NEVILLE HALL MIFA FREELANCE ARCHAEOLOGIST & CONSULTANT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT DAIRY FARM, ASTERBY END, ASTERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 2656 7963

Site Code: DAFA 08

Accession No: LCNCC: 2008.149 Planning reference: N/008/01145/08

PREPARED FOR MR TONY AUGUST

Ву

Neville Hall MIFA

July 2009

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Summary

- The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the construction of a new Store and Conservatory at Dairy Farm, Asterby End, Asterby, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 16th of September 2008 and on the 10th of July 2009.
- The monitoring did not identify any archaeological structures, features, deposits or finds which could be associated with the Deserted Medieval Settlement (DMV) of Asterby or of any Prehistoric cropmark settlement activity which has been found within the wider environs of the development site.
- The monitoring did reveal a series of modern made ground deposits and redeposited topsoils which were associated with the construction of the present Dairy House and its outbuildings from the mid 1990s onwards. These deposits contained demolition material, which originated from the 19th century Dairy Farmhouse and its attendant outbuildings. Underlying these was a simple sequence of buried topsoils and natural subsoils.
- The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological finds, features and/or deposits.
- Following the completion of the monitoring, given the absence of any archaeology, and following consultations with the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist, it was agreed that no further monitoring would be necessary.

1. Introduction

Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr Tony August to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the construction of extensions and alterations to an existing building, comprising a Conservatory, Garden Room, a boundary wall and a Store at Dairy Farm, Asterby End, Asterby, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 2656 7963. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 16th of September 2008 and on the 10th of July 2009.

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 East Lindsey District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and acting on the advice of Ms Jan Allen of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the LPA. This is in accordance with the principles established in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Jan Allen (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of East Lindsey 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 is situated at the northern end of the hamlet of Asterby at National Grid Reference TF 2656 7963, and at a height of approximately 65m AOD. Asterby is located approximately 10km to the south-west of the town of Louth, and approximately 8km to the north of the town of Horncastle [**Figures 1** and **2**].

The development site is situated in an upland area within the central portion of the Lincolnshire Wolds, and on an east facing slope of the valley of the Scamblesby Beck. The site is located on deep permeable coarse loamy soils of the Arrow Series, which in turn overlie greensands, clays and gaults of the Lower Cretaceous [BGS, 1980, Soil Survey, 1983].

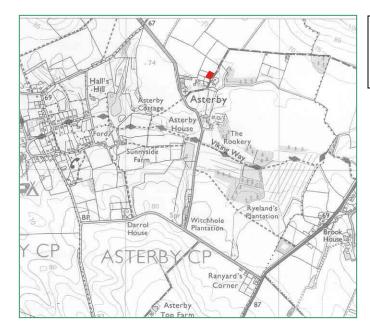


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

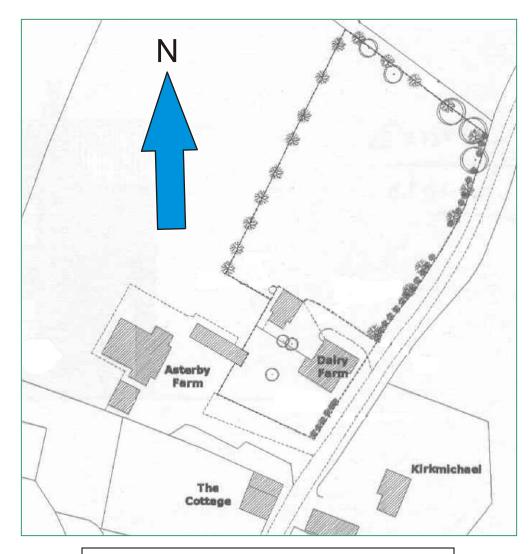


Figure 2: Former site layout at an original scale of 1:250

3. Planning Background

A planning application for the proposed construction of extensions and alterations to an existing dwelling (Dairy Farm) comprising a Conservatory, a Garden Room, a boundary wall and a Store at Dairy Farm, Asterby End, Asterby, Lincolnshire (Planning reference N/008/01145/08) was submitted to and granted consent by East Lindsey District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) [Figure 3]. However, as the proposed development is situated within a perceived area of archaeological significance, a condition (No. 2) was attached to this consent which stated that:

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.

Consultations between the author and Ms Jan Allen of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, established that the requirement for the fulfilment of this condition would consist of the archaeological monitoring of all ground disturbance associated with the groundworks stage of development for the construction of extensions and alterations to Dairy Farm.

