3 and 4*).

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 (*Plates 5 and 6*) was located to the south of Trench 1 aligned north north-east to south southwest and measuring 40m long by 1.8m wide. To test the natural, it was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.76m below existing ground level in a sondage at the north-east end.

The earliest deposit encountered in the sondage was a compact grey-white layer of fragmented chalk with light greyish-red clay lenses (204) interpreted as eroded natural (Figure 4, Section 2, *Plates 7 and 8*). The layer was overlain by hard white crushed chalk interspersed with compact brown to reddish brown clay (201) forming an upper level of natural (Figure 4, Section 2, *Plates 7 and 8*).

The natural, (201), was cut by a sub-square feature with rounded corners, a sharp break of slope at the top, steep straight sides and a concave base [202]. Interpreted as a post hole, the feature measured 0.5m wide, 0.52m long and 0.35m deep. Filling the cut was a stiff to firm brownish grey mottled brown, clayey sand (203) with moderate lumps of brown clay, which contained one iron nail dated to the 19th century or earlier and a fragment of a clay metal casting mould which was undated (Figure 4, Section 3, *Plate 9*). The feature was overlain by the topsoil, a firm dark grey clayey sand (200) containing frequent subrounded and subangular small stones and occasional angular chalk fragments. A single sherd of pottery of Bourne type fabric and dated mid-12th to 14th century was recovered from the topsoil.

7.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the south of Trench 2 aligned east to west and measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.44m below existing ground level.

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural, a hard white crushed chalk interspersed with compact brown to reddish brown clay (301). The natural was overlain by the topsoil, a firm dark grey clayey sand (300) with frequent subrounded and subangular small stones and occasional angular chalk fragments (Figure 4, Section 4, Plate 11).

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest deposits recorded in the evaluated area were geological strata: an eroded chalk seen in Trenches 1 and 2, and an overlying fragmented chalk interspersed with areas of reddish clay in Trenches 2 and 3. Observations made by Tatham (Tatham 1907) had suggested the presence of a floor surface of compacted clay and chalk within the enclosed space east of the farm buildings, but the findings of the evaluation would appear to have confirmed this material as the natural.

The only indication of medieval activity revealed by the current work was a single sherd of pottery in a Bourne type fabric dated mid-12th to 14th century recovered from topsoil in Trench 2 and therefore displaced from its original context.

The only cut feature recorded in the evaluated area was the probable posthole in Trench 2, which yielded an undated clay mould fragment and a cut iron nail dated 19th century or earlier. The feature could have continued the line of a fence noted to the south of the agricultural shed situated to the east of the area of investigation, making it an element in modern land division.

The trenches revealed no evidence of the western arm of the earthwork enclosure shown on 19th century or of associated activity. It is therefore reasonable to surmise that the boundary lay slightly further to the east, within the area covered by the 19th century farmstead, and that any remains associated with the earthworks are restricted to its interior.

From the above, it can be concluded that there is a low potential for archaeologically significant remains in the area of the proposed agricultural building and that the impact of the development on known heritage assets will be negligible.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank L J Fairburn and Son Ltd and Oliver Grundy of JHG Planning Consultancy Ltd, for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project. Thanks, are also due to Anne Irving for the Ceramic report, and to Gary Taylor for the Other Finds Report.

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tatham, Edward, H. R. 1907 Earthworks at Claxby, near Alford. Lincolnshire notes and queries, Vol IX.

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: CASW20

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: ELDC N/033/01897/20

OASIS ID.: withamar1-412943

FIELD OFFICER: A Pascoe

NGR: TF 45135 71153

CIVIL PARISH: Claxby St Andrews

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 7th December 2020

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: L J Fairburn and Son Ltd.

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection Danes Terrace, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC: 2020.173

ACCESSION DATE: -TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	10
Section Drawings at Scale [1:20]	4
Digital Photographs	45
Registers	2
Trench Sheets	3
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west, 2 x 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, Section 1, looking north; 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 1, machine excavated 'sondage' at west end, looking west; 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 1, machine excavated 'sondage at west end, looking north; 1m scale



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking south-west; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 6: Trench 2, looking north-east; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 7: Trench 2, machine excavated sondage at north-east end, looking south-west; 1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 2, 'sondage' at north-east end, showing Section 2, looking north-west; 1m scale



