
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT CEMETERY LANE
AND BRIGG ROAD,
NORTH KELSEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NKCL 10)**

**Work Undertaken For
Gelder Limited**

August 2010

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: 125229
National Grid Reference: TA 0465 0195
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.76
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-81520

APS Report No. **80/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Cemetery Lane and Brigg Road, North Kelsey, Lincolnshire. The investigation monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for seven new dwellings.

The site lies on the periphery of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village best represented by earthworks in an around the settlement core. Neolithic (4000-2250 BC) and Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) tools are known from the vicinity and a Roman (AD 43-410) road that once connected Caistor to Ermine Street once passed to the south of the site.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil layers along with a boundary ditch of possible Romano-British date. A single find of Roman roof tile was retrieved from the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Gelder Limited to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential development at Cemetery Lane and Brigg Road, North Kelsey, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 125229. The investigation was carried out between the 7th June and 8th July 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

North Kelsey is located 14km northwest of Market Rasen and 30km north of Lincoln

in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 500m northwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Nicholas at National Grid Reference TA 0465 0195 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the north side of the junction of Cemetery Lane with Brigg Road at a height of c. 12m OD on land that slopes down to the north.

Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association, typically stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of glacial lake deposits of sand and gravel which seals a solid geology of the Jurassic Ancholme Clay Group (GSGB 1982).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

North Kelsey is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. A number of polished flint and stone axes of Neolithic date have been recorded around the village as well as tools of Bronze Age date.

There are a number of cropmark enclosures recorded within the parish that may be prehistoric or Romano-British in date. A Romano-British road from Caistor is fossilised in Station Road to the east of the site, the probable continuation of which would lie 50m to the south of the site (Margary 1973, 240).

North Kelsey is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Chelsi*, *Norchelsie* and *Nortchelese* the name is derived from the Old English and means 'dry or higher ground in a marsh (*ēg*)' prefixed with an unknown personal name (Cameron 1998, 72). At the time of Domesday, the land was held by the King and Count Alan and contained 700 acres of meadow and a mill (Foster and Longley 1976).

St Nicholas has elements dating to the 13th century and a Norman grave slab, though is mainly of 18th century date (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 583). To the south of the village are the earthwork remains of a court or grange belonging to the Gilbertine priory of North Ormsby. The earthworks include a complex of fishponds as well as boundaries and tofts of buildings associated with the grange (Everson *et al.* 1991, 139). Ridge and furrow of the medieval field system has also been recorded as earthworks around the village.

A watching brief undertaken 200m south of the site identified a possible post-medieval buried soil sealed by material from eroded earthworks of ridge and furrow and former crofts (Dymond 2000, 3).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil was partially stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development, generally 1.5m to 2.1m below the current ground level. Following excavation the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. 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

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trenches in each plot was a layer of plastic mid bluish grey clay (004). This measured in excess of 1m thick. This was sealed by yellowish brown sand and gravel (003) that was up to 0.5m thick.

Lying above the natural sand and gravel was a subsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (002) that had a maximum thickness of 0.5m.

In Plot 8, the subsoil was absent within the northernmost foundation trenches and would seem to have been lowered previously. Cut into the sand and gravel was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (006). This was over 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4). A single fill of brownish grey sandy silt (005) was recorded that produced a fragment of Roman roof tile.

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising greyish brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clay relate to the underlying solid geology that was sealed by glacially derived sand and gravel.

These were sealed by a subsoil indicating that the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past. Part of the northeastern section of the site appeared to have been lowered previously, as subsoil was absent in this area. A ditch of possible Romano-British date indicates a former boundary.

Finds from the investigation comprise a single fragment of Roman roof tile.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Cemetery Lane and Brigg Road, North Kelsey, as the site lay in the fringe of medieval settlement and close to the projected course of a Roman road.

A possible Roman boundary ditch was recorded as was an extensive subsoil. Except for a single fragment of Roman roof tile, finds were generally absent from the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R Porter of Gelder Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisors: Andrew Failes, Bob Garland, Lavinia Green

Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Margary, ID, 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain* (3rd edition)

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition, revised N Antram.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

