

Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy

**Static Caravan Site, Mareham Lane, Kirkby la
Thorpe, Lincs.**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF085 449 (centre)

Planning Application No.: N/34/1147/02

Site Code: KLCP 07

LCNCC Accn No.: 2008.117

Report

for

Kinvena Homes Ltd

NFAC Report No. 0931

February 2011

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Fig. 1 Location of Kirkby la Thorpe c) reproduced from the 1955 1:1:25,000 O S map TF 20 and TF 21 with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO © Crown copyright. NFAC Licence No: AL 1000049154.

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Summary

Monitoring of topsoil stripping, in advance of the construction of an access road to a new static caravan site was carried out in August 2007. The road ran eastwards from the presumed route of a Roman Road known as Mareham Lane, along an existing farm track.. While evidence for at least two phases of the track were recorded no evidence for the Roman road or any associated ditch was seen. No archaeological features were observed along the route of the access road which ran across an area of ploughed out ridge and furrow. A trench for a rising main to the site, with a 3m-wide easement, was monitored in March 2008. Its route crossed Mareham Lane north of the access road but again no evidence for its construction or any flanking ditch was found. A single pit, 2m in diameter and 0.30m deep, was recorded in the field east of Mareham Lane. It contained no finds.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned in November 2007 by Kinvena Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with the brief dated December 16th 2002 prepared by the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council, the general requirements as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (August 1998) and the planning conditions set out by North Kesteven District Council dated December 2002. The report was completed by Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy in February 2011.

Site Location and Description

Although just within the parish of Kirkby la Thorpe the site is located some distance from the village, which lie north of the (A17). The site lies only 350m south-east of the outskirts of Sleaford and is bounded on its west side by a dismantled railway line and on its east by the railway line between Sleaford and Spalding (Fig. 1). There is an existing lake occupying the northern half of the site which was originally ballast pits for the construction of the railway. It comprises 6ha of agricultural land, which was formerly set aside.

Soils are of the Denchworth Series, typically stagnogley soils, overlying a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay, and the site lies at a height of 12m OD.

Planning Background

Planning permission (N/34/1147/02) was granted for the construction of a static caravan park with warden's bungalow, site office and new fishing lakes to the south of the existing lake. This development was subject to a number of conditions including Condition 8 which states:-

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure that archaeological remains on the site are preserved in situ through a mitigation strategy or fully recorded prior to destruction as appropriate.

Scope of Work

The main elements of the groundworks were to comprise the construction of

- The access road leading from Mareham Lane to the site with passing bays at 75m intervals
- Connection of a mains sewer supply to the site
- Manager's accommodation and office
- The caravan bays and interconnecting road access
- Excavation of 3 small fishing ponds

In the event, the Manager's accommodation and office, the caravan bays and the fishing lakes were not constructed. This report covers only the monitoring of the access road and the water main. Monitoring of the access road took place on August 21 and 22nd 2007. Monitoring of the rising main route took place on March 3rd and 4th 2008.

Archaeological Background

Archaeological remains have been found in the immediate surroundings of the caravan park and the entrance to the site is situated on the eastern edge of the Roman road known as Mareham Lane. A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services Ltd (APS 2002) and was submitted with the planning application in 2002 and a geophysical survey south of the access road was also carried out in the same year by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2002). No clear evidence of archaeological remains was found by the geophysical survey although 7 linear trends were recorded in the three small areas surveyed adjacent to, and south of, the access road which were thought to indicate the alignment of ploughed-out ridge and furrow in the field and a possible boundary ditch on the same alignment (HER record numbers 60690 and 60691).

In 2007 a geophysical survey was undertaken along the route of a proposed Anglian Water water main which was to cross the south-eastern side of the site before turning west (see Fig. 2). Three linear anomalies were identified crossing the surveyed area (Field 22 in the report), which were on the same alignment as those recorded further north in 2002 (Bunn 2007, 4).

A single sherd of Roman pottery has also been record in the field (HER record number 60689). Also of interest is the HER record which notes the presence of a cropmark in the field immediately north of the access road which is possibly the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow. This was in the vicinity of the rising main route, but nothing was seen during the watching brief.