A specification or written scheme of works for the archaeological monitoring was subsequently submitted to and approved by Ms Jan Allen of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site monitoring works.

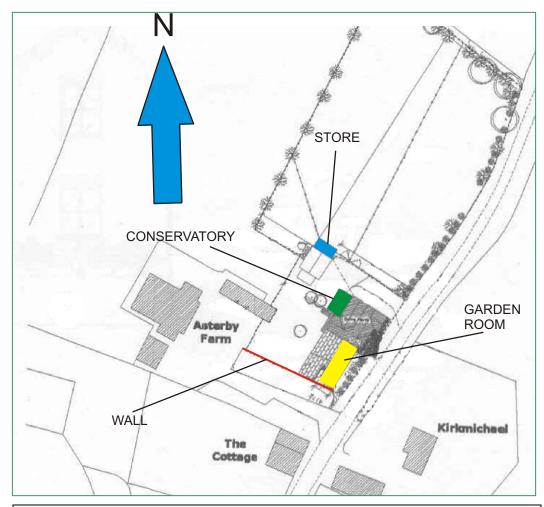


Figure 3: Proposed site layout showing location of Store, Conservatory, Garden Room and Boundary Wall at original scale of 1:250.

4. Aims and objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks to record and interpret any identified archaeological features, structures and/or deposits during the excavation of foundations, services, topsoil stripping, ground reduction and any other areas of ground disturbance during the construction stage of development.

The objectives of the project are:

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

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

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

The specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits associated with any prehistoric settlement activity and of any other activity associated with the remains of the deserted medieval village of Asterby, which may possibly extend 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 1km radius of the centre of the development site. The Heritage Gateway website was also consulted for additional data.

Much of the evidence for archaeological settlement activity in the vicinity of the development site comprises cropmark sites derived from previous aerial photographic interpretation generated by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) National Mapping Programme. Evidence for potential prehistoric settlement activity occurs to the south of Manor Farm, Goulceby with the cropmark remains of enclosures, boundaries and a trackway (HER 44911). Further such activity has also been identified from this source to the east of Manor Farm and consists of the cropmarks of prehistoric boundaries, a hut circle and a trackway (HER 44904).

Similar evidence of prehistoric occupation occurs to the east of Asterby and to the west of the A158 trunk road and consists of the cropmarks of an enclosure and boundary (HER 44902). To the south of Asterby is the cropmark of a prehistoric boundary (HER 44897). Nearby, and to the immediate south-east are the cropmarks of prehistoric enclosures, boundaries and a macula (HER 44896).

The most significant evidence for prehistoric settlement activity in the vicinity of the development site consisted of a flint scatter found in 1988 to the east of Asterby during an archaeological watching brief on the construction of the Theddlethorpe to Hatton gas pipeline (HER 43357), [Ellis, 1991].

The cropmark of an undated boundary has also been identified to the east of Asterby (HER 44903). A second such feature is also situated to the south of Asterby (HER 44899).

In several fields to the west and south-west of the church of St Peter and also to the west of Asterby House occur the earthwork and cropmark remains of the site of the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Asterby (HER 40567), which are revealed on aerial photographs. This includes the remains of crofts and tofts, and of a large building along with ridge and furrow to the west and north-west of the medieval settlement. Three human skeletons and a dirk were found in this area (in a field called Hall Close) in 1821 (HER 40569).

This settlement is recorded in the Domesday Survey of AD1086 as *Estrebi*, which is derived from the Old Norse *eystri* or 'the more easterly' and the Old Danish word *bi* or 'farmstead', so the place name denotes 'the more easterly farmstead' and clearly has late Anglo-Saxon origins. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Eisterby* (AD1135-54) and *Aistrebi* (AD1175-8) [Cameron, 1998; Ekwall, 1991].

The Domesday Survey details *Estrebi* as being situated within the Wapentake of Gartree, and as sokeland belonging to the manor of Belchford, with the lands in Asterby being held by Ivo Taillebois:

'In Estrebi, there are three carucates of land assessed to the geld. There is land for three teams. There are nine sokemen, and two villeins and seven bordars. These having three teams and 120 acres of meadow [Foster & Longley, (1976); Morris, 1986].

