

**'CHESTERTON', SCOTHERN LANE,  
DUNHOLME, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 0237 7915  
Planning ref.: 126681  
PCAS Job No.: 758  
Site code: SLDM 11  
Archive acc. code: 2011.48

Report prepared for

Mr. R. Green

by

R. D. Savage

March 2012



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX

Tel. (01522) 703800  
e-mail [info@pre-construct.co.uk](mailto:info@pre-construct.co.uk)

©Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

## Contents

Summary	1
<b>1.0</b> Introduction	2
<b>2.0</b> Site location and description	2
<b>3.0</b> Geology and topography	2
<b>4.0</b> Planning background	2
<b>5.0</b> Archaeological and historical background	4
<b>6.0</b> Methodology	5
<b>7.0</b> Results	6
<b>7.1</b> Test pits	6
<b>7.2</b> Footings trenches	6
<b>8.0</b> Conclusion	8
<b>9.0</b> Effectiveness of methodology	8
<b>10.0</b> Acknowledgements	8
<b>11.0</b> Site Archive	8
<b>12.0</b> Bibliography	8

**Appendix 1:** Colour Plates

**Appendix 2:** Context Register

**Appendix 3:** OASIS summary

## Figures

**Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000

**Fig. 2:** Developer's plan of the redevelopment with site location plan, not to scale

**Fig. 3:** Plan of test pit locations at scale 1:250

**Fig. 4:** Plan of the monitored footings trenches of the new house at scale 1:100, with four sample sections at scale 1:20

## Plates

**Pl. 1:** General shot of the site before the commencement of groundworks, looking ENE

**Pl. 2:** NW-facing section of Test Pit 1

**Pl. 3:** NW-facing section of Test Pit 2

- PI. 4:** E-facing section of Test Pit 3
- PI. 5:** W-facing section of Test Pit 4
- PI. 6:** The footings trenches during excavation, looking south
- PI. 7:** Sample section at the north-eastern corner of the house plot, showing the demolition layers 104 and 105
- PI. 8:** Sample section at the south side of the house plot, showing possible ground consolidation deposit 106

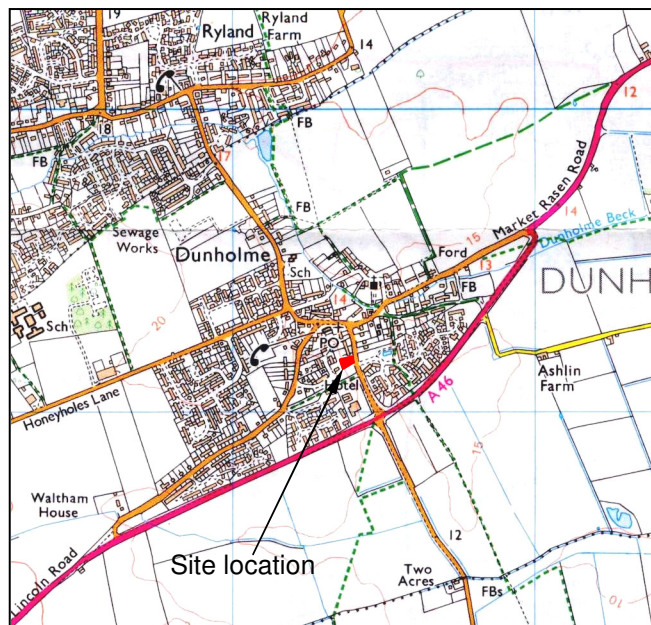
## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of a replacement house on land at 'Chesterton' on Scothern Lane in Dunholme, Lincolnshire.

The development site is situated on the periphery of the early medieval to post-medieval settlement of Dunholme, and is close to a medieval moated manor site, identified by previous archaeological work in the vicinity.

Archaeological evaluations previously carried out to the south and south-west of the site encountered only natural waterborne deposits, and concluded that the area had until recently been waterlogged marginal land, unsuitable for habitation or permanent cultivation.

No datable deposits pre-dating the 20<sup>th</sup> century were recorded during the construction groundworks. A stony deposit below the subsoil may have represented an earlier ground consolidation episode, but no datable material was retrieved from it. Archaeological monitoring was terminated before the completion of the groundworks.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000: the position of the site is shown in red (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr. R. Green to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land at 'Chesterton', Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire, following the demolition of a single-storey dwelling.

The development site is situated on the periphery of the early medieval to post-medieval settlement of Dunholme, and is close to a medieval moated manor site identified by previous archaeological work (LCC, 2011).