It was thought possible that works at the entrance to the site and clearance of the ground on the opposite side of the road, to improve visibility at the road junction, might reveal evidence for the Roman road and its flanking drainage ditch. It was also thought that the road might be picked up in fields to the north where the new rising main was to be installed. There was the possibility of further remains being found on the caravan site.

Aims and Objectives

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

Method

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to observe all groundworks which comprised stripping out of topsoil along the access road and the rising main route just beyond the parish boundary between Kirkby la Thorpe and Sleaford, which was thought to follow the line of the Roman road. A 360° tracked JCB with a ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden. A context numbering system for recording the archaeological deposits was used, starting at **101** (see Appendix 1 for summary). A full photographic record was made during the progress of the groundworks (see Appendix 2 for Register).

Results

1. Access Road

This involved the upgrading an existing farm track. The access road was constructed from Mareham Lane as far as the line of the disused railway track that forms the boundary of the caravan park, but no further (i.e. across one field). The total monitored length was 300m. The existing track was 4.5m wide and had a flanking 7m-wide ditch to north (Pl. 1). There was also a narrower ditch running along the east side of Mareham Lane, which was 3.2m wide. The new access road was 7.8m wide with passing bays on the south side, every 75m. The junction with Mareham Lane was widened and c.0.40m of soil was removed adjacent to the road surface (Pl. 2). Ground along the track was scraped to a depth of up to 500mm before being stoned up (Pl. 3).

The track surface (**101**) comprised a layer of gravel 0.10m thick. It overlay a very dark grey soil with frequent gravel inclusion 0.12m thick (**102**). Beneath the track base was redeposited topsoil (**103**) similar to 102 but with less gravel, 0.14m thick, overlying a thin layer of crushed limestone (**104**). This was the remains of an earlier track way surface, but not of any great age. The limestone overlay a buried grey brown soil layer 0.26m thick (**105**) with moderate amounts of roots which overlay the yellow brown sandy clay natural (**106**). (Pl. 4). No archaeological features or finds were noted along this stretch of the access road

2. The Rising main

A 3m-wide easement trench was stripped for the installation of a 125mm diameter sewer pipe which ran north-west from a substation adjacent to the old railway line and north of the access road (Pl. 5), across the Roman Mareham Lane and westwards towards a sewage pumping station at the edge of the housing on the modern Mareham Lane (Pl. 10). Excavation began at the east end of the route, at the substation and monitoring continued to a point just west of the parish boundary between Kirkby la Thorpe and Sleaford.

The easement was stripped to an average depth of 0.30-40m. Beneath the topsoil **117** and subsoil **118** was a mixed natural silty clays with bands of sands and gravels **121**. A large pit (**116**) 2m in diameter was recorded 50m west of the east end of the easement (Pls 6 and 7). It contained a dark brown clay loam fill (**115**) similar in colour to the topsoil. It was 0.10m deep at the edge, with a sloping base, giving a maximum depth of 0.30m. There were no finds.

Where the easement crossed the parish boundary between Kirkby la Thorpe and Sleaford there was a low bank which followed the boundary (Pls 8 and 9). Beneath the subsoil 118 was a burnt layer **119**, comprising black ash and fine clinker **120**. This overlay the natural deposits **121**. There was no sign of the Roman road; neither beneath the boundary, nor to one side- the line of the road is shown on Ordnance Survey maps slightly to the west of this boundary.

Discussion

The excavation of the farm trackway to create a more substantial access with improved entrance established that there were no archaeological remains beneath the trackway surface. Pit **116** had a clearly defined edge which means that it was not a tree bole but had been deliberately dug out. Its fill was similar in colour to that of the topsoil which perhaps implies that it is of relatively recent date, but a more certain date and function cannot be suggested as there were no associated finds.

Of particular interest was the point where the easement for the rising main crossed the parish boundary. The position of the boundary was determined by the route of the Roman road but there was no sign of any ditches or metalled surface either on the boundary itself or to either side. There was clearly a bank along this boundary but the ash deposit recorded in section is probably no more than evidence for the burning of an earlier hedge along the boundary.

