
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
ABBAY FARM, KIRKSTEAD,
WOODHALL SPA,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KSAF 13)**

Work Undertaken For
Witham Trading Company Limited

August 2013

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2013.75
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-156040

APS Report No. **88/13**

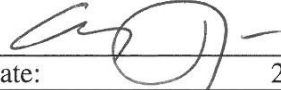
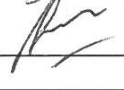
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
at Abbey Farm, Kirkstead,
Woodhall Spa
Lincolnshire
KSAF 13

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Site Supervisor	Mark Peachey
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
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Date: 27th August 2013	Date: 29th August 2013

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during development at Abbey Farm, Kirkstead, Lincolnshire as the site was archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the remains of medieval Kirkstead Abbey, a Scheduled Monument. Previous investigations immediately adjacent to the present development site had not revealed any archaeological remains, though there was reused medieval masonry at the site.

The investigation revealed a single pit containing late 18th century glass.

Artefacts retrieved comprised a sherd of late medieval pottery, glass and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (Ref: S/215/00265/13) for the change of use, alterations and extension to part of an existing outbuilding, erection of a barn on the site of existing outbuildings and provision of parking at Kirkstead Abbey Farm, was granted by East Lindsey District Council with conditions for archaeological monitoring and recording. Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Witham Trading Company Limited to undertake this work which was conducted on the 4th June and 29th July 2013 in accordance with a specification prepared by APS and approved by the planning archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Kirkstead is located approximately 22km southeast of Lincoln and 10km southwest of Horncastle, in the administrative district

of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies adjacent to Abbey Farm on the south side of Abbey Lane at National Grid Reference TF 1914 6183 (Fig. 2). The site lies at 6m OD on land that slopes gently down to the west, towards the River Witham.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Series, typically loamy sands, and Quorndon Series, typically sandy loams (Robson *et al.* 1974, 47, 48). These soils overlie a drift geology of predominantly sand and gravel deposits that comprise the second river terrace of the Witham. These in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic clays of the Ancholme Group (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Kirkstead is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools have been found in the vicinity.

Iron Age settlement has been identified in Woodhall Spa to the north and a large triple ditched enclosure has been recorded south of the site from aerial photographs (Cope-Faulkner 1998, 8).

Kirkstead is first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1157. Referred to as *Chirchesteda*, the name is derived from a slightly Scandinavianised form of the Old English *cirice-stede* meaning the site of a church (Cameron 1998, 75).

Hugh, Lord of Tattershall, gave land for monks of the Cistercian order to build Kirkstead Abbey in 1139 (Page 1988, 135). The first location chosen for the monastery was unsuitable as it lay within a marsh and was not large enough. Leave to move to a suitable location was granted by Robert, son of Hugh, in 1187, although there is controversy over the charter

(RCHME nd.). Earthworks of the abbey include a small surviving part of stone walling southwest of the current investigation.

Between 1230-40, Kirkstead Abbey was responsible for building the small church to St. Leonard south of the Abbey. The history of the church has been overshadowed by that of the Abbey, although the church has been referred to as a gate chapel (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 418). It is likely that this was a parochial church and may indicate medieval settlement in the vicinity.

Other medieval remains include the possible site of a moated enclosure near Old Hall Farm and supposed medieval vaults beneath Abbey Lodge Inn. A series of fishponds are located to the northwest of the site.

Post-medieval remains within the precinct of the abbey are represented by three mounds which are likely to be pottery kilns. Recent work by the RCHME has also identified a possible post-dissolution house on the site (Cope-Faulkner 1998, 8).

