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CAYTHORPE COURT, CAYTHORPE HEATH LANE,  
CAYTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OSA Report No: OSA17WB54

May 2018

**OSA**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA17WB54

**SITE NAME:** Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe Heath Lane, Caythorpe,  
Lincolnshire

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SK 9590 4829

**PLANNING REF NO:** S17/1117

**LINCOLN MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:**

**OASIS ID:** onsitear2-326125

**COMMISSIONED BY:** PGL Travel Limited  
PGL Caythorpe Court  
Caythorpe Heath Lane  
Caythorpe  
Grantham  
Lincs  
NG32 3ER

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**TIMING:** Fieldwork:  
December 2017 and March 2018  
Post excavation & report preparation:  
April-May 2018

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## 1.0 Abstract.

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Limited, in November 2017 and March 2018, during groundworks associated with the construction of new accommodation blocks at Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe Heath Lane, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken to satisfy a condition attached to the development. Initially the investigation comprised the monitoring of several small geotechnical test pits. This was then followed by the monitoring of groundworks for the foundations of the accommodation blocks. The archaeological investigation did not reveal any archaeological deposits or finds.*

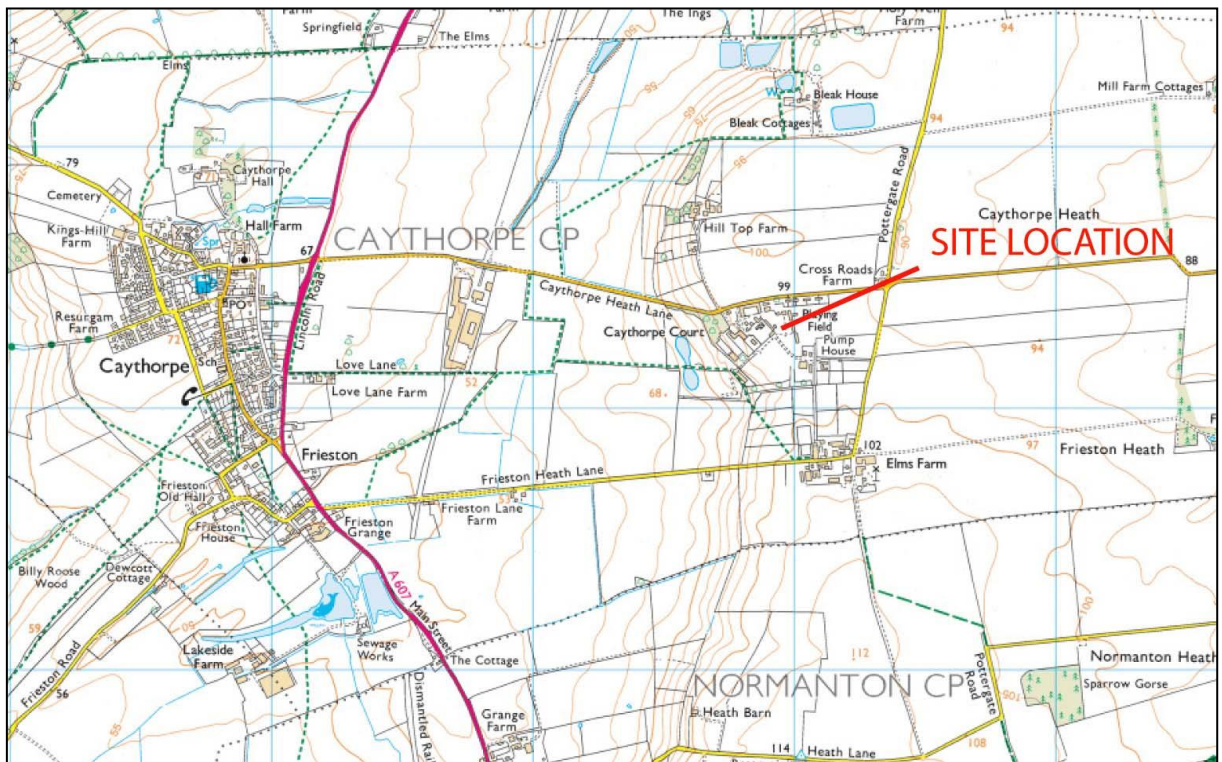


Figure 1. Site location.