Conclusion

While there was some potential for archaeological remains in the area of the groundworks very little was observed. There was no surviving evidence for the Roman road and the single pit was of unknown date and function. In conclusion the groundworks for this phase of the caravan park has caused minimal damage to archaeological deposits.

Acknowledgements

Fieldwork and photography was carried out by Mike Garrett (access road) and Geoff Tann (rising main) and the report was written by Naomi Field based on their notes.

References

Bunn, D. 2007 *Fluxgate Gradiometer survey: Sections Along the Proposed Clayhill WTW to Kirkby la Thorpe Water Mains, Sleaford, Lincolnshire*. Report for Lindsey Archaeological Services No. 914.1

Cope-Faulkner, P. 2002 *Desk-based assessment of the archaeological implications of proposed development on land adjacent to Mount Lane, Kirkby-le-Thorpe, Lincolnshire (KML02)*, APS report 60/02

Fisher, I. 2002 *Geophysical Survey at Thorpe Asgarby Estates, Kirkby la Thorpe, Lincs*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence

Context sheets 16

Site notes

Photocopies of architect's plans, existing and proposed

Sketch plans x 1

Drawings 3 sheets of A4 permatrace

Photographs LAS Film Nos. 07/107 negs.. 29-36; 07/110 negs. 1-16; 08/137 17 digital images