The Grade II* listed church of St Peter on Church Lane (HER 40568) was formerly the parish church, but was declared redundant in 1983, and retained by the parish as a monument in 1988. The church was originally constructed in the 14th century in the Early English style of church architecture with a nave, chancel and a north aisle, while the lower stages of the west tower are of late 15th century date. The north aisle was subsequently demolished, although its piers survive in the modern church fabric. Further additions and alterations to the church were made in the mid and late 19th century including the building of a new vestry in 1879, the rebuilding of the west tower in 1900 and the chancel in 1896 [Pevsner & Harris, 1989; LAS, 1997; DOE, 1987].

In 1997, a programme of archaeological recording at the church was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services during the groundworks for a new drainage scheme, which was in turn part of a programme of improvements to the church fabric. The drainage trenches excavated revealed evidence for an earlier church of high status on the site [LAS, 1997].

Asterby House is Grade II listed and was constructed in c1825, while the Old Rectory on Church Lane, as its name suggests was the former rectory, and is now a Grade II listed house, constructed in 1863 according to designs by R. J. Wilkes [DOE, 1987]. The local farmhouses generally speaking are all of post-enclosure construction. Asterby Manor Farm, for example, dates from the early 19th century, (and as noted earlier, given the cropmark remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Asterby in several fields to the west and south-west of the church of St Peter and to the west of Asterby House), and given also its close proximity to the parish church of St Peter, suggest that it was perhaps the successor of an earlier manorial site. A Primitive Methodist chapel was constructed in the village in 1837 along with a Methodist Chapel of 1854, which is now used as a workshop. Nothing remains of the Wesleyan Chapel of 1866 nor of the Baptists Chapel of 1720 in the village [Williams, 1993].

Much of the lands in the parish of Asterby were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1788. Although the small enclosures both within the area of the development site and within the hamlet of Asterby itself pre-date this later enclosure [Russell & Russell, 1985]. A tracing of the enclosure award map for the parish of Asterby with Goulceby was obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives (Archive ref. Lindsey Award 31) [Figure 4]. This map shows the area of the development site within an open field (Plot No. 98), which was one of the aforementioned old pre-Parliamentary Enclosure enclosures. This open field fronted onto the western side of the Cawkwell Road. The southern boundary of the development site was already present forming the boundary of the plot to the immediate south (Plot No. 97).

The First Edition 6 inch scale O.S. map of 1891 [Figure 5] shows the present layout of enclosures and boundaries in the vicinity of the development site. Dairy Farmhouse is shown fronting onto the western side of the Cawkwell Road for the first time; the farmhouse being situated within a new enclosure created out of the southern portion of the Plot No. 98 shown on the enclosure award map of 1778.

The Second Edition 6 inch scale O.S. map of 1907 [Figure 6] shows the same layout of the area of the development site as that of the map of 1891. Unfortunately, the Lincoln Local Studies Library does not possess a copy of the 1:10,560 scale O.S. map of 1956; though the O.S. 1:10,000 scale map of 1983 was available for consultation (not reproduced in this report). The 1983 map shows Dairy Farmhouse fronting onto the western side of the Cawkwell Road with three farm outbuildings to the west and south-west. The current O.S. map of the development site of 2006 [Figure 1] features the present Dairy Farm situated on the western frontage of the Cawkwell Road with the absence of these outbuildings.

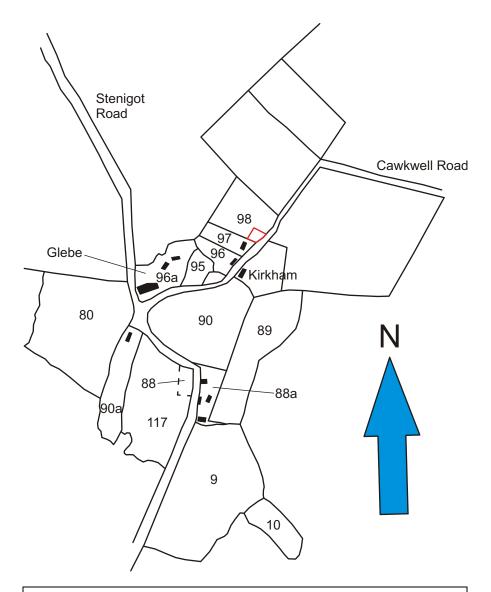


Figure 4: Extract from the Enclosure Award Map for the Parish of Asterby with Goulceby of 1778, scale 40 chains to 1 inch, (Archive ref. Lindsey Award 31). The development site is outlined in red.