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## 2.0 Site Location and Land Use

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The site is located to the east of the village of Caythorpe, Lincolnshire, approximately 10km to the west of Sleaford. The site consists of the existing PGL activity centre, which is based within the grounds of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Caythorpe Court mansion. The site is centred at approximately SK 9590 4829 (Figure 1).

Previous archaeological investigation on the site has revealed natural limestone brash, described as light yellowish brown clayey sand mixed with limestone fragments, sealed by c.0.25m thick relict ploughsoil and c.0.25m of modern topsoil (Trimble, 1995).

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## 3.0 Archaeological Background.

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The archaeological potential of the site has previously been described within a report on archaeological investigations (Trimble, 1995). The following section is drawn from that report.

Stone buildings and architectural stones from a possible Roman villa have been recorded in the field to the east of the college playing field which itself lies to the east of the development area. Other finds from the same area include Roman funerary monuments, 16 coins and some statuary. The Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record also contains references to scatters of Roman pottery at SK 9610 4820 and at SK 9595 4755, and to a coin of Septimus Severus at SK 9650 4750. Flint artefacts found in the area include 8 or 9 barbed and tanged arrowheads and a leafpoint arrowhead at SK 9660 4790, two barbed and tanged arrowheads at SK 9625 4749, and two small worked flints at SK 958 484. A medieval seal has been found at SK 9633 4835.

Caythorpe Court mansion is a Grade II\* Listed Building (List Entry Number 1062429). This was constructed in 1901-3 as a hunting lodge for Major Edgar Lubbock in the grounds of an old farm. Examination of historic Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the farm, (named Caythorpe Hill Top) was located to the west of the mansion. The mansion was constructed on former fields. In addition to the mansion itself the historic site incorporates several Grade II listed buildings and structures including a Garden Terrace (List Entry 1062430), Stables (List Entry 1165256), a Gate Lodge (List Entry 1317385) and the Gate and Flanking Walls (List Entry 1360305). These all lay within the Caythorpe Court Registered Garden (List Entry 1000972). During the First World War the Court became an Auxiliary Military Hospital and during the Second World War was the Headquarters for the 1st Airborne Division Signals. Lincolnshire County Council purchased the estate in 1948 together with additional agricultural land and Kesteven Farm Institute was opened. In the mid 1960s the Institute became the Kesteven Agricultural College and in 1980 amalgamated with two other agricultural colleges to become the Lincolnshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture. In 1994 the College became part of De Montfort University. The new buildings to be constructed under the current planning permission are located outside the Registered Garden within those parts of the site that were still agricultural land or playing fields associated with the college into the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