Naomi Field
February 2011

The Figures

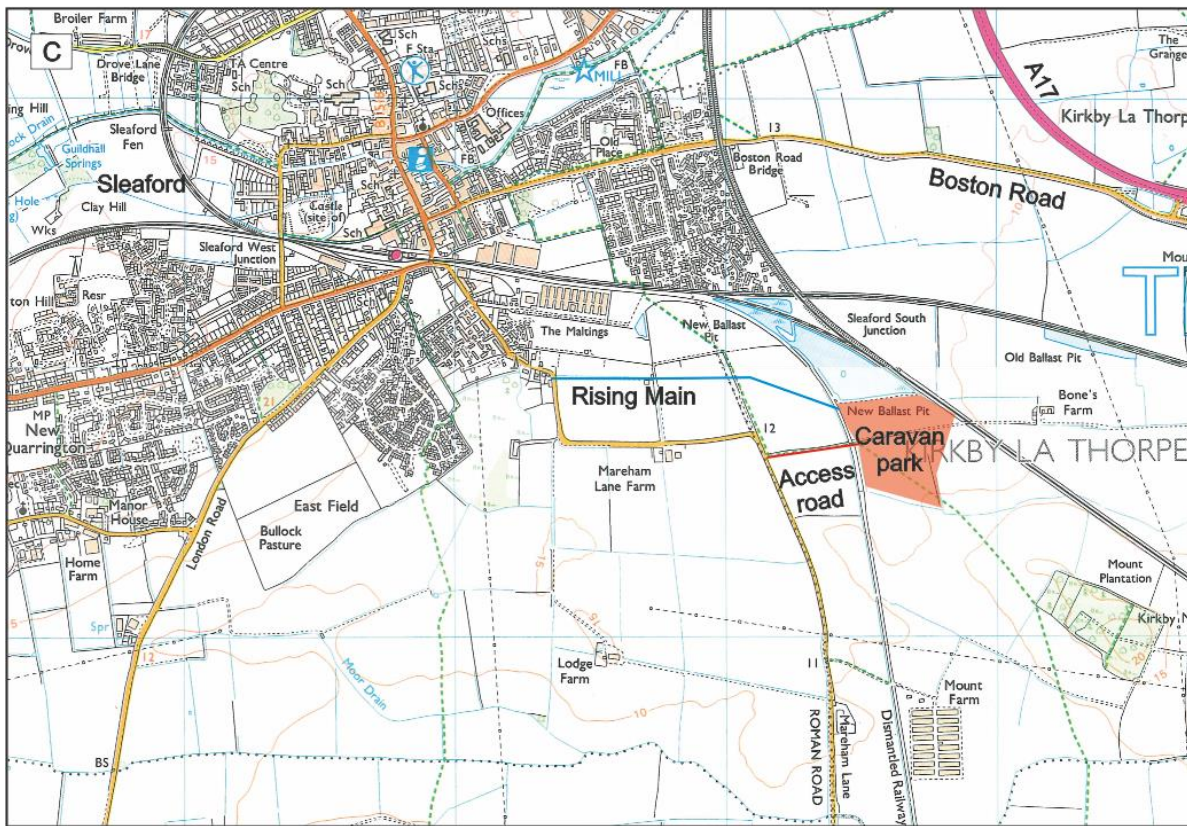
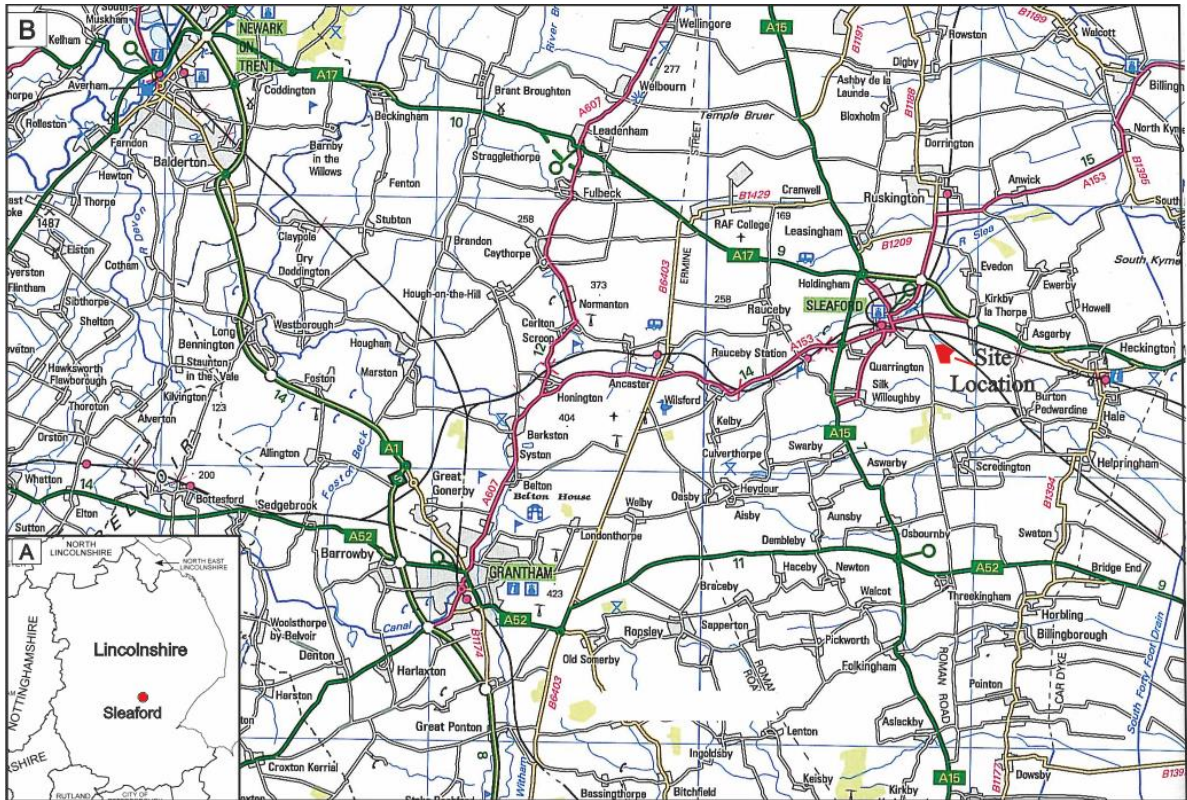


Fig. 1 Kirkby la Thorpe.static caravan site location. C based on the 2006 OS 1:25,000 scale Explorer Maps 248 and 27. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. NFAC licence No. AL 100049154