Adjacent watching briefs undertaken southeast of the site in 2002 and 2004 revealed only sequences of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits with no finds and two early modern finds respectively (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 2005).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

The objectives of the investigation were to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered and as far as practicable, to

recover dating evidence from them and establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained on the groundworks for the development. Following excavation selected sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS (Figs 3, 4)

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Barn

The first footings to be monitored were for the new barn (Plates 1, 4). They were excavated up to 1m deep onto at least 0.4m thick natural mid yellow sand with occasional patches of grey clay (005). This was overlain by 0.3m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (004). Near the southeast corner of the footings, the subsoil was cut by probable pit [003] (Fig 4, Section 1; Plate 2). This had a steeper

east side than west and was 2.9m wide and at least 0.7m deep. It was filled with dark greyish brown clayey silt (002) containing late 18th century glass. The pit was sealed by up to 0.4m thick concrete, brick and stone rubble (001) which contained a residual sherd of late medieval pottery. At the north end of the footings, this rubble was absent and the subsoil was overlain by 0.37m thick topsoil (006) (Fig 4, Section 2; Plate 3).

Two footings for entrance posts were also excavated on the east side of the building. However, these were badly contaminated with engine oil and were not entered.

House extension

The final footings to be monitored were for a single storey extension to the farmhouse (Plate 5) and two post holes for the connection to the new barn.

These footings were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.9m onto at least 0.22m thick mid orangey brown sand (009). This was overlain by 0.3m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (008) above which was 0.43m thick topsoil (007) (Fig 4, Section 3; Plate 6). Two 20th century bottles and an animal bone were retrieved from the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposit on the site was sand with occasional clay patches in the eastern footings. This was overlain by an undated layer of subsoil, probably former ploughsoil.

A single probable pit cut the topsoil. It contained modern glass and was sealed only by the rubble base for the farmyard surface, which had been recently removed.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during development at Abbey Farm, Kirkstead, Lincolnshire as the site was archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the remains of medieval Kirkstead Abbey, a Scheduled Monument.

The investigation revealed only a single pit containing late 18th century glass. In common with previous watching briefs at the farm, no earlier remains were revealed.

Artefacts retrieved comprised a sherd of late medieval pottery, post-medieval and modern glass and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Will Nelstrop of the Witham Trading Company Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
 CAD Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Peachey
 Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Peachey

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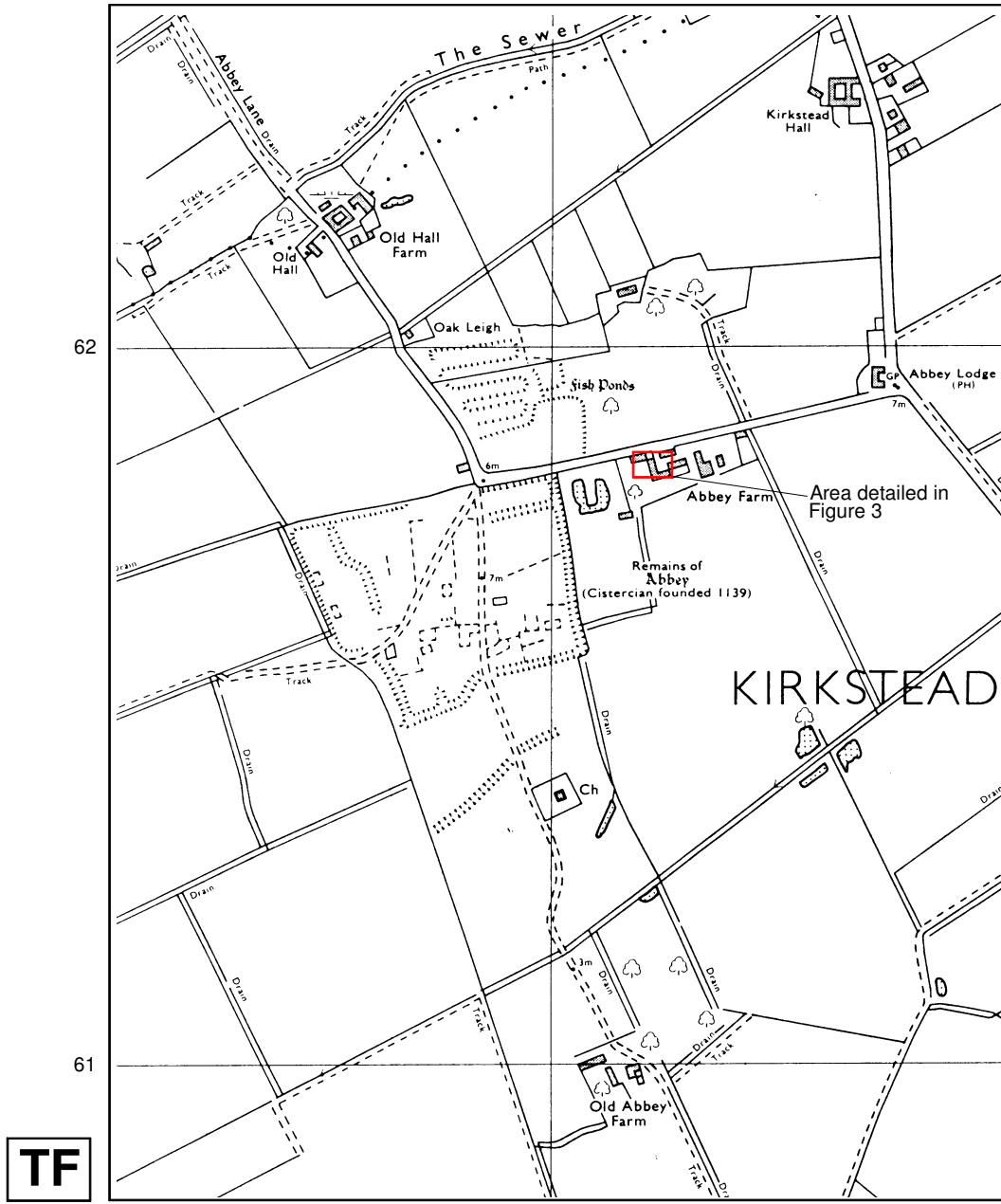
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)