## **2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)**

The village of Dunholme lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey, some 6km north-east of Lincoln. It is one of a chain of villages running along the spring line near the foot of the eastern slope of the Lincoln Edge. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dunholme was bypassed on the south side by the A46, superseding the old Lincoln to Market Rasen road through the village; the village core is grouped around the junctions of the Market Rasen road with Ryland Road, running to the north-west, and Scothern Lane, running to the south-east.

The site is located to the south of the village core, on the west side of Scothern Lane. It is an elongated trapezoid in shape, aligned roughly NE-SW and narrowing towards its frontage on Scothern Lane; it comprises a single house plot, with a roughly centrally positioned house and an orchard and garden to the rear, and was under long, rough grass when groundworks commenced.

The site covers an area of c. 0.17ha and is centred on NGR TF 0251 7922.

## **3.0 Geology and topography**

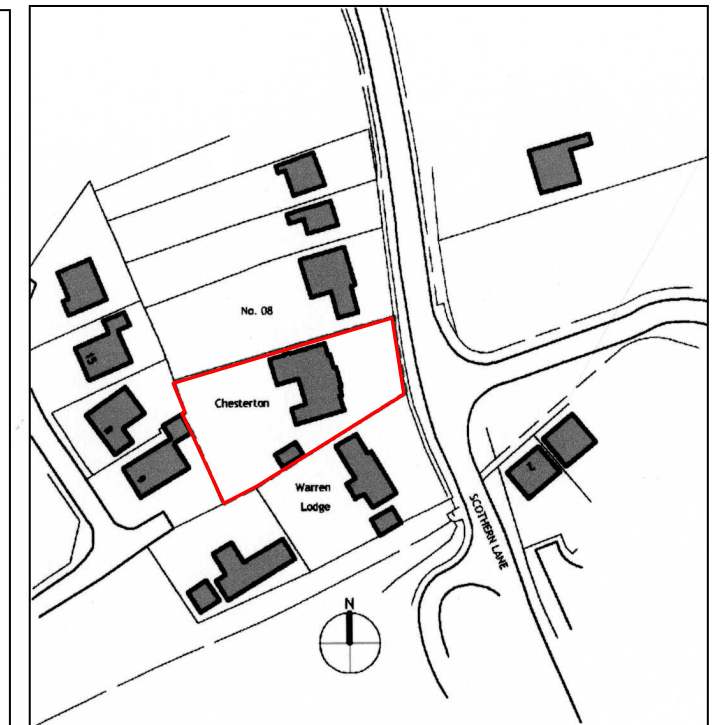
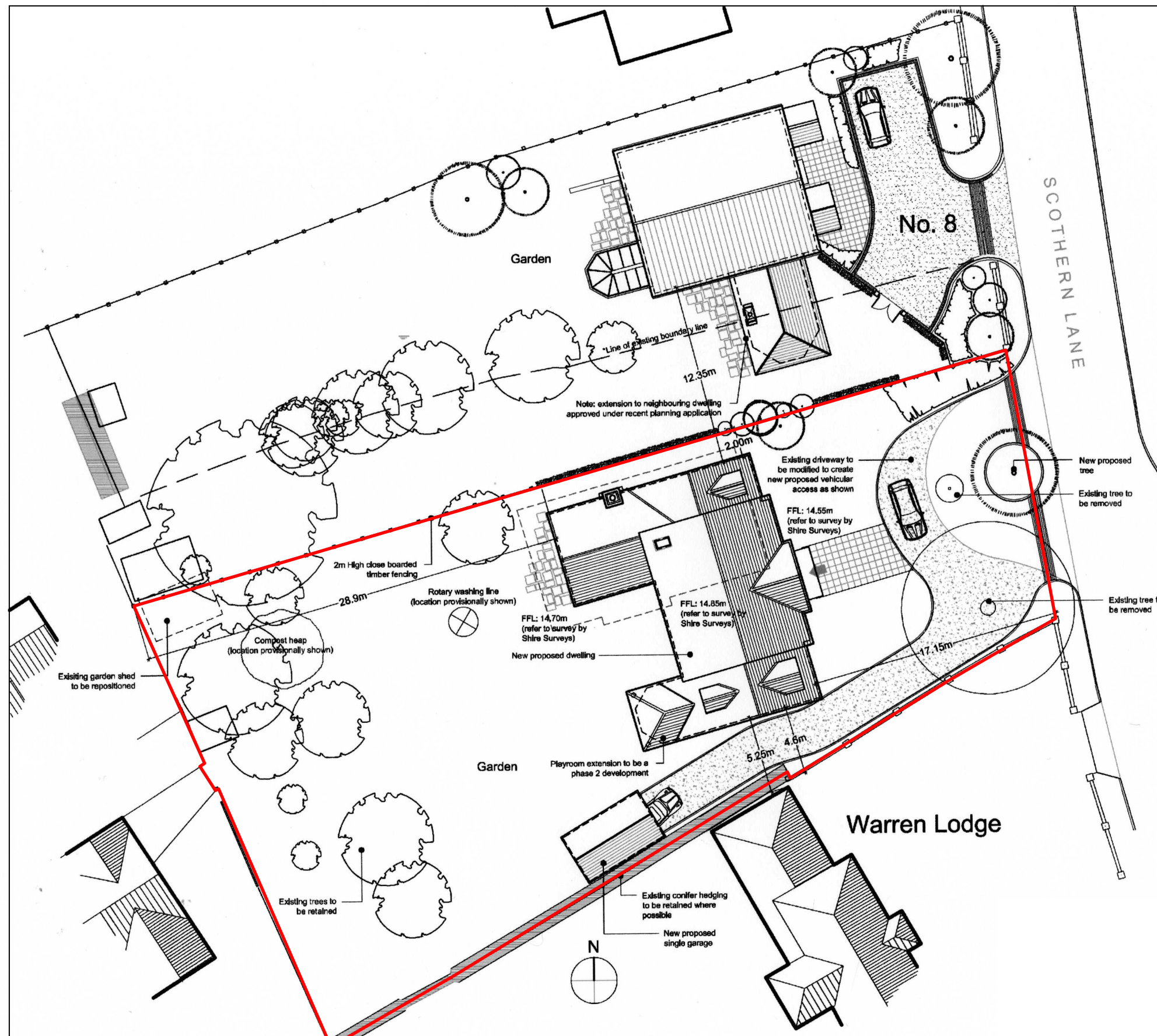
No drift geology is recorded in the vicinity of the site. The local solid geology is recorded as Middle Jurassic Kellaways Formation sandstone and mudstone, although the boundary between this stratum and the overlying Middle Jurassic Cornbrash Formation shelly limestone is drawn a short distance to the west of the site (British Geological Survey, 1999).