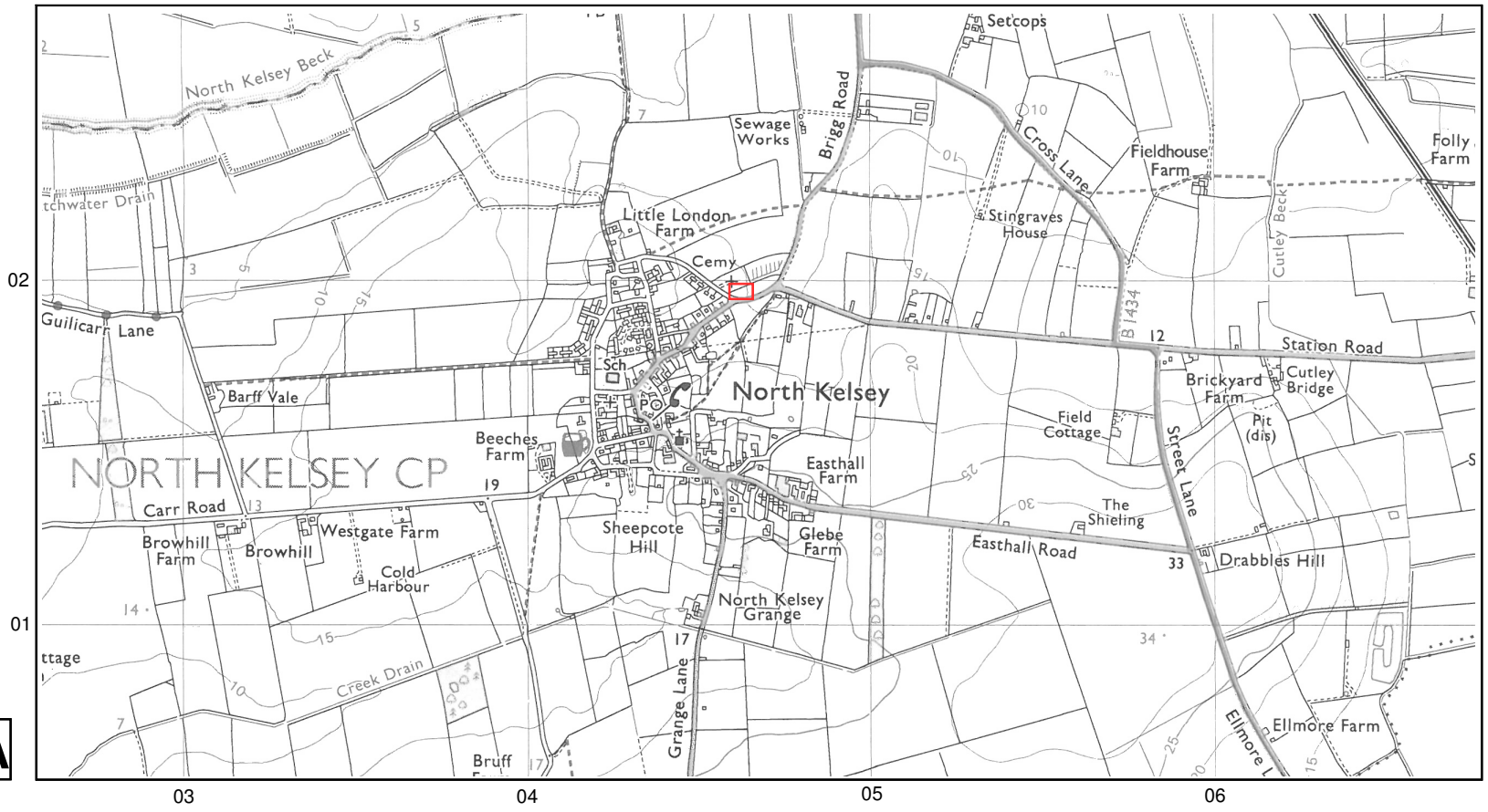
GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain



Figure 1 - General location plan



TA



 Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Cemetery Lane, North Kelsey NKCL10		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 80/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

