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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
ON LAND AT THE NAVENBY SPORTS GROUND,
GRANTHAM ROAD, NAVENBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: SK 9904 5739
Site Code: NSGN10
Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.144
Planning Reference: 10/0131/FUL

PREPARED FOR MR. COLIN AVISON OF BECKSIDE BUILDERS LTD.
ON BEHALF OF HIS CLIENTS - NAVENBY PARISH COUNCIL

By

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Summary

- *The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new community centre with associated new access and parking on land at the Navenby Sports Ground, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA and Duncan Stirk on the 24th of August, the 1st, 2nd, 5th – 10th, the 14th and the 29th - 30th of September, the 3rd of October and on the 5th and the 6th of December 2011.*
- *All of the groundworks for this development were extensively monitored and recorded. The archaeological monitoring identified a simple deposit sequence of a topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of cornbrash. This was observed and recorded throughout all of the monitored areas of the development site. The exceptions to this were the cuts of two isolated and undated pits. The first was recorded in one of the stanchion base excavations at the northern side of the new build footprint of the community centre, whilst the second was located internally within this build footprint within one of the internal foundation trenches. There were no finds from either archaeological feature.*
- *The archaeological watching brief did not identify any of the anomalies that were detected by the prior geophysical survey. It is concluded that they must have been of natural, geological origin.*
- *Although previous archaeological investigations have also identified isolated and clusters of pits of late Bronze Age-mid Iron Age origin to the north and north-east of the site, and although two isolated pits which may fit this category were found by this watching brief, there were no datable finds from either of these features. This could place the isolated pitting activity found on this site with the prehistoric pitting activity encountered nearby, though they could equally be attributable to a more recent period of history.*

1. Introduction

Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. Colin Avison of Becksiders Builders Ltd, on behalf of their clients - Navenby Parish Council - to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new community centre with associated new access and parking on land at the Navenby Sports Ground, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference SK 9904 5739. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site by Neville Hall MIFA and Duncan Stirk on the 24th of August, on the 1st, 2nd, and the 5th – 10th, and the 29th – 30th of September; on the 3rd of October and on the 5th and the 6th of December 2011.

The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and acting on the advice of Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the LPA. This is in accordance with the principles established in *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 2008).

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Jenny Young (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of North Kesteven District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and the Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

The development site comprising the Navenby Sports Ground is situated to the immediate south of the village of Navenby and fronts onto the A607 Grantham Road to the west. The neighbouring village of Wellingore is situated to the immediate south-west. The development site is located at National Grid Reference SK 9904 5739, and at a height of approximately 75m AOD. Navenby is located approximately 10km to the south of the City of Lincoln, in the civil parish of the same name, and within the administrative district of North Kesteven, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1 and 2].

The development site is located on an undulating upland area and close to the western edge of the Jurassic limestone escarpment. The development site is also situated on shallow well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Series, which have in turn developed on the underlying solid geology of Oolitic limestones of the Middle Jurassic [BGS, 1973; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

A planning application for the proposed erection of a new community centre with associated parking and access on land at the Navenby Sports Ground, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire (Planning Reference: 10/0131/FUL) has been submitted to and granted consent by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, as the proposed development is situated within a perceived archaeologically sensitive area and in an area of high archaeological potential, a condition (No. 5) was attached to this consent which stated that:

No development shall take place unless and until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an agreed written specification that sets out a programme of work to archaeologically monitor groundworks during development. The specification shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of work

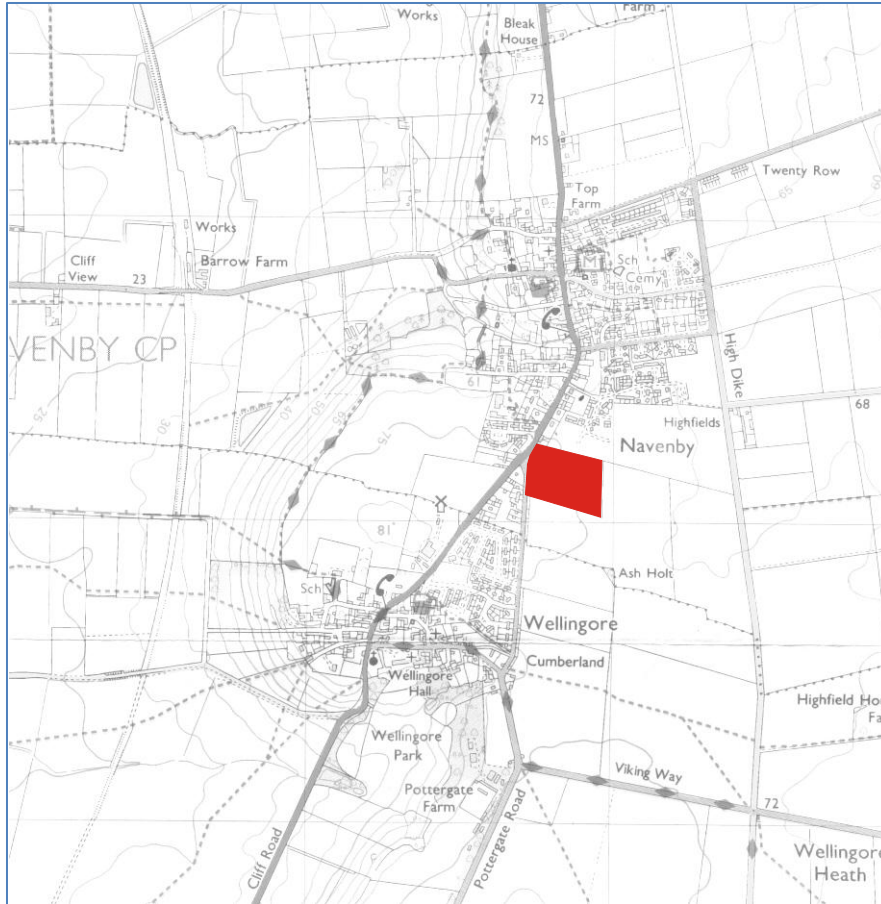


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the agreed specification. A final report of the archaeological findings will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within six months of the completion of the development, or such longer period as may be agreed by the Local Planning Authority.