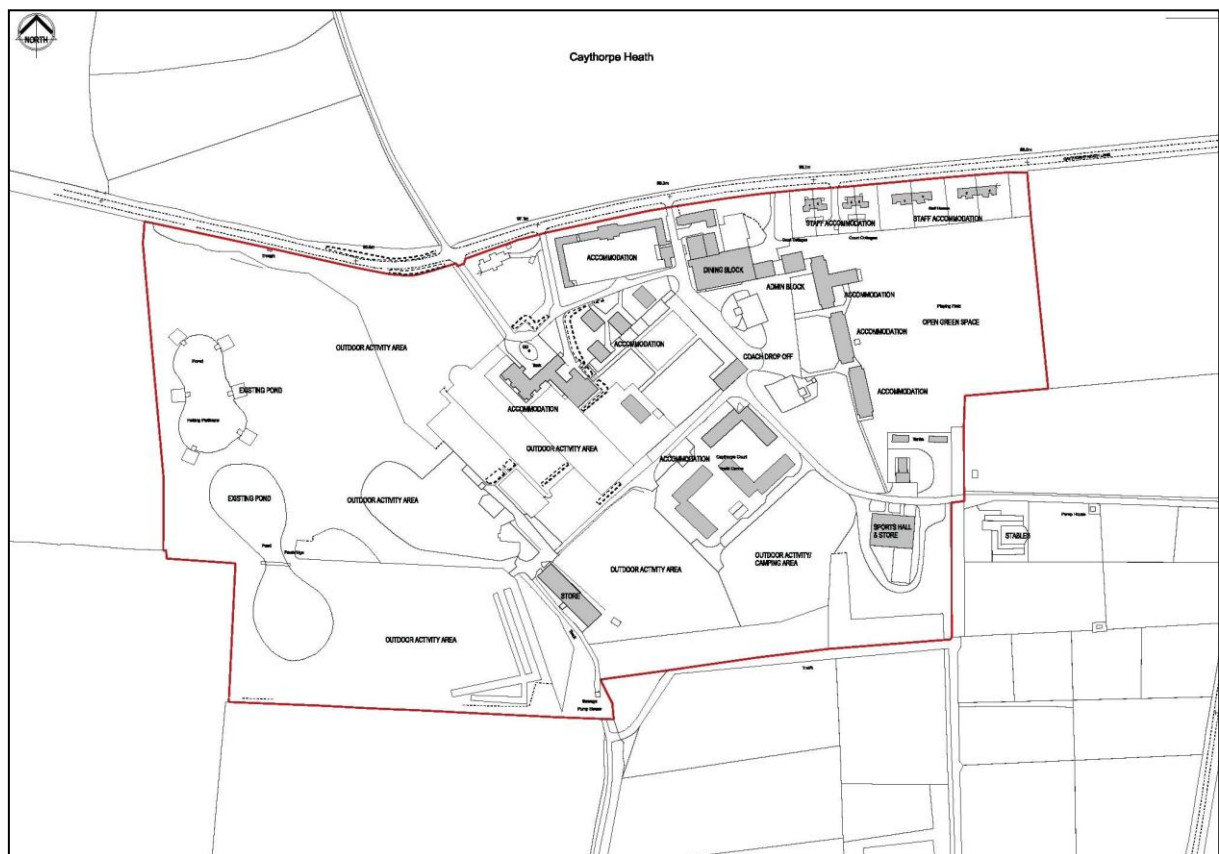


Figure 2. Existing plan of site.

## 4.0 Methodology.

The watching brief comprised of the monitoring of groundworks required for the construction of the two accommodation blocks, in order to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and preservation of any archaeological remains and to ensure that any archaeological deposits encountered could be recorded.

The initial phase of monitoring comprised archaeological attendance during the excavation of geotechnical investigation trial trenches, located within the proposed accommodation block footprints (Figure 3). This was then followed by attendance during the groundworks required for the construction of the accommodation blocks themselves (Figure 4).

It had originally been intended that the watching brief would also involve archaeological monitoring during the installation of activity equipment in line with Condition 8 of the planning consent. However, the installation was achieved through the use of screwed pile foundations, rather than excavated groundworks so no watching brief was carried out.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the investigation. Where appropriate, this involved the completion of a record sheet for each archaeological context exposed, along with plans and cross-sections drawn to an appropriate scale. A photographic record was also maintained. A full catalogue of context descriptions and photographs is provided within Appendix 1.