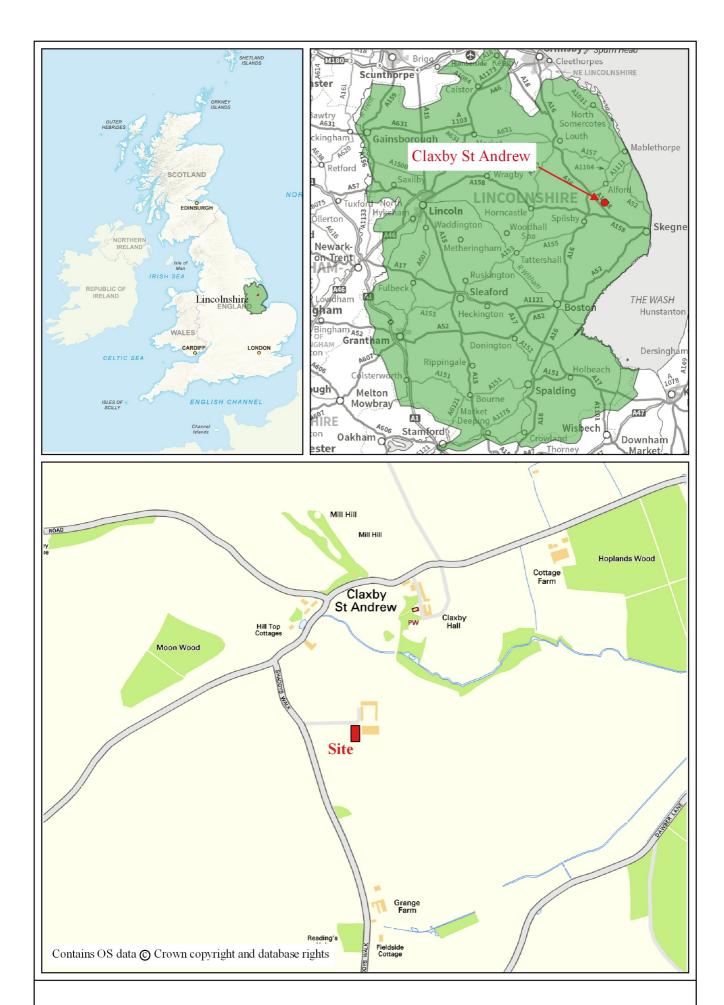
Plate 9: Trench 2, Cut [202], Section 3, looking south-east; 0.5m scale