A specification for the archaeological monitoring was submitted to and approved by Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site archaeological works.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

The aims of the project were the **continual archaeological monitoring** of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which included the excavation of the foundations and services pertaining to the construction of the new community centre and ground reduction associated with the construction of associated car parking and new access.

The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

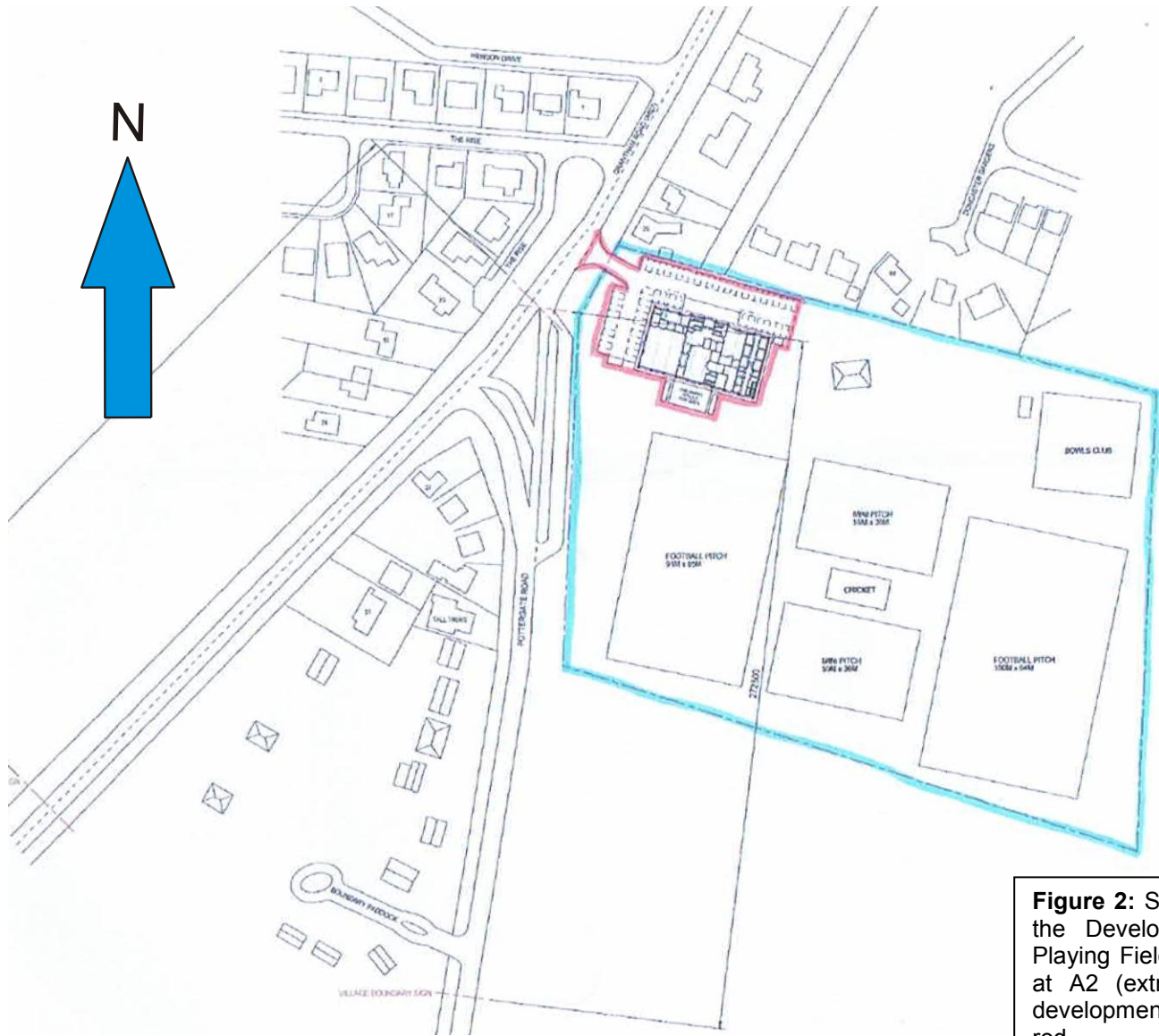


Figure 2: Site location showing the layout of the Development Site in relation to the Playing Fields at an original scale of 1:1,250 at A2 (extract from Architects plan). The development site boundaries are shown in red.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

A prior geophysical survey of the area of the development site had identified several curvilinear anomalies of potential archaeological or natural origin. Previous archaeological investigations have also identified isolated and clusters of pits of late Bronze Age-mid Iron Age origin to the north and north-east of the site. The specific objectives of the archaeological monitoring were to confirm the archaeological origin or otherwise of the curvilinear features identified by the geophysical survey and to establish if the aforementioned late prehistoric pitting activity extended into the area of the development site itself.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Lincoln Local Studies Library. A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the centre of the development site.