6. Methodology

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA on the 16th of September 2008 and on the 10th of July 2009. This comprised the continual monitoring and recording of the mechanical excavation of the groundworks for the construction of a new Store (comprising foundations and drainage works) and of a new Conservatory (consisting of substantial foundations owing to design requirements) [**Figure 7**]. No new drainage works were required for the Conservatory.

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Plans (at a scale of 1:20) were compiled of the monitored areas of the Store and Conservatory, and are reproduced in this report as **Figure 7** at a scale of 1:50. These plans also show the location of the six

sections (designated as **Representative Sections 1-6**), which were compiled (at a scale of 1:10) of the deposit sequences in the areas of the Store and Conservatory. These are reproduced in this report as **Figure 8** and at a scale of 1:20. A complimentary colour digital photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-18**, **Appendix 1**. The deposits recorded are listed as **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.

Following the completion of the monitoring of the groundworks for the construction of the Store and Conservatory, and taking into consideration the absence of archaeological activity in these monitored areas, it was agreed by the author and Ms Jan Allen of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, that no further monitoring of site groundworks was necessary.

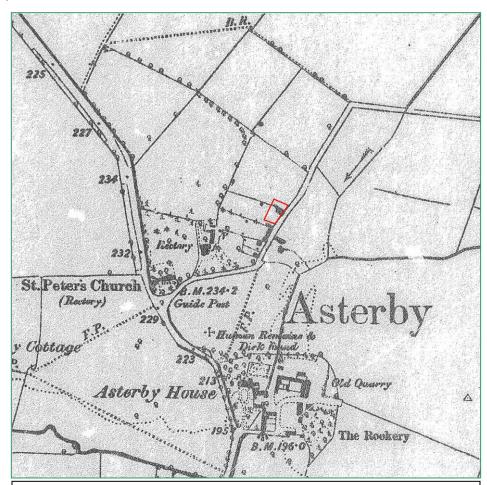


Figure 5: Extract from the First Edition 6 inch to 1 mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1891, map sheet no. Lincolnshire 64NE. The development site is outlined in red.

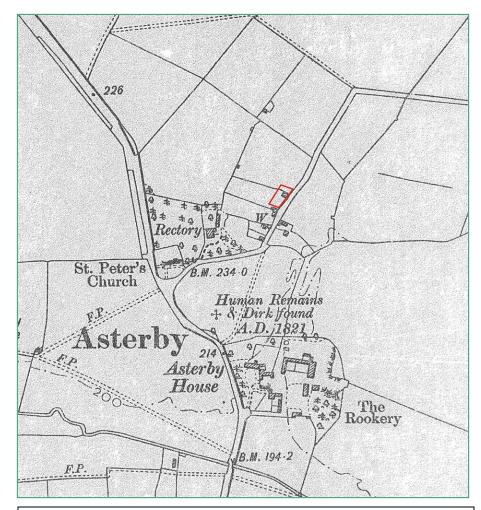


Figure 6: Extract from the Second Edition 6 inch to 1 mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1907, map sheet no. Lincolnshire 64NE. The development site is outlined in red.

7. Results

7.1 The Store [Figures 7-8, Plates 1-10]

The monitored groundworks for the construction of the new Store commenced with the excavation of two parallel and south-north orientated foundation trenches, which extended northwards from the north wall of an existing standing building [Plate 2]. Each of these foundation trenches were excavated to a length of 2.50m, to a width of 0.60m, and to depths of 1.0m below ground levels.

Beneath the removed turf, the same deposit sequence, comprising redeposited topsoil (001), overlying a buried topsoil horizon (002) and an underlying natural horizon (003) were encountered in both of these trenches. Representative Section 1 recorded this deposit sequence within the easterly foundation trench [Plate 3].

The redeposited topsoil horizon (001) undoubtedly represented a built up ground level, probably as a result of upcast and spoil from the construction of the adjacent standing building and from the nearly Dairy House, itself constructed in the mid 1990s. This was evident from the large

quantities of demolition and construction materials found within this horizon, including house bricks, tiles and modern plastic material. The demolition material originated from former buildings on the site. The interface between the base of the horizon (001) and the top of the buried topsoil horizon (002) represented the level of the former ground surface.