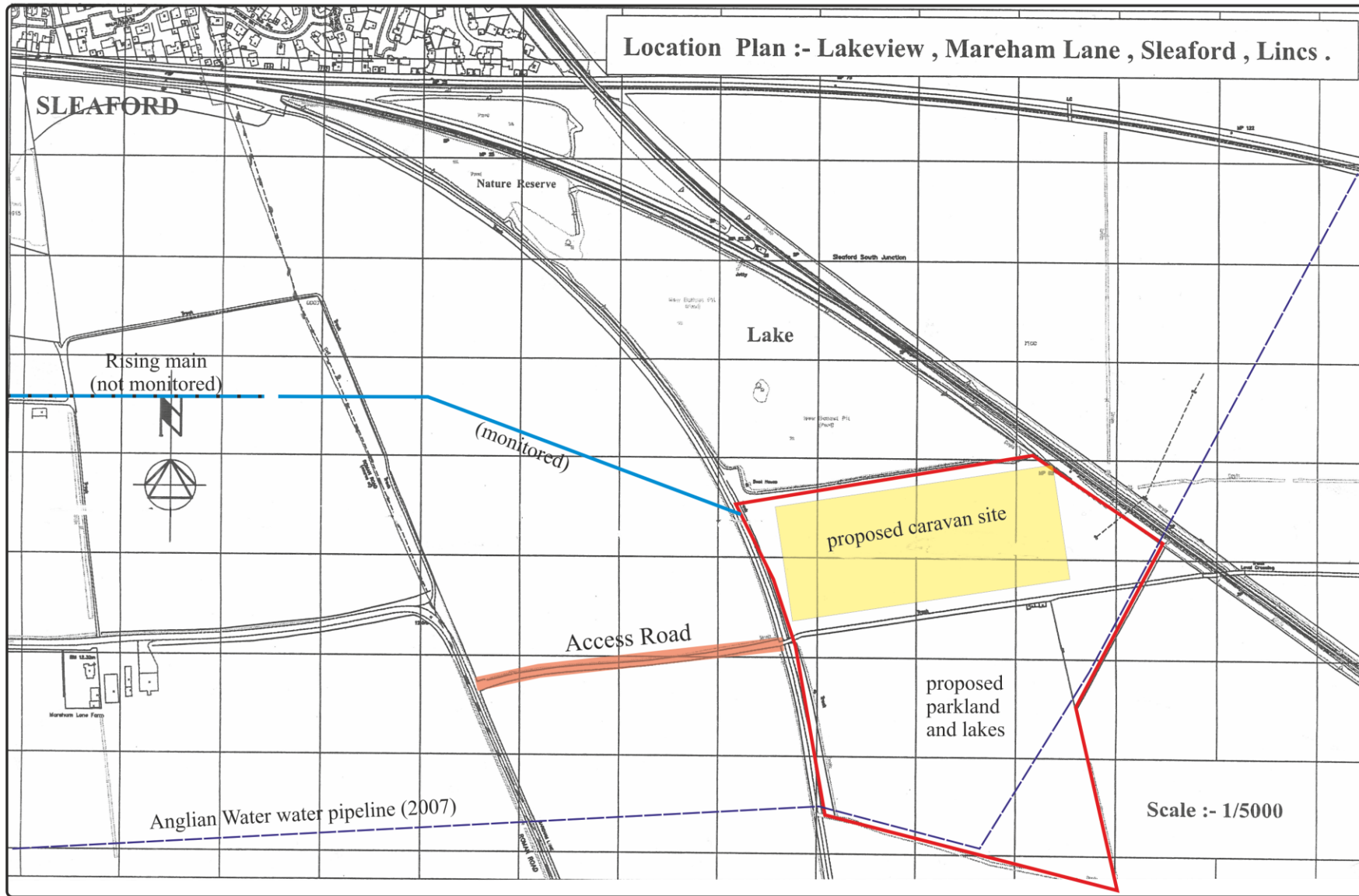


Fig. 2 Monitored areas .