A fieldwalking survey at Chapel Heath (to the north-east of the development site) in 1995 (HER 60538; Site code: CHN95) recovered 23 prehistoric worked flints including flakes, scrapers and blade fragments. The survey report concluded that there was potential for prehistoric activity on this site [Palmer-Brown, 1995].

A Mesolithic flint core was found during a watching brief on land off Chapel Heath in 2008 to the north-east of this development site (Site code: PCHN07) [Hamilton, 2008].

An archaeological evaluation on land off Winton Road in 2008 in advance of residential development located two early-mid Bronze Age pits along with a number of other undated ditches and gullies (HER 65274-5; Site code: NAWR08). This evaluation was approximately 150m to the north of the development site. These finds indicated a low level of prehistoric activity in the immediate environs of the development site [Allen Archaeological Associates, 2008].

There is much evidence from previous archaeological investigations for Iron Age settlement activity at Navenby (HER 60557). This settlement appears to have been superseded by the Roman settlement here. In 1991, fieldwalking between High Dyke (Ermine Street) and Chapel Lane on the eastern side of Navenby identified fragments of Iron Age pottery. Trial trenching in 1994 on land at Chapel Heath located Iron Age settlement features beneath the later Roman settlement (Site code: CHN94). In the south-western area of this site, a large square shaped enclosure was found, within which were at least three contemporary hut circles. The site yielded finds of mid-late Iron Age pottery (HER 60557).

An archaeological watching brief in 1997 during the groundworks for a new residential development on land off Grantham Road and to the immediate north of this development site (Site code: GRN96) located a number of mid-late Iron Age pits [PCA, 1997]. Similar and related finds were made during the archaeological trial trenching that took place on land at Chapel Heath in 1999 and to the immediate north-east of the development site (Site code: CHNE99). The most significant remains from this site were found on its western periphery and comprised a number of late Bronze Age-early Iron Age pits [PCA, 1999].

Navenby lies approximately halfway between the Roman *colonia* at Lincoln – *Lindum* and the defended Roman town at Ancaster to the south. The Roman settlement at Navenby (HER 60537) is an extensive ribbon development that lies to either side of the north-south orientated Roman road known as Ermine Street or High Dyke; though its full extent remains uncertain. The site has been known about since the 1960s, but formal archaeological investigations have only taken place here since the mid-1990s. Extensive finds and the results of previous archaeological fieldwork would strongly indicate that it is a small Roman

town. Trial excavations on land to the immediate west of Ermine Street and to the south of Chapel Lane at Chapel Heath in 1994 identified several phases of Roman stone buildings with mortar floors and painted plastered walls that the frontage of Ermine Street in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Site code: CHN94), (HER 60557).

To the south-west of the 1994 investigation, this was followed by a fieldwalking survey at Chapel Heath (to the north-east of the development site) in 1995 (Site code: CHN95). This located a total of 81 sherds of Roman pottery and concluded that there was potential for Roman settlement activity in this area [Palmer-Brown, 1995]. The fieldwalking survey was the first element in a programme of archaeological investigation of an area of residential development on Chapel Heath. In this same area in 1999, a geophysical survey and subsequent further archaeological trial trenching located a Roman sunken metalled trackway that probably extended westwards from Ermine Street (Site code: CHNE99) [PCA, 1999].

Although two watching briefs took place in 2002 during Phase D of the new residential development at Chapel Heath in an area known to contain potential from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods; in the event both watching briefs yielded negative results (Site code: CHHN01). This development probably took place to the west of and well away from the periphery of the Roman settlement [Clay & Palmer-Brown, 2002].

Further watching briefs took place during the groundworks for this residential development at Chapel Heath in 2003-4 (Site code: ESNA03; CLN03; CHNA03 and CHNA04). These found two substantial Roman stone buildings adjacent to and on the western side of Ermine Street. These were dated to the 2nd – 4th centuries AD. Other finds comprised a ditch that was in use throughout much of the Roman period; two walls that were covered by a demolition layer, which indicated two further possible structures and a late Roman ditch. The monitoring of roadside widening identified a compacted surface of pebbles, which was thought to be part of Ermine Street itself. The results of these watching briefs confirmed the form of the ribbon development at Navenby with intensive settlement activity adjacent to Ermine Street, which was reduced to a minimum beyond the western rear boundaries of the roadside buildings (HER 60537).

This was followed by a further watching brief during the groundworks for this residential development in 2007 in the same area (Site code: PCHN05). This identified three linear features and two pits. These features were undated but were thought to represent the boundary ditches of fields lying outside and to the west of the main Roman roadside settlement [Gardner, 2007].

To the north-east of this development site, a watching brief took place during the groundworks for the residential development on land at Chapel Heath in 2007 (Site code: PCHN07). This recorded a small group of archaeological features including a Roman boundary ditch of uncertain extent, four undated pits, a possible undated construction cut, two undated postholes and evidence for 19th century steam ploughing activity [Hamilton, 2008].

A further watching brief during the residential development at Chapel Heath in 2008 (Site code: PCHN07) located several archaeological features of possible Roman date which comprised field boundary ditches lying outside the main area of the Roman settlement [Hamilton, 2008].