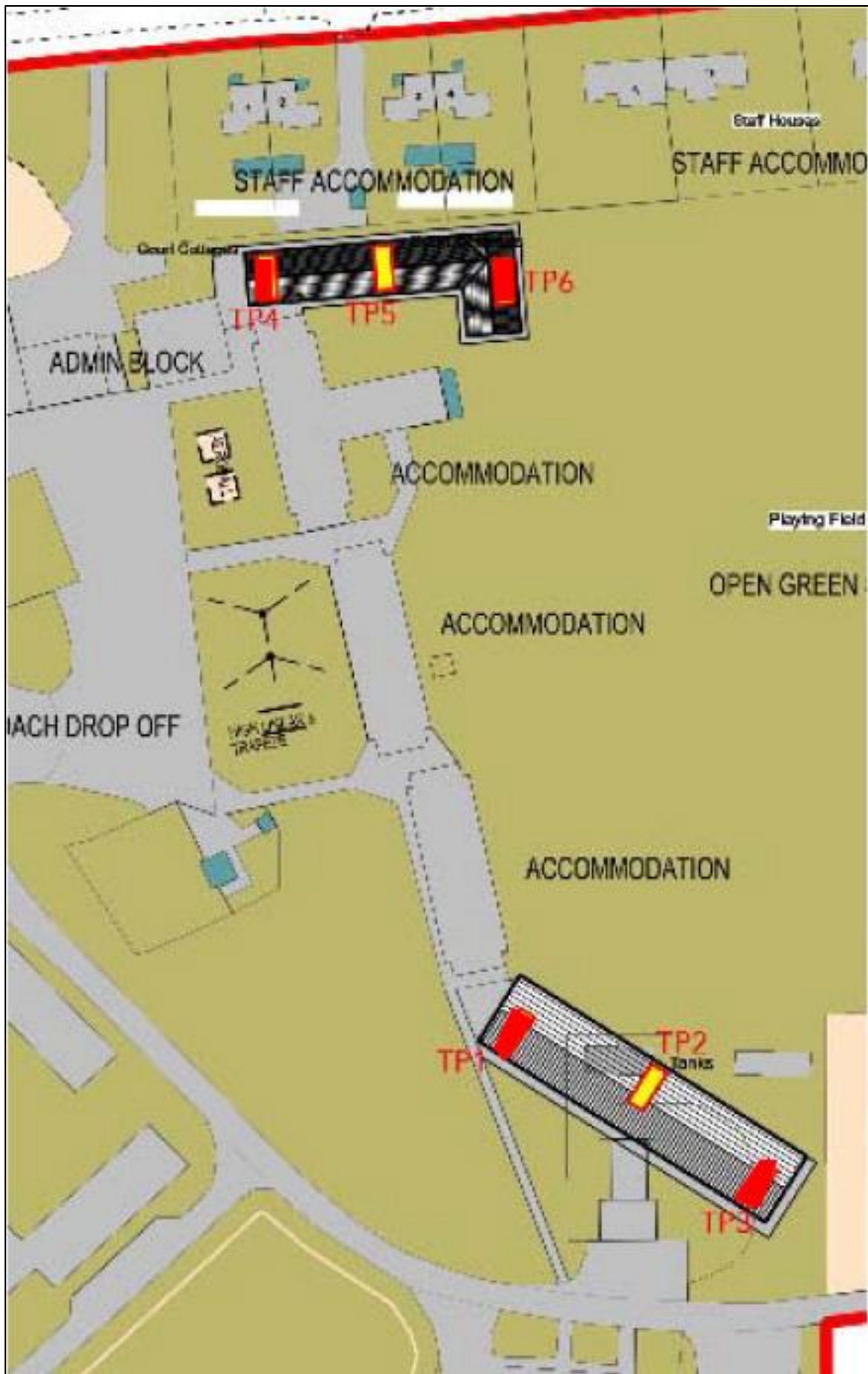


Figure 3. Locations of trial trenches (only those marked in red were excavated).