The Plates



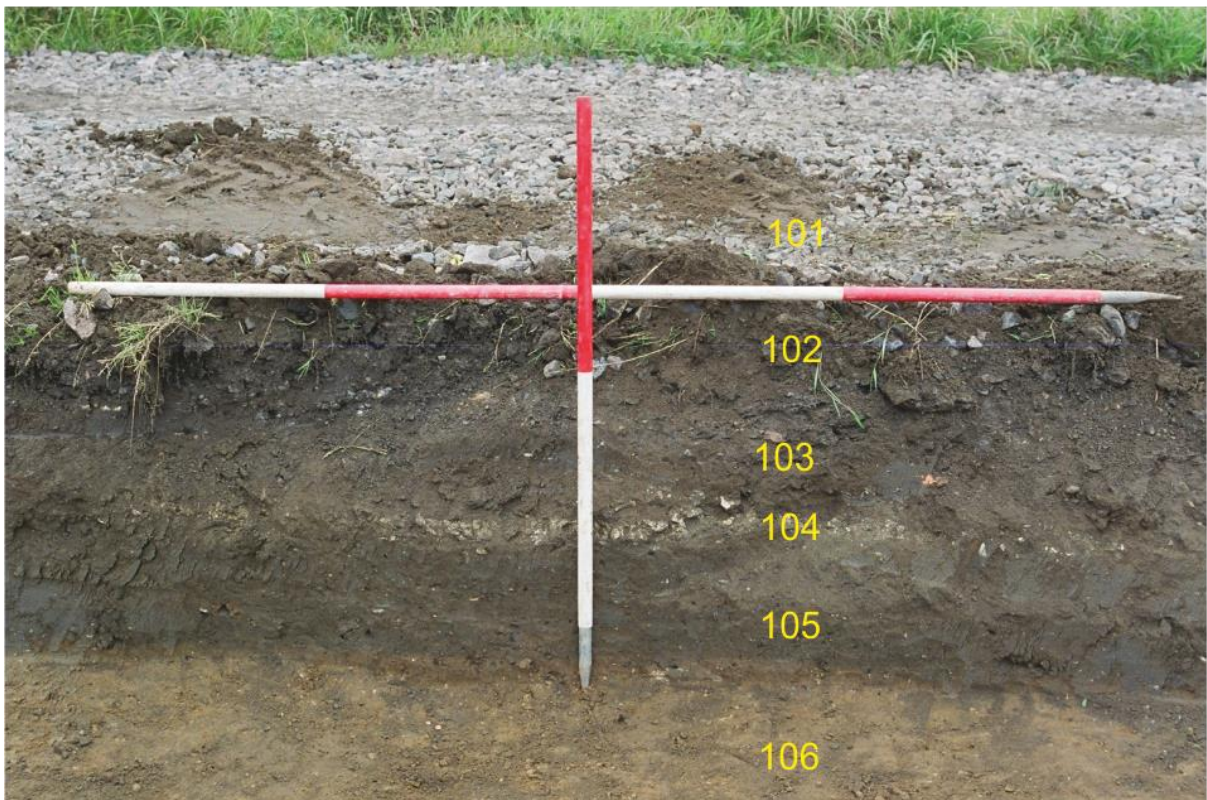
Pl. 1 Farm track at junction with Mareham Lane, prior to stripping and widening for new access road, view east



Pl. 2 Entrance to access road off Mareham Lane after stripping, view west.



Pl. 3 Stripping in progress, view north-west.