The first documentary evidence for the place name of Navenby occurs in the Domesday Survey of AD1086, when it is referred to as *Navenebi*. The first element is derived from an Anglo-Scandinavian personal name – *Nafni* and *by*, hence ‘the farmstead or village of a man called Nafni’. Later medieval documentary references refer to this place name as *Nauvenebi* (AD1163-6; AD1170-5) and as *Nauenebi* (AD1170-1190) [Ekwall, 1991; Cameron, 1998; Mills, 1991]. The Anglo-Saxon settlement probably moved westwards and towards the edge of the limestone escarpment. The earliest evidence for this settlement was found during a watching brief on land to the north of Church Lane and gullies dated to the late Saxon period were found (HER 60581).

The fieldwalking survey at Chapel Heath (to the north-west of the development site) in 1995 (Site code: CHN95) located two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery along with sherds of 13th – 18th century pottery, but as these were present in small numbers, they did not represent significant levels of contemporary settlement activity [Palmer-Brown, 1995].

The medieval settlement of Navenby was probably no larger than a hamlet as the Domesday Survey only recorded two households (HER 60581). A market and two fairs were held in Navenby from the 13th century onwards.

An archaeological evaluation approximately 200m to the north of this site and in advance of a residential development on land off Winton Road in 2004 identified an undated ditch which related to an earlier known field boundary (Site code: WINA04). There was also evidence of extensive quarrying for limestone in the western half of the site. Recovered dating evidence suggested that this quarrying activity took place sporadically from the 13th – 18th centuries with the earthwork remains still being partially visible within the local landscape [Savage & Clay, 2004].

A watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of two new bungalows at Boundary Paddock, Pottergate Road in 1997 did not locate any significant archaeological features or finds (Site code: PN97). This development was to the immediate south-west of the development site [Johnson, 1997].

A prior geophysical survey of the area of the proposed development site was carried out in 2009. This identified several curvilinear anomalies within the survey area. These were interpreted as being of potential archaeological significance, through a natural geological origin to these features could not be excluded [Grid Nine Geophysics, 2010].

Copies of manuscript and Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps were obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives and the Lincoln Local Studies Library. The earliest map consulted was the enclosure award map for the parish of Navenby of 1771 (Archive ref: Kesteven Award 55). This map shows the area of the development site as an open field (plot no. 21), under the ownership of Sir Beaumont Wothram. The site is part of a large enclosure which also fronted onto and extended as far as High Dike (Ermine Street) to the east and which also fronted onto the Grantham Road to the west. The First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1890 shows that the larger enclosure shown on the 1771 map has been subdivided to create several smaller field plots. This subdivision created the boundaries of the field that now houses the present Navenby Sports Ground, which is shown as an open field. The Second Edition O.S. map of 1906 shows the same arrangement within the area of the development site. Wesley House, a new build, is shown to the immediate north of the site. The same situation is repeated on the 1:10,560 scale O.S. map of 1956 and also on the modern O.S. map of 2006 [Figure 1].

6. Methodology

The archaeological monitoring at the development site was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA and Duncan Stirk on the 24th of August, the 1st, 2nd, 5th – 10th, the 14th and the 29th - 30th of September, the 3rd, of October and on the 5th and the 6th of December 2011. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the excavations for the site fence boundary posts, of the mechanical ground reduction of an area that was slightly larger than the new build footprint and also encompassed the designated car park areas to the north and west of this new build footprint; the mechanical excavation of the external foundations of the new building comprising twenty-six stanchion bases with linking strip foundation trenches; the mechanical excavation of two service trenches and finally, the mechanical excavation of the internal strip foundation trenches for the new build. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a 22-ton 360° mechanical excavator and a JCB mechanical excavator that were fitted with various sized toothless and toothed buckets.

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Several

plans at original scales of 1:50 and 1:200 were made of the monitored fence post excavations, the area of ground reduction, of the excavation of the stanchion bases and linking foundation trenches, of the internal foundations and of the various service excavations. The area of ground reduction, the location of the fence post excavations and of the various services excavations are reproduced at a scale of 1:500 as **Figure 3** of this report. The remaining excavations for the new build foundations are shown on **Figure 4** at a scale of 1:200. In addition, a total of four representative sections of the deposit sequence and two sections of the two archaeological features identified were also recorded on site at a scale of 1:20 [designated as **Sections 1-6**]. These are reproduced at this scale as **Figure 5**. **Figure 3** depicts the location of **Representative Sections 1 and 2** and **Figure 4 – Sections 4 and 6** and **Representative Sections 3 and 5**.

A complimentary colour photographic digital record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-56, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figures 3-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-56]

Pre-Groundworks

A preliminary site visit was made on the 22nd of August 2011 primarily to take pre-groundworks photographs of the development site [**Plates 1-2**]. This shows the site as a large grassed area, part of the then playing fields with an access trackway to the south. The northern boundary of the site is marked by a mature hedgerow, whilst the western boundary contained the site access, to either side of which are further sections of mature hedgerow.

The Site Boundary Fence [Figure 3]

The first day of the archaeological site works saw the monitoring and recording of the excavation of twenty-three circular shaped holes in which the vertical posts to support the site boundary fence were inserted. These were all excavated to a uniform diameter of 0.36m and to depths that varied slightly from 0.52m-0.55m below ground levels. In all instances, the excavations went through a topsoil horizon (**001**) and into an underlying natural horizon (**002**) of cornbrash. There were no finds from this monitoring [**Plates 3-9**].

The Initial Ground Reduction [Figure 3]

The second and third days of the archaeological programme saw the monitoring and recording of an initial site ground reduction [**Plates 10-23**]. These excavations were undertaken by a 22 ton 360°mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket. This initial site strip encompassed an area that was slightly larger than the new build footprint and also encompassed the designated car park areas to the north and west of this new build footprint. The extent of this initial ground reduction was kept largely within the confines of the topsoil horizon (**001**). The average depth of this strip varied between 0.15m-0.30m below ground levels, though towards the eastern area of this strip, this depth was reduced to an average depth of 0.10m below ground levels. All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were rapidly scanned for finds. Several sherds of modern 20th century pottery were found, but were not retained.