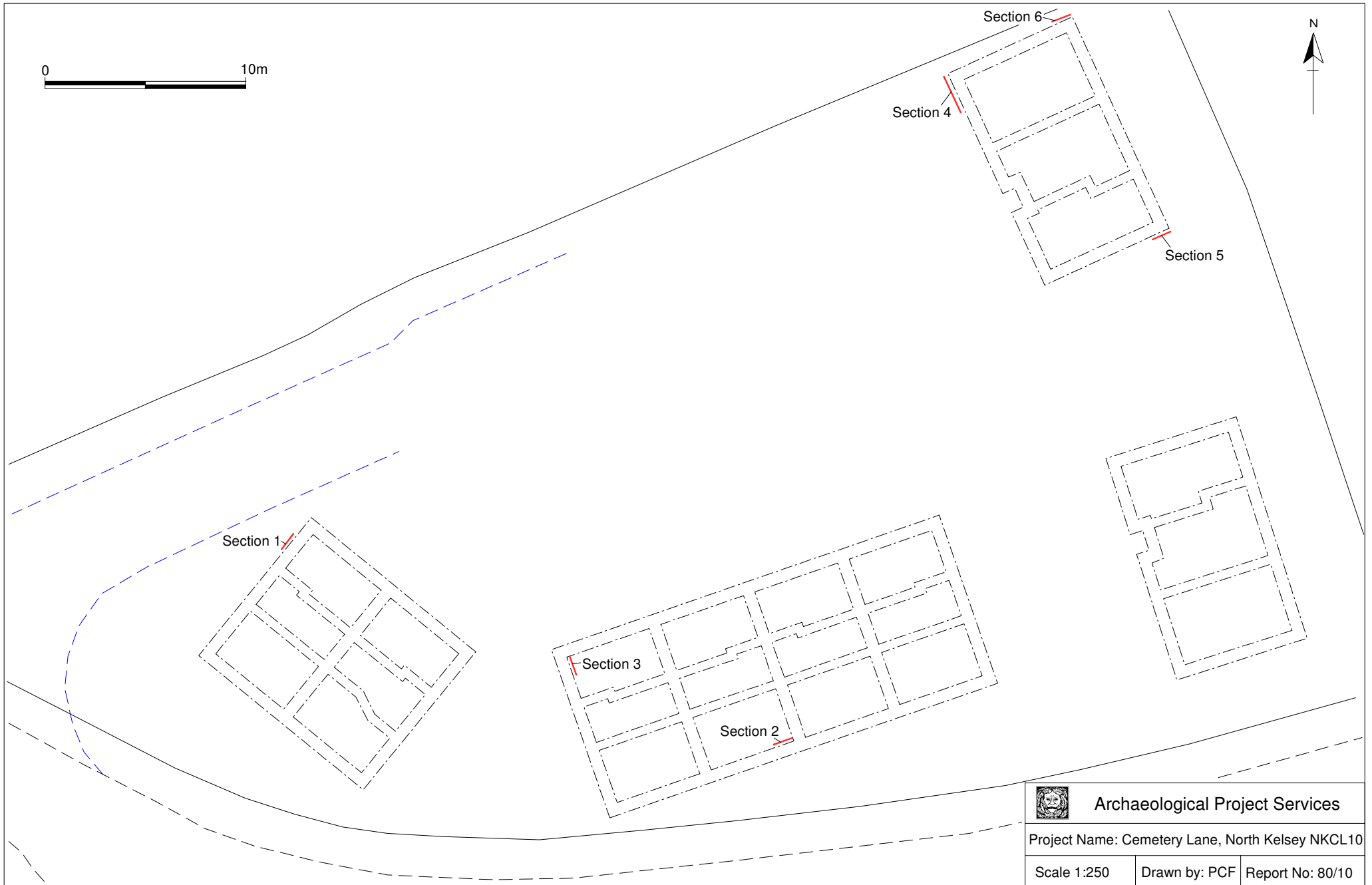
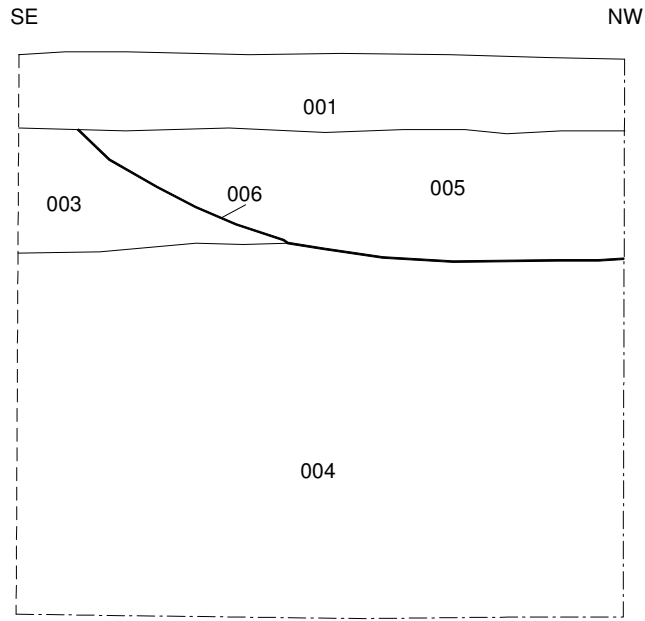
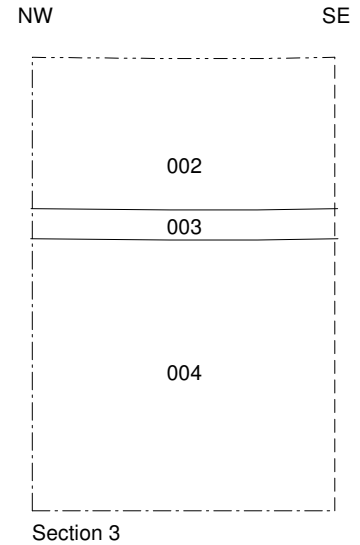
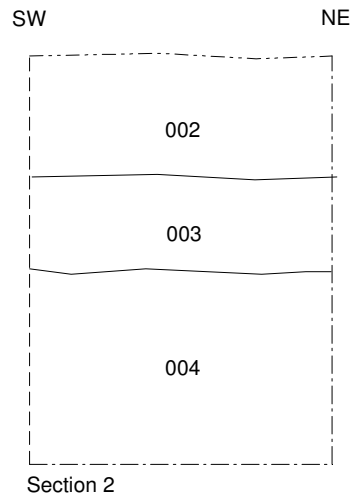
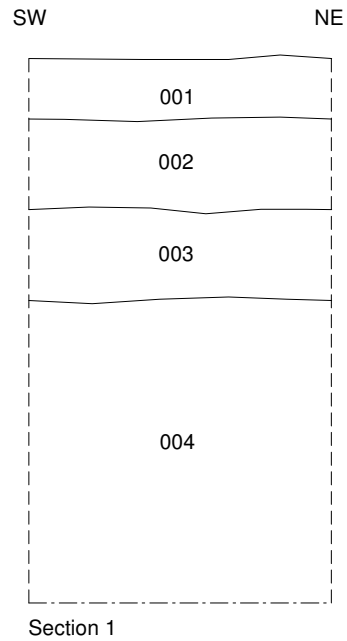