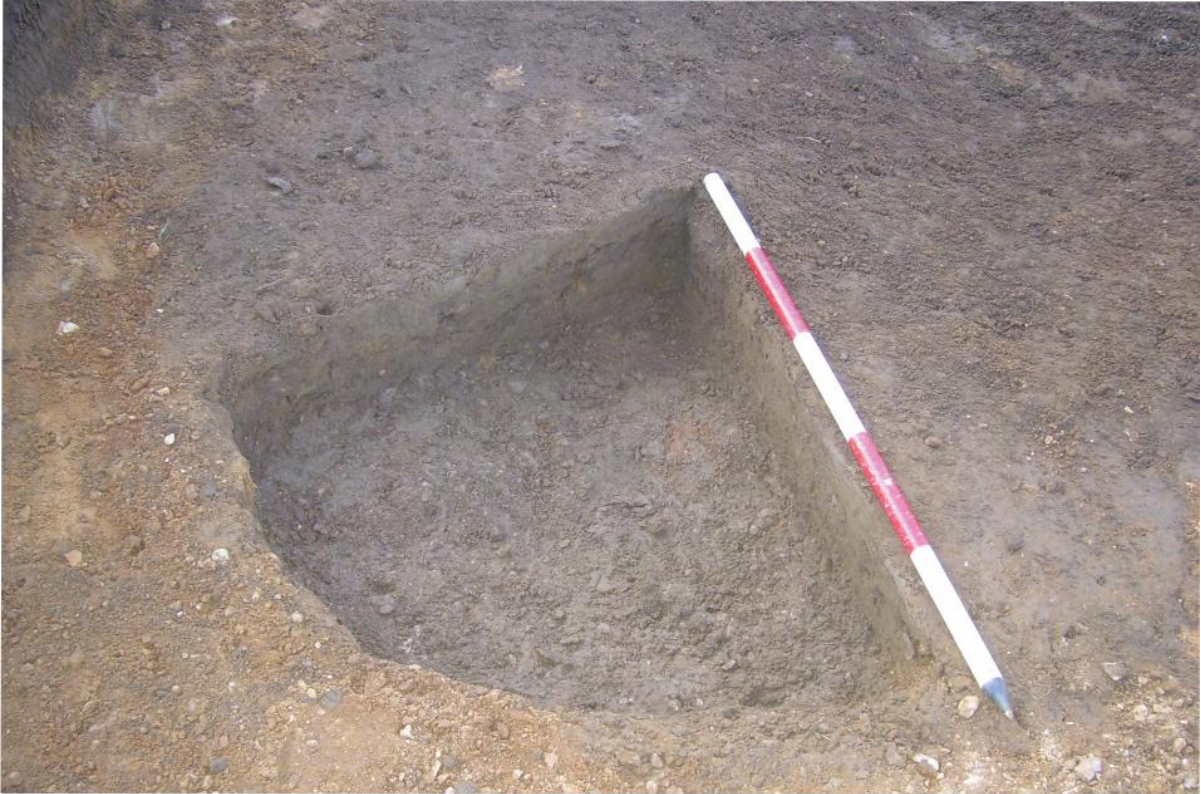
Pl. 4 Sequence of deposits seen along new access road. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 5 View from east end of rising main easement, looking west



Pl. 6 Pit 116, view looking east. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 7 Pit 116, part excavated , looking north-west. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 8 View of easement crossing the parish boundary between Kirkby la Thorpe and Sleaford, looking west. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 9 View along the parish boundary between Kirkby la Thorpe and Sleaford, looking north.
Scale 0.50m



Pl. 10 View along the western part of the easement, looking west towards Sleaford

APPENDIX 1: Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Diameter/width	Depth /Thickness
101	Layer	Modern stone gravel	track surface		0.10m
102	Layer	Dark grey sandy soil with frequent gravel inclusions	track bedding beneath 101		0.12m
103	Layer	dark grey brown sandy soil with moderate gravel inclusions	redeposited topsoil beneath 102		0.14m
104	Layer	Crushed limestone	partially removed track surface beneath 103		0.05m
105	Layer	dark grey brown sandy soil with roots	Buried topsoil beneath 104		0.26m
106	Layer	Yellow-brown gravelly silt	Beneath 105. Natural		
107	Layer	Tarmac	Modern road surface		0.03m
108	Layer	Crushed limestone	Road makeup beneath 107		0.10m
109	Layer	Very dark grey silty soil frequent pebbles	Road makeup beneath 108		0.07m
110	Layer	Tarmac	remnant of former road surface beneath 109		0.03m
111	Fill	dark brown soil	Fill of service trench 112		
112	Cut	Service trench parallel to road			not reached
113	Feature	Modern field ditch south of trackway 101		3.2m	not reached
114	Feature	Modern field ditch north of trackway 101		7m	
115	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	fill of pit 115		
116	Cut	Circular pit with vertical sides and concave base		2m	0.10m-0.30m
117	Layer	dark brown soil	Topsoil along easement		0.20mm
118	Layer	mixed light brown soil	Subsoil beneath 117		0.10m
119	Layer	Black ash layer	Remnant of burnt hedge beneath 118		0.05-0.10m
120	Layer	Fine clinker and ash	Beneath 119		0.03-0.05m
121	Layer	Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel pockets	Beneath 120. Natural		