The fourth and fifth days of the archaeological works saw the completion of the monitoring and recording of the initial site strip with the ground reduction extending as far as the southern site boundary fence [**Plate 24**]. The depth of this ground reduction reached its greatest extent in the southern western corner of the stripped area with the ground reduction reaching depths of 0.35m below ground levels. Here the underlying natural horizon (**002**) of cornbrash was exposed [**Plate 23**]. Occasional small fragments of undiagnostic brick and tile were found within the topsoil (**001**) during this initial ground reduction along with several additional sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery, but these were not retained.

Following the completion of this site strip [**Plates 25-26**], a service trench was mechanically excavated along a portion of the northern edge of this stripped area and parallel to and adjacent to the northern site boundary. This trench measured approximately 21.0m in length, 0.50m in width and extended to an average depth of 0.65m below ground levels by this site boundary [**Plate 28**]. The trench was excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator. This trench was excavated from an existing service and extended to the north-eastern corner of the stripped area. The excavation extended through the topsoil horizon (**001**) and into the underlying natural horizon (**002**) of cornbrash. This deposit sequence was recorded in this service trench within **Representative Section 1** [**Plate 27**].

A further ground reduction took place within a section of the south-western corner of the stripped area [**Plate 29**]. This further ground reduction extended into the natural horizon (**002**) of cornbrash and extended to depths of up to 0.40m to the north and reached its deepest extent of 0.90m below ground levels to the south. The deposit sequence of the topsoil (**001**) and the natural horizon (**002**) was recorded within **Representative Section 2**, which was located along the western boundary of the area strip [**Plate 30**]. The natural horizon (**002**) was found to have pockets and small shallow spreads of mid orange brown sandy silt within its make-up. One of the larger spreads may have represented a possible tree throw, situated approximately 6.0m to the north-east of **Representative Section 2**.

Following the completion of the site ground reduction, a carpet of terram and rubble hard core was laid down over the stripped area, which was then rolled and compacted. This was laid down to average depths of between 0.15m-0.20m above the level of the reduced area.

The Excavation of the Foundations for the New Community Centre [Figure 4]

The seventh day of the archaeological programme saw the mechanical excavations of **Stanchion Bases 1-3 (SB1-3)** and of the linking foundation trenches between them at the south-eastern corner of the build footprint [**Plates 31 and 33**]. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 0.80m wide toothed bucket. These excavations took place through the carpet of hardcore and into the reduced topsoil (**001**) and natural horizon (**002**). **SB1** measured 1.70m in length, 1.60m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.10m below raised levels. **SB2** was excavated to a length of 1.80m, a width of 1.70m and to a depth of 1.20m below raised levels. **SB3** measured 1.90m in length, 1.80m in width and attained a depth of 1.20m below raised levels. The two interlinking strip foundation trenches were excavated to lengths of 4.20m and 4.50m respectively, to widths of 0.80m and to depths of 0.70m below raised levels. The deposit sequence of (**001**) and (**002**) was recorded within **Representative Section 3** [**Plate 32**].

The eighth day of the site works saw the mechanical excavation of **Stanchion Bases 4-10** along the southern side of the new build footprint (**SB4-10**). **SB 4** measured 2.0m in length, 1.80m in width and reached a depth of 1.10m below raised levels. **SB5** was excavated to a length of 1.70m, a width of 1.60m and a depth of 1.10m below raised levels. **SB6** was excavated to a length of 1.75m, a width of 1.70m and a depth of 1.07m. **SB7** measured 1.70m in length, 1.65m in width and reached a depth of 1.10m. **SB8** was excavated to a length and width of 1.75m and to a depth of 1.20m; whilst **SB9** measured 1.90m in length, 1.70m in width and had a depth of 1.20m. **SB10** was excavated to a length of 1.80m, a width of 1.70m and to a depth of 1.20m. The interlinking strip foundation trenches were of varying lengths of 2.90m, 3.40m, 3.0m, 3.30m and 3.10m respectively. These were excavated to a standard width of 0.80m and to average depths of 0.70m. The same deposit sequence of the reduced topsoil horizon (**001**) and the underlying natural horizon (**002**) noted earlier was recorded throughout these excavations.

This followed by the mechanical excavation of **Stanchion Bases 13-18 (SB13-18)**, from the north-eastern area of the new build and extending westwards along the northern line of the build footprint towards the north-western area of same [**Plates 34 and 37**]. **SB13** measured 1.70m in both length and width and was excavated to a depth of 1.20m. **SB14** had a length of 1.80m, a width of 1.75m and was excavated to a depth of 1.20m. **SB15** was excavated to a length of 1.75m, a width of 1.65m and reached a depth of 1.10m. **SB16** was 1.75m in length,

1.70m in width and had a depth of 1.25m. **SB17** was 1.80m in length, 1.75m in width and 1.10m deep. The final stanchion base in this sequence – **SB18** measured 1.80m in length, 1.75m in width and attained a depth of 1.20m. The linking strip foundation trenches were excavated to a uniform width of 0.80m and to average depths of 0.70m and to varying lengths of 4.20m, 3.20m, 3.20m, 3.20m and 4.2m respectively. The natural horizon (**002**) was found to have several further pockets and small shallow spreads of mid orange brown sandy silt within its make-up. The pockets may represent the remains of former planting holes for shrubs as they were fairly shallow.