Figure 1. General location plan



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	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Kirkstead Abbey Farm KSAF 13		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 88/13

Figure 2. Site location plan

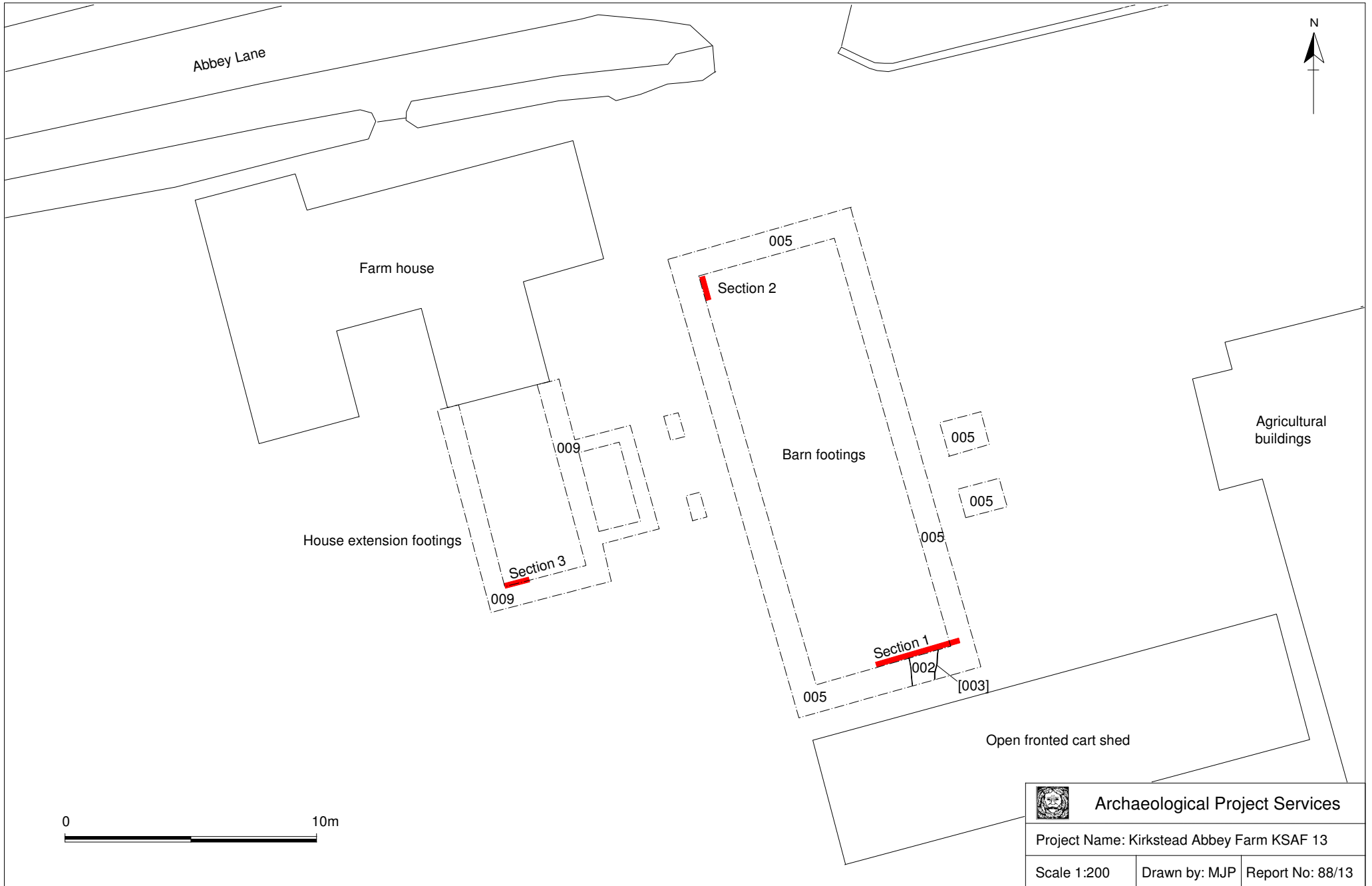
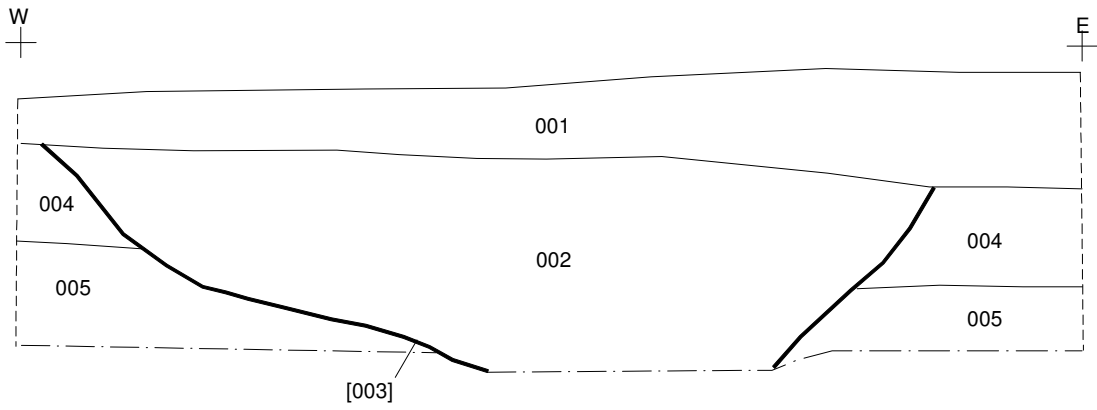
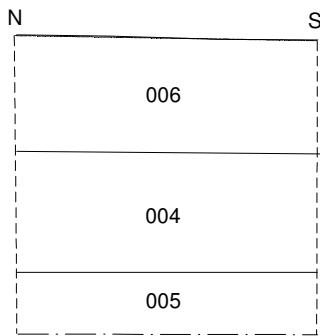