Following the mechanical excavation of the two foundation trenches, a limited strip took place within the build footprint of the new Store. This strip was confined to within the redeposited topsoil horizon (001) and extended to depths of 0.40m below ground levels. The stripped area was for the construction of a concrete floor surface for the new build [Plates 4-6].

The mechanical excavation of a posthole at the north-eastern corner of the new build footprint revealed the same deposit sequence. This posthole was excavated to a length of 1.0m, to a width of 0.60m and to a depth of 0.90m below ground levels [Plate 8]. A second section – Representative Section 2, was recorded here [Plate 7].

This was followed by the mechanical excavation of a soakaway trench, which extended eastwards from the posthole, and was orientated west-east [Plate 8]. This was 3.40m in length and 0.60m in width. Its depth increased to the east reaching a maximum depth of 0.45m below ground levels, which was still within the redeposited topsoil horizon (001). A soakaway was then excavated at the eastern end of this trench [Plate 9]. This was square shaped and measured both 1.60m in length and width, and was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.0m. The same deposit sequence was identified within this soakaway also, and was recorded within a third section – Representative Section 3 [Plate 10].

7.2 The Conservatory [Figures 7-8, Plates 11-18]

The groundworks for the construction of the new Conservatory began with the mechanical excavation of the eastern foundation trench [**Plate 11**]. This extended westwards from Dairy House, and was excavated to length of 4.10m, to widths of between 0.60m-1.10m, and to a depth of approximately 1.0m. These excavations exposed both the foundations of a modern extension to the present Dairy House, and also those of its predecessor, whose earlier foundations the present house had been constructed upon in the mid 1990s [**Plate 13**].

These excavations revealed a sequence of deposits which were associated with the construction of the adjacent modern extension to the present Dairy House. This sequence was recorded as **Representative Section 4** [**Plate 12**], and extended along the whole length of the foundation trench. The uppermost deposit comprised made ground (**005**), which in turn overlay a horizon of redeposited topsoil (**006**). This deposit continued beneath the foundations of the adjacent modern extension, and it was apparent that these footings had been constructed not only within but also on this deposit. Although this foundation was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.0m, the natural horizon (**007**) was reached only at the base of this excavation.

This was followed by the mechanical excavation of a second east-west orientated foundation trench, which was parallel to the first. This trench was excavated to a length of 3.25m, a width of 0.80m, and to a depth of approximately 1.0m.

The deposit sequence identified in this second trench was recorded within **Representative Section 5** [**Plate 15**], and contrasted sharply with that recorded in the first trench to the south. This consisted of a made ground deposit (**009**), which was undoubtedly associated with the construction of the present house, and corresponded to the deposit (**005**) to the south. This was above a topsoil horizon (**008**), which in turn directly overlay the natural subsoil horizon (**007**), which was reached at the base of the excavation. The made ground deposit (**009**) and the topsoil horizon (**008**) notably contained a large quantity of small-large ironstone fragments within their make-up, a minority of which exhibited some evidence of rough working and facing. This suggested that these fragments comprised demolition material and had originated perhaps from one of the outbuildings associated with the earlier Dairy Farmhouse. The majority of these

fragments were recovered from the excavation of these two east-west orientated trenches as well as from the final south-north aligned foundation trench.

During the recording of the outside wall of the present house, it was noted that there was a 'kink' in its alignment. This corresponded to a break in the present house being constructed on the foundations of the earlier house, and its subsequent construction on contemporary modern breeze block foundations. These breeze block foundations were exposed in the second and subsequent third east-west aligned foundation trenches.

The foundations of the earlier Dairy Farmhouse had been built on the topsoil horizon (**008**) and extended to a depth of 0.55m, whilst the modern extension foundations extended to a depth of 0.75m below ground levels.

The third east-west orientated foundation trench was then excavated along with the completion of the excavation of the connecting north-south aligned trench [Plate 18]. The deposit sequence identified in the latter trench comprised the topsoil horizon (008), which here was found to be substantial, directly overlying the natural horizon (007). In the third and final east-west orientated foundation trench, the redeposited topsoil (004) overlay the topsoil horizon (008), which in turn was above the natural horizon (007). This sequence in this trench was recorded within the Representative Section 6 [Plate 17]. The redeposited topsoil horizon (004) appeared to have been laid down for landscaping purposes around the periphery of the present house.

The final east-west orientated trench measured 3.25m in length, 0.80m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.0m. The connecting south-north aligned foundation trench was excavated to a length of 7.20m, a width of 0.80m and to a depth of 1.0m [**Plate 18**].

8. Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the construction of the new Store and Conservatory did not identify any archaeological structures, features, deposits or finds associated with either the Deserted Medieval Settlement of Asterby nor of the Prehistoric cropmark settlement activity which has been identified within the wider environs of the site.

The monitoring did reveal a series of modern made ground and redeposited topsoils which were associated with the construction of the present house and of its attendant outbuildings since the mid 1990s. These deposits included material in their respective make-ups – brick, pantiles, ironstone fragments etc. – from the demolition of the 19th century Dairy Farmhouse and its associated outbuildings, which formerly stood on this site. It was also noted that the present house was partially constructed on the foundations of the earlier house.

The made ground deposits and redeposited topsoils overlay a series of buried topsoils and natural subsoils.

The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological finds, features and/or deposits.

Following the completion of this monitoring, given the nature of these results, and following consultations with Ms Jan Allen on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, it was agreed that no further monitoring would be required.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the sequence of activity on this site; while providing sufficient time to record 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 ensure the absence of archaeology present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr Tony August for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Jan Allen of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record, the Lincoln Local Studies Library, and the Lincolnshire Archives for their kind assistance.

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Extract from the First Edition 6" – 1 mile scale O.S. map sheet no. Lincolnshire 64NE, (1891).

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Appendix 1: Plates

The Store



Plate 1: Pre-groundworks, from the east



Plate 2: Work in progress, excavated foundation trenches, from the east



Plate 3: Representative Section 1, from the west



Plate 4: Work in progress, removal of turf within build footprint, from the east



Plate 5: Topsoil strip within build footprint, from the east



Plate 6: Completed excavation of new build footprint showing foundation trenches and posthole to north-east, from the east



Plate 7: Representative Section 2, from the north



Plate 9: Excavated soakaway, from the south



Plate 8: Excavated posthole & soakaway trench from the west



Plate 10: Representative Section 3, from the west

The Conservatory



Plate 11: Work in progress, from the north



Plate 12: Representative Section 4, from the north



Plate 13: View of the foundations of the modern house & of the earlier Dairy House, from the west



Plate 14: Work in progress, from the south



Plate 15: Representative Section 5, from the north



Plate 16: Work in progress, from the north



Plate 17: Representative Section 6, from the south



Plate 18: Completed foundation excavations, from the west

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

The Store

- Redeposited topsoil horizon, soft & friable, dark brown silty sand with medium-large brick/tile fragments >20% & moderate small greensand fragments & flecking. Above the deposit (002). Depth 0.60m.
- Buried topsoil horizon, soft, dark brown clayey silty sand. Sealed by (001) and above (003). Depth 0.40m.
- Natural subsoil horizon, soft, dark orange brown sand. Sealed by (002). Depth >0.37m.

The Conservatory

- Redeposited garden soil around the periphery of the present Dairy House, laid down when the present house was constructed and also used for landscaping purposes around the present house. Friable, dark black brown silt. Above the made ground deposit (005). Depth 0.29m
- Made ground deposit, associated with the construction of the adjacent extension to the present house. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with lenses of orange sand >10% & occasional small angular stones. Below the deposit (004) and above the horizon (005). Depth 0.48m.
- Redeposited topsoil horizon, also associated with the construction of the adjacent extension to the modern house. The foundations of this new extension were constructed on this deposit. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with lenses of orange sand & occasional small angular stones, & charcoal & brick/tile fragments. Above the natural horizon (007). Depth 0.50m.
- Natural subsoil horizon. Friable, light buff & dark orange brown sand with frequent small fragments of ironstone. Sealed by the deposits (008) & (009). Depth not determined.
- Topsoil horizon. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones. Sealed by (009) & above (007). Depth -0.47m.
- Made ground deposit associated with the construction of the present house. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent small-medium concrete, brick/tile & mortar fragments & small angular stones. Above (008). Depth 0.38m.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: **England**

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

Dairy Farm, Asterby End, Asterby, Lincolnshire - Neville Hall MIFA

OASIS ID - nevilleh1-62003

Versions				
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall MIFA	NvHII@aol.com	14 July 2009
Completed sections in current version				
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1
Validated sections in current version				
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1
File submission and form progress				
Grey literature report submitted? No			Grey literature report filename/s	
Boundary file submitted?		No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?		
Grey literature Upload bo		ooundary file	Request record re-opened	

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