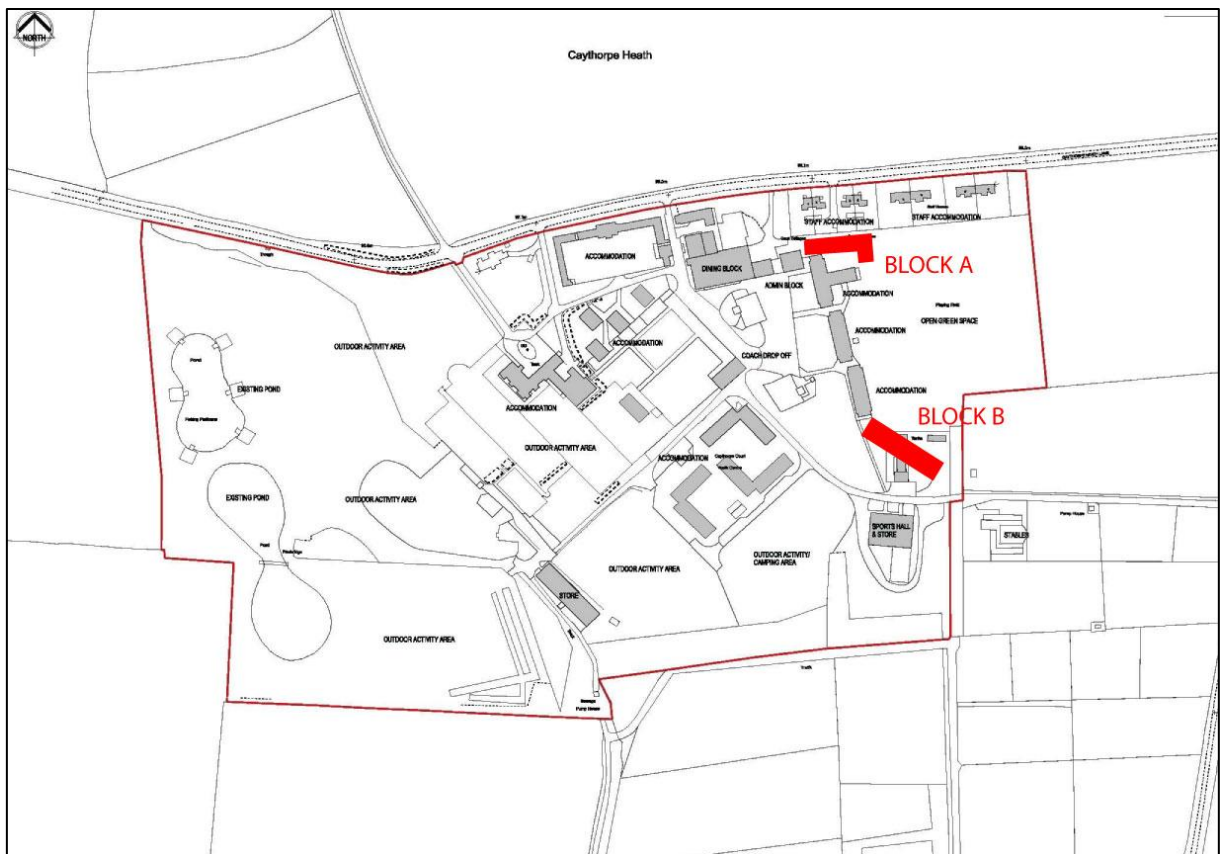


Figure 4. Location of monitored areas.

## 5.0 Results.

The first phase of the watching brief involved the monitoring of a series of geotechnical test pits excavated prior to the construction. The test pits were numbered by the geotechnical engineer and excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless 1m wide bucket (Plate 1). The test pits were located within the footprints of the proposed new accommodation blocks. Originally it had been proposed that up to six trenches would be excavated (numbered 1 to 6 on Figure 3). However, only four were actually carried out (marked in red on Figure 3 and numbered TP1, TP3, TP 4 and TP6).

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the geotechnical test pits. Observed deposits were limited to modern topsoil, subsoil, comprising mid brown sandy silty clay, and natural limestone brash (Plate 2).

The main phase of the watching brief involved monitoring the excavations for the construction of the accommodation blocks (Figure 4). Monitoring was carried out across the footprints of the two blocks (Blocks A and B) which had the highest potential for archaeological survival, in those parts of the site that had suffered the least previous development. This initially comprised the stripping of topsoil across the required areas (Plate 3), followed by the excavation of a series of deeper foundation trenches (Plate 4).



As with the test pits no archaeological features were revealed. The same basic sequence of deposits was recorded across the areas monitored (Plate 5). This comprised mid to dark brown clay sand topsoil (001) between 0.10m and 0.15m deep, overlying mid brown clay sand subsoil (002), between 0.15m and 0.30m thick, which in turn overlay the natural orange brown clay sand containing frequent limestone fragments (003) (Plate 6 and Figure 5). Several live services were revealed during the excavation works (for example visible on Plate 6).