The same deposit sequence of the reduced topsoil (**001**) and underlying natural horizon (**002**) was observed and recorded throughout the excavation of **SB13-18** and linking foundation trenches. The exception to this was the cut of a possible isolated and undated pit [**004**] with fill (**003**), which was observed in profile, during the excavation of **Stanchion Base 15 [Plates 35-36]**. The profile of this cut was recorded within two sides of **Stanchion Base 15** within **Section 4**. The pit cut was sealed by the topsoil (**001**) and was cut into the natural horizon (**002**). There were no finds from this feature.

The ninth day of the archaeological programme saw the mechanical excavation of **Stanchion Bases 20-23 (SB20-23)** along the western side of the build footprint and that of the excavation of **Stanchion Base 19 (SB19)** at the north-western corner of the new build to connect with **Stanchion Base 18** to the east [**Plates 38 and 40-44**]. **SB20** was excavated to a length of 2.0m, a width of 1.40m and attained a depth of 1.20m. **SB21** measured 1.80m in length, 1.20m in width and 1.20m in depth. **SB22** was 1.80m in length, 1.20m in width and reached a depth of 1.10m. At the north-western corner of the new building, **SB23** was excavated to a length of 2.40m in length, 1.80m in width and 1.10m deep. **SB19** measured 1.90m in length, 12.70m in width and 0.90m in depth. The linking strip foundation trenches were excavated to a uniform width and depth of 0.70m and 0.80m respectively and to varying lengths of 4.10m, 4.0m, 3.90m, 5.0m, 3.20m, and 3.0m respectively. The same deposit sequence of the reduced topsoil horizon (**001**) and the underlying natural horizon (**002**) was encountered throughout these excavations and was recorded within the east facing **Representative Section 5 [Plate 39]**. An additional two irregularly shaped tree throws were also observed here.

The tenth day of the archaeological works comprised the mechanical excavation of the remaining **Stanchion Bases 24-26 (SB24-26)** along the eastern side of the build footprint and of **Stanchion Bases 11-12 (SB11-12)** at the northern-eastern corner of this area. **SB24** was excavated to a length of 1.40m, a width of 1.05m, and to a depth of 1.20m, **SB25** was 1.40m in length, 1.10m in width and 1.1m in depth. **SB26** measured 1.30m in length, 1.05m in width and 1.10m in depth. The linking strip foundation trenches were excavated to a uniform width and depth of 0.70m and 0.80m respectively and to varying lengths of 4.40m, 4.50m, 4.60m and 4.60m respectively. The same simple deposit sequence noted elsewhere was observed and recorded throughout these excavations.

SB11 at the north-eastern corner of the build footprint was excavated to a length of 1.85m, a width of 1.80m and a depth of 1.20m. The final **SB12** measured 1.85m in length, 1.70m in width and 1.10m in depth. The remaining two linking strip foundation trenches were excavated to the same width and depth of 0.70m and 0.80m and to lengths of 4.30m respectively. The same simple deposit sequence was recorded here also.

Service Excavations [Figure 3]

The eleventh and twelfth days of the archaeological programme saw the mechanical excavation of a section of trenching at the western site entrance to accommodate a new manhole with a short section of service trenching to the east added to this [**Plates 45-46**]. This excavation was 'L'-shaped and measured 5.50m in length and between 2.0m and 3.10m in width. These excavations revealed the same deposit sequence of reduced topsoil horizon (**001**) overlying the natural horizon of cornbrash (**002**), which extended to the base of the excavation, and which attained a maximum depth of 1.90m below ground levels. A number of similar pockets and spreads of ill-defined mid orange brown sandy silt and clayey silt were observed within the natural horizon (**002**).

The thirteenth day of the archaeological site works was taken with the monitoring of the mechanical excavation of a second length of service trenching that extended from close to the western site entrance and thence south-eastwards and terminated to the north-west of the northern western corner of the new build footprint [Plate 47]. This second service trench measured 14.60m in length, 0.65m in width and was excavated to an average depth of 1.80m below raised levels. This monitoring identified the same simple deposit sequence noted elsewhere on the site.

The Excavation of the Internal Foundations [Figure 4]

Within the area bounded by the excavated stanchion bases and linking strip foundations, a total of ten internal foundation trenches of varying lengths were mechanically excavated [Plates 49-53 and 55-56]. This occupied the remaining two days of the archaeological site programme. These were excavated to a uniform width of 0.60m and to average depths of 0.70m. The internal layout of the build footprint is shown on Figure 4. The same simple deposit sequence of the topsoil horizon (001) and the natural horizon (002) was similarly observed and recorded throughout these excavations; the exception to this was the identification of the cut of a second isolated and undated pit [005] with fill (006). The profile of this pit cut was recorded within Section 6 [Plate 54]. There were no finds from this feature. Like the first feature, this cut was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001) and was cut into the natural horizon (002).

8. Discussion and Conclusions

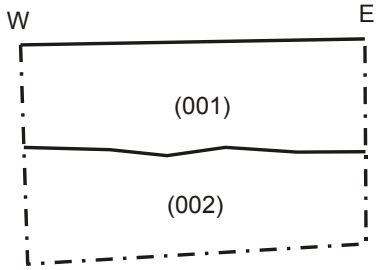
All of the groundworks for this development were extensively monitored and recorded. The archaeological monitoring identified a simple deposit sequence of a topsoil horizon overlying a natural horizon of cornbrash. This was observed and recorded throughout all of the monitored areas of the development site. The exceptions to this were the cuts of two isolated and undated pits. The first was recorded in one of the stanchion base excavations at the northern side of the new build footprint of the community centre, whilst the second was located internally within this build footprint within one of the internal foundation trenches. There were no finds from either archaeological feature.