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations




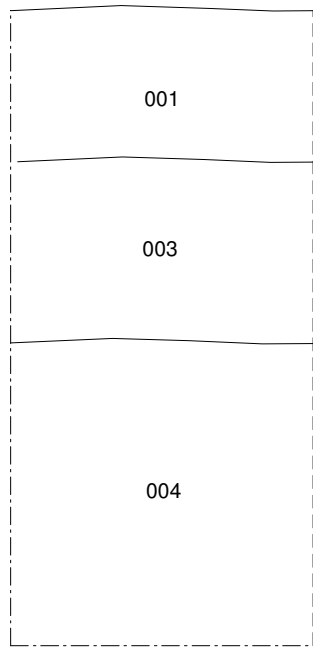
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Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 80/10

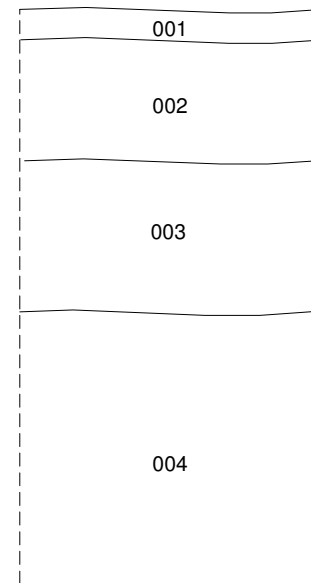
Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4

NE SW



Section 5

SW NE



Section 6



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Cemetery Lane, North Kelsey NKCL10

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 80/10

Figure 5 - Sections 5 and 6



Plate 1 – General view looking west over the site



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	1-2	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	1-2	Friable mid to light greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	1-2	Friable mid yellowish brown sand and gravel, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	1-2	Firm to plastic mid bluish grey, >1m thick	Natural deposit
005	8	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of (006)
006	8	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >1.8m wide by 0.4m deep, moderate sides and flattish base	Ditch

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 174 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out, viewed and then weighed. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The fragment is abraded and partially vitrified, perhaps in situ during a building fire, but more probably due to post-depositional burning.

Results

Table 1, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Area	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
005	Plot 8	RTIL	Roman Tile	OX/R/OX; fine-medium sandy	1	174	Abraded upper surface; knife trimmed edge; calcareous fabric; slightly curved; prob TEG	Roman

Provenance

The fragment came from fill (005) within linear ditch feature [006], in Plot 8.

Range

There is a single fragment of Roman tile (RTIL), probably from a Tegula roofing tile.

Potential

The piece should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problem for long term storage.

Summary

A single piece of Roman tile was recovered during the watching brief.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
005	Roman	Based on CBM

ABBREVIATIONS

CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- ~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>

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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> 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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Grange	A monastic farm complex at some distance from the abbey, generally supervised by a monk and staffed by lay brethren, created to cultivate one of the abbey's estates.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

6	Context records
5	Trench record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds 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: 2010.76

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

NKCL 10

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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