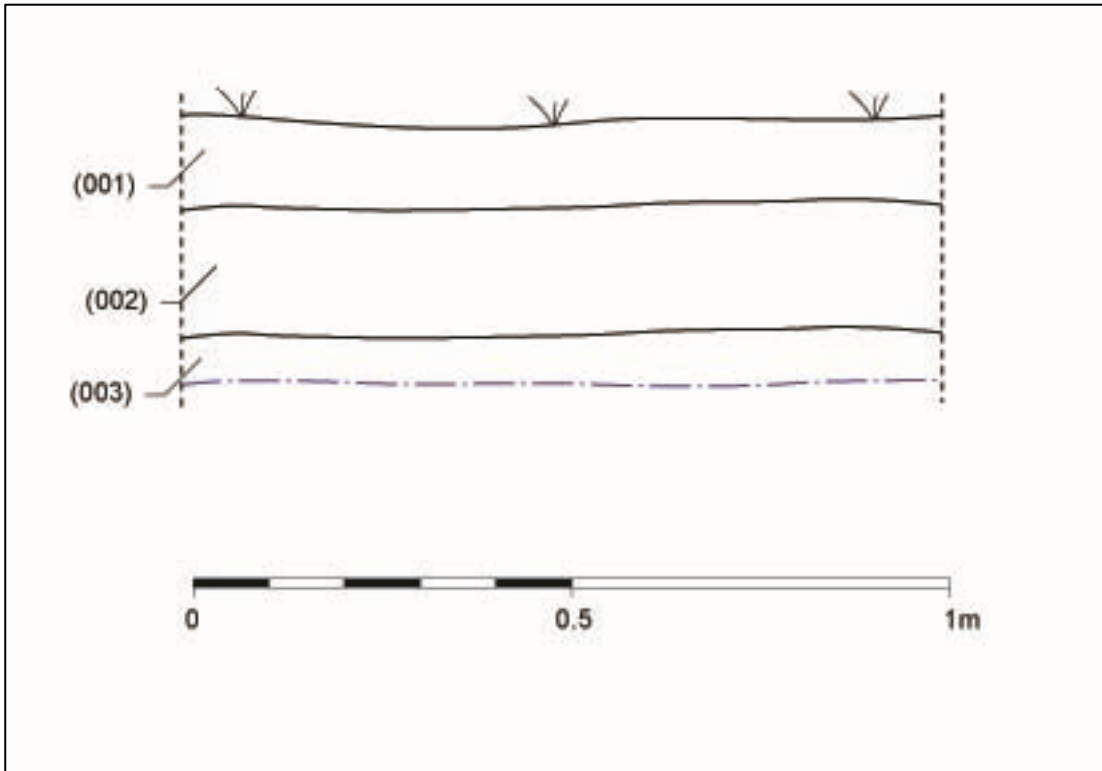


Figure 5. Representative sample section illustrating sequence of deposits.

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## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusion.

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The archaeological investigation undertaken at the development site failed to reveal any archaeological deposits or finds despite the potential for remains to be present. A shallow ditch was recorded in 1995 during the construction of the accommodation block immediately to the north of Block B. The ditch recorded in 1995 was aligned approximately east to west and would not therefore have been expected to cross the footprint of Block B. A degree of uncertainty regarding the date of the ditch recorded in 1995 exists. It may have formed part of a Romano-British field system associated with a villa complex located to the east of the site, or be part of a much later enclosure system. As the ditch recorded in 1995 appears to align with a relatively recent field boundary the later interpretation seems likely and would help to explain the lack of any features or artefacts of Romano-British date being encountered during the current investigation.

Therefore, the development has not caused any adverse impact upon below ground archaeological remains.

The archive is currently held by On-Site Archaeology Ltd and is due to be deposited with Lincoln Museum Service (The Collection).

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## 7.0 Bibliography.

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- On-Site Archaeology. 2017. Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe Heath Lane, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.
- Trimble, R., 1995. New Student Accommodation at Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe. Archaeological Watching Brief Report. CLAU Archaeological Report No. 166

## 8.0 Appendix 1: Archive Index.

### 8.1 Context Register

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
001	mid to dark brown clay sand topsoil	0.10-0.15m	tr
002	mid brown clay sand subsoil	0.15-0.30m	tr
003	natural orange brown clay sand containing frequent limestone fragments	-	tr

### 8.2 Photographic Register

JPEG No.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
Digital download 041217				
1-2	Working shot TP4	-	RW	041217
3-4	TP4	1m	RW	041217
5-6	TP6	1m	RW	041217
7-10	TP1	1m	RW	041217
11-17	TP3	1m	RW	041217
Digital download 080318				
36-42	Block B general views	2m	AS	080318
43-45	Block B, detail of foundation trenches into natural	1m	AS	080318
Digital download 200318				
54-55	Block A general views	2m	MH	200318
56	Block A sample section	1m	MH	200318
57-58	Block A live cable	2m	MH	200318
59	View towards Block B construction	-	MH	200318

## 9.0 Appendix 2: Plates.



*Plate 1. Test pit excavation, working shot.*



*Plate 2. Typical test pit.*



*Plate 3. Block A, looking east.*



*Plate 4. Block B, general view looking northwest.*



*Plate 5. Block A, typical sequence of deposits.*



*Plate 6. Block B, foundation trenches showing natural and modern service duct.*

## 10.0 Appendix 3: OASIS Data Collection Form.

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# 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: onsitear2-326125**

### Project details

Project name	Land at PGL Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe
Short description of the project	Watching brief on new build
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2017 End: 30-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location



Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN CAYTHORPE PGL Caythorpe Court
Postcode	NG32 3ER
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 9590 4829 53.022987944947 -0.570072229941 53 01 22 N 000 34 12 W Point

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	On Site Archaeology
Project brief originator	On Site Archaeology
Project design originator	On Site Archaeology
Project director/manager	On Site Archaeology
Project supervisor	On Site Archaeology
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lincoln Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	OSA17WB54
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Lincoln Museum Service

Paper Archive ID OSA17WB54

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Entered by Nick Pearson (mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 17 August 2018

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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