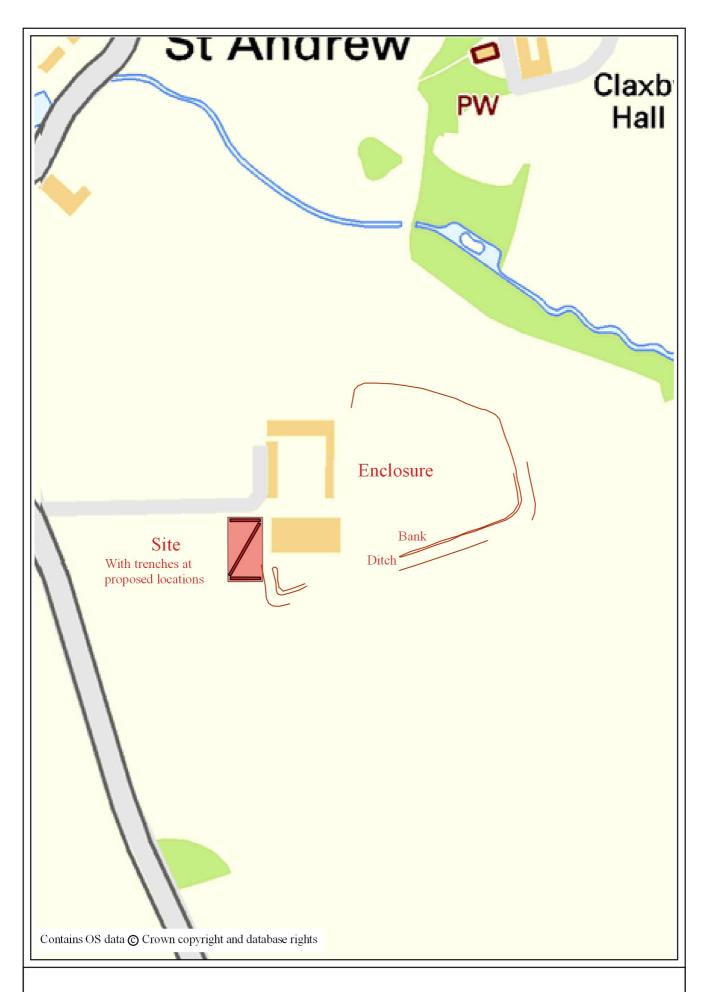


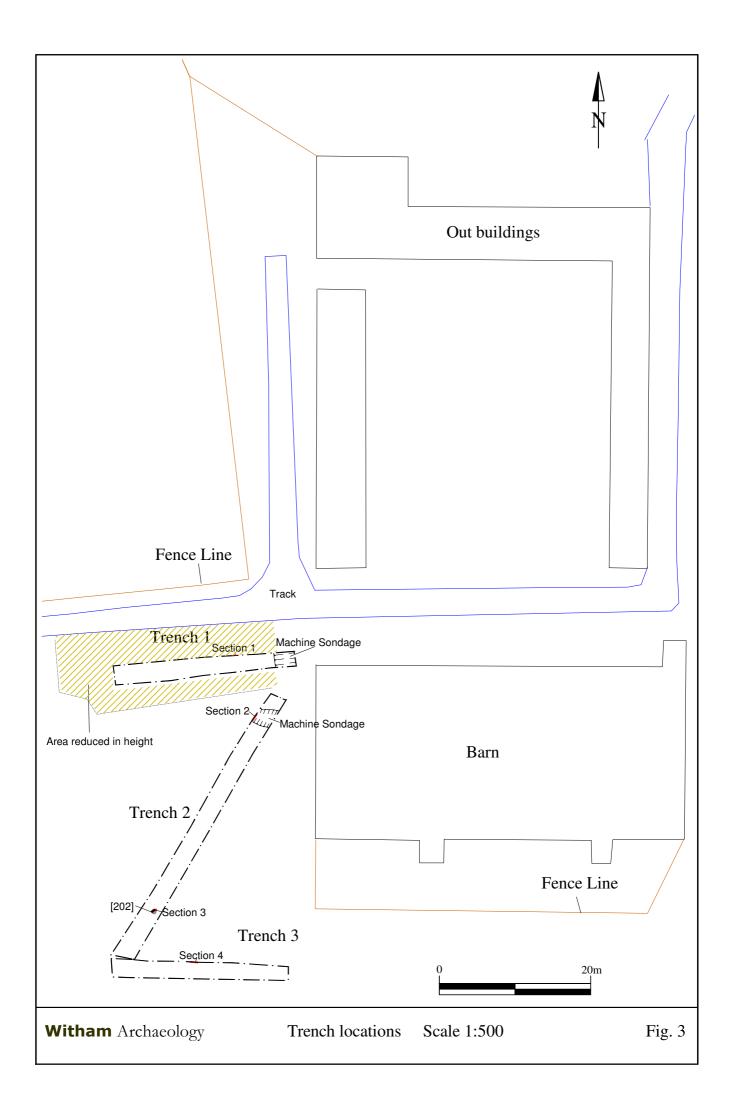
Plate 10: Trench 3, looking west; 2 x 1m scales