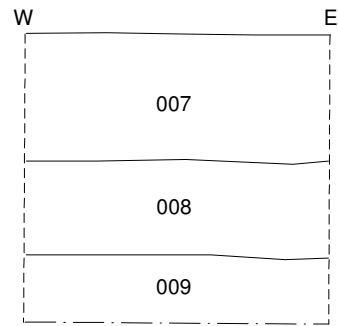
Figure 3. Trench Location Plan



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Kirkstead Abbey Farm KSAF 13

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: MJP

Report No: 88/13

Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1. Excavating the barn footings looking east



Plate 2. Pit [003], Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 3. Representative Section 2 looking east



Plate 4. Completed barn footings looking south



Plate 5. Excavating the house extension footings looking north



Plate 6. Section 3, house extension footings, looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Area	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Barn	Loose dark grey/brown, concrete, brick and stone (including probable re-used abbey stone) rubble mixed with topsoil, up to 0.4m thick	Rubble base for concrete yard	Modern
002	Barn	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with common small rounded pebbles, at least 0.7m thick	Fill of [003]	18 th century
003	Barn	Feature of unknown shape in plan, 2.9m wide, at least 0.7m deep with concave west side and steep east side	Cut of probable pit	18 th century
004	Barn	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.3m thick	Subsoil	
005	Barn	Loose mid yellow sand with occasional patches of soft mid grey clay, at least 0.4m thick	Natural	
006	Barn	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded stones, 0.37m thick	Topsoil	
007	House extension	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with common gravel and brick frags, 0.43m thick	Topsoil	Modern
008	House extension	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.3m thick	Subsoil	
009	House extension	Loose mid orangey brown sand with occasional gravel, at least 0.22m thick	Natural	

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codename (Cname) used is in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 35 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was weighed and then examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the Medieval period.

Condition

The sherd is fresh.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Area	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Part	Comment	Date
Barn	001	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Jug	1	1	36	BS	Oxidised	L13th-15th

Provenance

The fragment of pottery was recovered from rubble layer (001) in the barn area.

Range

There is a single fragment of Toynton Medieval pottery (TOY). The sherd is probably from a jug. This type is common in this area and dates from the later 13th to 15th century AD.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The sherd should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered during the watching brief; this came from rubble layer (001) in the Barn area.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A single (285g) animal bone was recovered from the topsoil (007).

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Condition

The overall condition of the bone was good, averaging at grade 2 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
007	cattle	tibia	-	1	285	juvenile

Summary

As a single bone, retrieved from the topsoil, it has little potential. It may be suitable for discard.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Three fragments and two bottles weighing 1272g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. The pieces from (002) exhibit severe iridescent decay. The pieces from (007) are complete or near-complete vessels.

Results

Table 3, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
002	Dark olive green vessel (probable bottle) fragments, very heavy iridescence	3 (link)	25	18 th century
007	Dark brown flattened globular shaped bottle with "No 649" and a trident embossed on the base.	1	828	mid 20 th century
	Very pale blue-green flat rectangular bottle with "CHEMIST Carlton HORNCastle & WOODHALL SPA" embossed on one side.	1	419	

Provenance

The glass was recovered from a pit fill (002) and topsoil (007).

Range

Fragments, or complete examples, of three bottles were found. Several iridescent fragments are from a bottle of probable late 18th century date. The other two examples include one embossed with a trademark identifying Carlton, chemists in Woodhall Spa and Horncastle. There is no reference in the 1851 trade directory for Lincolnshire of a Carlton in Woodhall Spa, though there is a record of a William Preston Carlton operating as a druggist in Horncastle at that date (White 1851, 764). This bottle though is probably early-middle 20th century in date.

The second bottle is similar to a 'Mateus rosé' bottle and is probably of mid 20th century date.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential. However, the complete pieces from (007) indicate that this context was probably not disturbed after the bottles were deposited. They may also indicate that (007) was related to a bottle dump.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	L13 th -15 th century	Based on a single sherd
002	18 th century	based on 1 glass
007	mid 20 th century	based on glass

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
9	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
3	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number	LCNCC: 2013.75
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	KSAF 13
Oasis record no:	archaeo11-156040

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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