The archaeological watching brief did not identify any of the anomalies that were detected by the prior geophysical survey. It is concluded that they must have been of natural, geological origin.

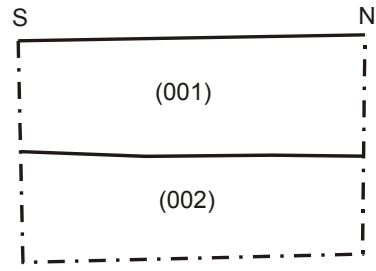
Although previous archaeological investigations have also identified isolated and clusters of pits of late Bronze Age-mid Iron Age origin to the north and north-east of the site, and although two isolated pits which may fit this category were found by this watching brief, there were no datable finds from either of these features. This could place the isolated pitting activity found on this site with the prehistoric pitting activity encountered nearby, though they could equally be attributable to a more recent period of history.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

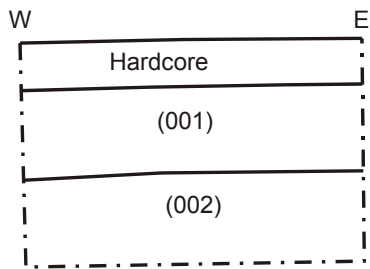
The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the low level of archaeological activity and the nature of the deposit sequence on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the two archaeological features and the deposits observed. A more detailed level of archaeological assessment and investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to record the low level of archaeological activity present and the nature of the deposit sequence within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.



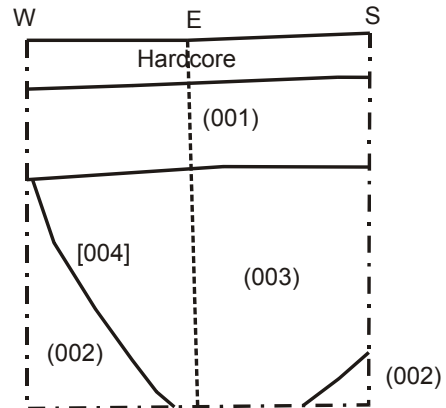
Representative Section 1, South Facing Section, Scale 1:20



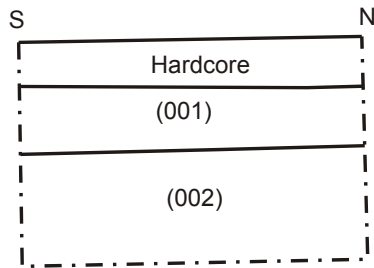
Representative Section 2, East Facing Section, Scale 1:20



Representative Section 3, South Facing Section, Scale 1:20

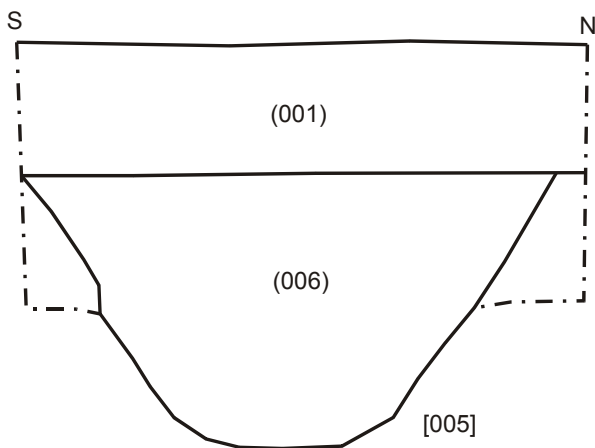


Section 4 of Pit Cut [004] with Fill (003), South-West Facing Section, Scale 1:20



Representative Section 5, East Facing Section, Scale 1:20

Figure 5: Representative Sections 1-3 & 5 & Sections 4 & 6 at a scale of 1:20.



Section 6 of Pit Cut [005] with Fill (006), South Facing Section, Scale 1:10

10. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Plates

Pre-Groundworks



Plate 1: Pre-groundworks, from the east



Plate 2: Pre-groundworks, from the west

The Site Boundary Fence



Plate 3: Fence hole 1, from the south



Plate 4: Fence hole 3, from the south



Plate 5: Fence hole 6, from the south



Plate 7: Fence hole 16, from the south



Plate 6: Fence hole 11, from the south



Plate 8: Fence hole 18, from the south



Plate 9: Fence hole 20, from the south

The Initial Ground Reduction



Plate 10: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 11: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 12: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 13: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 14: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 17: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 15: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 18: Initial ground reduction, from the south-east



Plate 16: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 19: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 20: Initial ground reduction, from the north-east



Plate 21: Initial ground reduction, from the north-east



Plate 22: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 23: Initial ground reduction, from the west, showing the exposed natural horizon (002)



Plate 24: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 25: Completed initial ground reduction, from the south-east



Plate 26: Completed initial ground reduction, from the south-east



Plate 27: Representative Section 1,
from the south



Plate 28: Service trench along the northern site boundary, from the east



Plate 29: Area of further ground reduction within the south western corner of the area strip, from the south



Plate 30: Representative Section 2, from the east



Plate 32: Representative Section 3, from the south

The Excavation of the Foundations for the New Community Centre



Plate 31: Excavation of Stanchion Bases 1 & 2 & linking foundation trenches, from the east