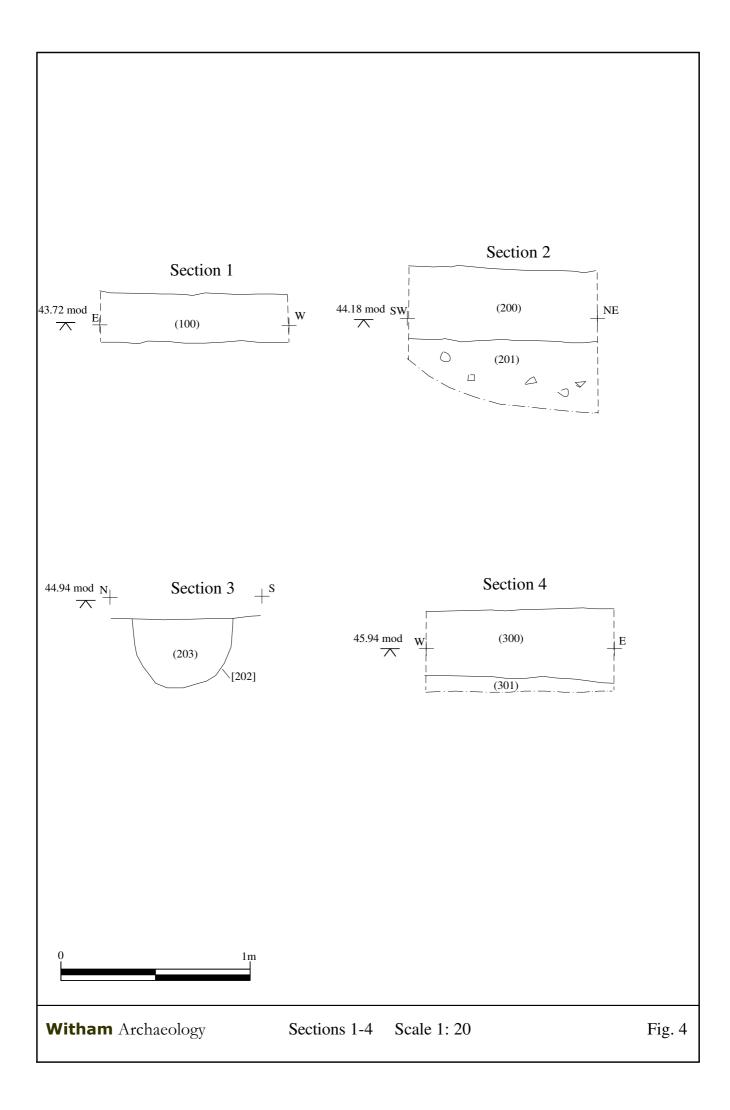


Plate 11: Trench 3, Section 4, looking north; 1m scale









APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
100	Deposit	1	Loose light grey and brown silty sand with frequent crushed bricks, concrete and wood fragments, various rubbish.	Levelling layer
101	Deposit	1	Hard white crushed chalk and compact brown to reddish brown clay.	Natural
102	Deposit	1	Compact grey-white chalk fragments with light greyish-red clay lenses	Natural, lower eroded chalk
200	Deposit	2	Firm dark grey clayey sand with frequent subrounded and subangular small stones, occasional angular chalk fragments.	Topsoil
201	Deposit	2	Hard white crushed chalk and compact brown to reddish brown clay.	Natural
202	Cut	2	Cut of square feature with rounded corners, Sharp break of slope, sharply slopping sides to gradual and imperceptible break of slope concave base. Dimensions 0,50x 0,52, depth 0,35	Posthole
203	Deposit	2	Stiff to firm brownish grey mottled brown, clayey sand with moderate lumps of brown clay.	Fill of posthole [202]
204	Deposit	2	Compact grey-white chalk fragments with light greyish-red clay lenses	Natural, lower eroded chalk
300	Deposit	3	Firm dark grey clayey sand with frequent subrounded and subangular small stones, occasional angular chalk fragments.	Topsoil
301	Deposit	3	Hard white crushed chalk and compact brown to reddish brown clay.	Natural

APPENDIX B – THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). A total of two sherds from a maximum two vessels, weighing 42g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
200	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics	В	Jar/ bowl	1	1	18	BS	Abraded
203	MOULD	Metal casting mould		?	1	1	24	BS	Dark reduced interior; form indiscernible
				TOTAL	2	2	42		

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
200	Mid-12th to 14th	Date on a single sherd
203	-	Not dateable

ABBREVIATIONS

BS Body sherd CXT Context

NoS Number of sherds
NoV Number of vessels
W <g> Weight <grams>

REFERENCES

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

APPENDIX C - 'OTHER' FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Claxby St Andrew, Lincolnshire (CASW20), are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2020) and the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council (2019).

Metal Finds

Introduction

A single metal find weighing 17g was recovered.

Results

Table 1, The Metal Finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
203	iron	Nail, rectangular-sectioned shaft	1	17	

Provenance

The metal item was recovered from a posthole fill (203).

Discussion

A single nail, a smithed example with a rectangular-sectioned shaft was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The metal item may suggest structural activity in the area but is of limited-negligible potential. No further work is required. The material can be discarded.

CONTEXT DATE SUMMARY

The dating in the following Table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Summary of context dating

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
203		

References

CIfA, 2020 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials

Lincolnshire County Council, 2019 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*. Available at: http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1073/lincolnshire-archaeological-handbook (rev ed)

Abbreviations

ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

W(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX D OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-412943

Project details

Project name Trial Trench Evaluation on Land off Shaddys Walk, Claxby St Andrew, Lincolnshire

fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil.

Short description of the project

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed agricultural store off Shaddy's Walk, Claxby St Andrew, Lincolnshire. Three trenches were excavated, one 40m long, the others 20m long and all 1.8m wide. The site lies immediately west of an earthwork shown on late 19th century mapping and OS maps up until the 1970s. Amateur excavations in the early 19th century had recovered a sizeable finds assemblage from within the enclosure reported as Roman but now thought to have been medieval. The enclosure may have had stock keeping function related to medieval settlement in the area. Its western arm (now under a 19th century farmstead) was projected to clip the easternmost extremity of the proposed development but no evidence was found in the excavated trenches. The only feature recorded in the trenches was a probable posthole of probable post medieval date. A

Project dates Start: 07-12-2020 End: 07-12-2020

Previous/future work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

CASW20 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

LCNCC: 2020.173 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval Methods & "Sample Trenches" techniques

Development type Rural commercial

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process

Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY CLAXBY ST ANDREW Land off Shaddys Walk, Claxby St

Andrew, Lincolnshire

Postcode LN12 0HJ

Study area 800 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 45135 71153 53.217271178638 0.173917385419 53 13 02 N 000 10 26 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Russell Trimble

Project

Russell Trimble

director/manager

Project supervisor Andy Pascoe

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Landowner

Name of sponsor/funding L J Fairburn and Son Ltd

body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT

Physical Archive

LCNCC: 2020.173

"Ceramics" Physical Contents

Digital Archive

recipient

The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT

Digital Archive ID LCNCC: 2020.173 "Stratigraphic" **Digital Contents**

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT

Paper Archive ID LCNCC: 2020.173 "Stratigraphic" **Paper Contents**

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