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Neg. No.	LAS Film No. 07.107
28	Id shot
29	Western end of the new access road (looking south-east from Mareham Lane).
30	The access road (looking east from Mareham Lane).
31	Western end of the access road (looking north along Mareham Lane).
32	Soil deposits in the access road trench.
33	Western end of the access road (looking south east)
34	Soil deposits in the access road trench. Scale 2m
35	Soil deposits in the access road trench. Scales 1m and 2m
36	Construction of the access road
Neg. No	LAS Film No. 07.110
1	Id shot
2	void
3	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
4	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
5	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
6	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane (scale 2m).
7	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
8	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
9	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
10	Removal of the verge beside Mareham Lane.
11	Deposits visible below the modern Mareham Lane
12	Deposits visible beside the modern Mareham Lane (looking south).
13	Western end of the new access road (looking north).
14	Western end of the new access road (looking north-east).
15	Western end of the new access road (looking west).
16	Western end of the new access road (looking west).
Image	LAS Film No. 08/137 Digital film
1	Rising main trench looking west
2	Pit in field west of disused railway line, Scale 0.50m looking east.
3	Pit in field west of disused railway line, Scale 0.50m looking east.
4	Pit in field west of disused railway line, Scale 0.50m looking east.
5	Pit in field west of disused railway line, Scale 0.50m looking east.
6	Pit in field west of disused railway line, South-easet quadrant, looking west. Scale 0.50m looking east.
7	Pit in field west of disused railway line, South-easet quadrant, looking west. Scale 0.50m looking north.

8	Rising main trench crossing trackway on the line of Mareham Lane showing organic deposit at base of the topsoil. Scale 0.50m. Looking north
9	Rising main trench crossing trackway on the line of Mareham Lane showing organic deposit at base of the topsoil. Scale 0.50m. Looking north
10	Rising main trench crossing trackway on the line of Mareham Lane showing organic deposit at base of the topsoil. Scale 0.50m. Looking north
11	Detail of trench section at crossing of Mareham Lane. Scale 0.50m. Looking north
12	Detail of trench section at crossing of Mareham Lane. Scale 0.50m. Looking north
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14	Rising main trench crossing trackway on the line of Mareham Lane showing organic deposit at base of the topsoil. Scale 0.50m. Looking north-east along the trench.
15	View along the trench looking north east from west of the Mareham Lane crossing. Scale 1m
16	View north along hedge boundary and trackway at boundary of field to the west of Mareham Lane
17	General view west along the rising main trench from the old railway, close to the pumping station

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: naomifie1-92405

Project details

Project name	Static Caravan Park, Kirkby la Thorpe, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Monitoring of topsoil stripping, in advance of the construction of an access road to a new static caravan site was carried out in August 2007. The road ran eastwards from the presumed route of a Roman Road known as Mareham Lane, along an existing farm track.. While evidence for at least two phases of the track were recorded no evidence for the Roman road or any associated ditch was seen. No archaeological features were observed along the route of the access road which ran across an area of ploughed out ridge and furrow. A trench for a rising main to the site, with a 3m-wide easement, was monitored in March 2008. Its route crossed Mareham Lane north of the access road but again no evidence for its construction or any flanking ditch was found. A single pit, 2m in diameter and 0.30m deep, was recorded in the field east of Mareham Lane. It contained no finds.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2007 End: 04-03-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KLCP07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2008.117 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN KIRKBY LA THORPE Static Caravan Site, Mareham Lane
Study area	6 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 085 449 52.9901136082 -0.3834143343 52 59 24 N 000 23 00 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12m Max: 12m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Naomi Field
Project director/manager	Naomi Field
Project supervisor	Geoff Tann
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Kinvena Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection Lincoln
Digital Archive ID	KLCP07
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	The collection Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	2008.117
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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