Plate 33: Excavation of Stanchion Bases 1-3 & linking foundation trenches, from the east



Plate 34: Excavation of **Stanchion Bases 13-18** & linking foundation trenches, from the east



Plate 37: Excavation of **Stanchion Bases 13-18** & linking foundation trenches, from the west



Plate 35: View of the pit undated pit cut [004] with fill (003), **Stanchion Base 15**, from the south-west



Plate 38: Excavation of **Stanchion Base 20** & linking foundation trenches, from the south



Plate 36: View of the pit undated pit cut [004] with fill (003), **Stanchion Base 15**, from the south-west



Plate 39: Representative Section 5, from the east



Plate 40: Excavation of Stanchion Bases 20-21 & linking foundation trenches, from the south



Plate 41: Excavation of Stanchion Bases 20-22 & linking foundation trenches, from the south



Plate 42: Excavation of Stanchion Bases 20-23 & linking foundation trenches, from the north



Plate 43: Excavation of **Stanchion Bases 19 & 20-23** & linking foundation trenches, from the north



Plate 44: Excavation of **Stanchion Bases 19 & 20-23** & linking foundation trenches, from the south

Service Excavations



Plate 45: Excavation of a service trench for a new manhole at the western site entrance, from the west



Plate 46: Excavation of a service trench for a new manhole at the western site entrance, from the west



Plate 47: Excavation of a second service trench to the western side of the new build footprint, from the west

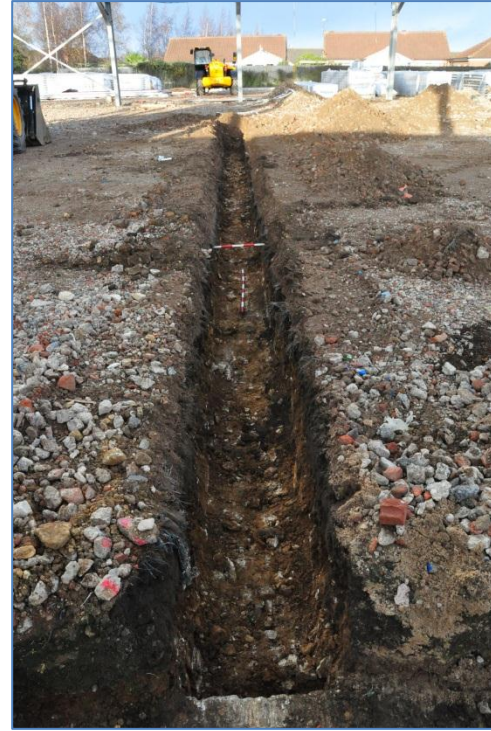


Plate 49: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the south

The Excavation of the Internal Foundations



Plate 48: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the north

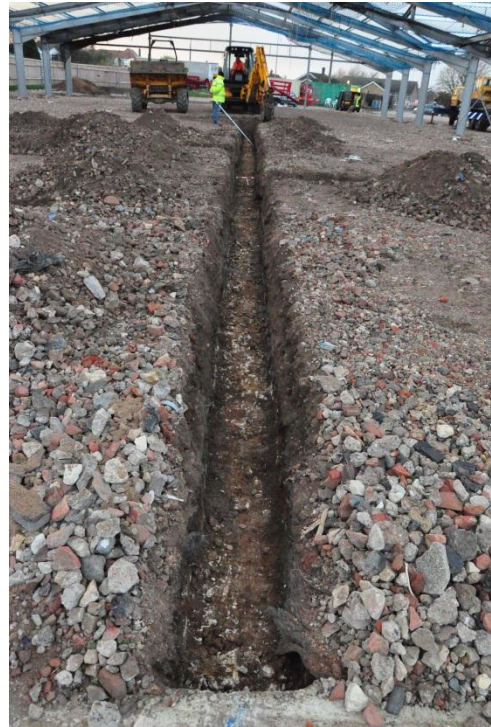


Plate 50: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the east



Plate 51: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the west



Plate 53: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the south



Plate 52: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the south



Plate 54: Section 6 of pit cut [005] with fill (006), from the south



Plate 55: Excavation of the internal foundation trenches, from the west



Plate 56: View of the completed internal foundation excavations, from the east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with small-medium angular limestone fragments 10%, frequent small angular stones, occasional small brick/tile fragments. Above **(002)**. Depth – 0.31m.
- 002** Natural horizon of cornbrash. Friable, light orange brown sandy silt matrix with small-medium angular limestone fragments 60% (cornbrash). Below **(001)**. Depth - >1.50m.
- 003** Fill of the undated pit cut **[004]**. Friable, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones & limestone fragments. Below **(001)**. Recorded in **Section 4**. Depth - >0.65m.
- 004** Cut on an undated isolated pit. Sharp break of slope at top, rounded convex sides, rounded break of slope at base. Base not reached. Cut into **(002)**. Recorded in **Section 4**. Length – c.1.01m, with – c.0.90m, depth - >0.65m.
- 005** Cut on an undated isolated pit. Sharp bark of slope at top, rounded convex sides, rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Recorded in profile in **Section 6**. Cut into **(002)**. Length – 0.82m, width >0.80m, depth – 0.42m.
- 006** Fill of the undated pit cut **[005]**. Friable, mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium fragments of limestone & occasional small fragments of charcoal. . Recorded in profile in **Section 6**. Below **(001)**. Depth – 0.42m.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

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Validated sections in current version

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File submission and form progress

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