Dunholme village is located on the dip slope of the Jurassic Ridge, on a small stream known as the Dunholme Beck, a tributary of the Barlings Eau and subsequently of the River Witham. The site is located at approximately 15m OD, and slopes from west to east.

## **4.0 Planning background**

Full planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for a replacement dwelling on land at 'Chesterton', off Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire (Planning Ref.: 126681).

Previous archaeological work carried out on the opposite side of Scothern Lane suggested that the site had the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered during redevelopment. Planning permission was therefore granted with a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work approved by the Local Planning Authority. The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team stipulated that this should consist of a programme of monitoring and recording during all stages of redevelopment (LCC, 2011).



**Figure 2:** Plan of the proposed redevelopment (not to scale) with a location plan showing its position within the village (not to scale). The site is outlined in red on both plans. Plans prepared by John Halton Design Ltd. and supplied by Mr. R. Green.

## 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is little evidence for pre-Iron Age activity in the study area, but a settlement appears to have existed in the area in the Iron Age and throughout the Roman period (Gardner, 2006). A programme of archaeological works on a major housing development site alongside the A46 to the east of Scothern Lane, south-east of the present development site, exposed features tentatively interpreted as parts of a Romano-British enclosure and field system, possibly with associated structures (HER ref. 53148).

Small amounts of Anglo-Saxon pottery have been found locally, indicating a pre-Norman origin for Dunholme, while the archaeological works on the Scothern Lane housing development encountered evidence for activities at the edge of a Saxon settlement, although not the settlement itself (Allen, 1999, Brett and Allen, 2002). The Domesday Survey of AD 1086, records three manorial holdings in Dunholme, with a total population of 30 taxable households; all three holdings had both arable land and meadow, but no other land use is listed, nor are any industries (Williams and Martin, 1992). Remains of the medieval ploughlands, in the form of ridge-and-furrow earthworks left by the strip-ploughing of the communally worked open fields, have been recorded to the north and south of the village. One of these areas of ridge-and-furrow lay to the south and south-west of the present development site, on land now occupied by the Four Seasons Hotel and a housing development to its west (HER refs. 54177 and 54181).

A church is first mentioned in Dunholme in AD 1123: nothing is known about this building, as the present church of St. Chad dates to the period 1190-1250 (Cope-Faulkner, 1998; HER ref. 53154). Dunholme water mill is first documented in 1202 (HER ref. 53141). As neither of these buildings appears in Domesday Book, it suggests that Dunholme experienced a period of growth and increasing prosperity in the High Middle Ages. Land in Dunholme parish was granted to Kirkstead Priory in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century: it was administered from a grange, which has been identified with the later Dunholme Manor (Cope-Faulkner, 1998). Dunholme Manor, demolished at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, stood roughly opposite the present site on the east side of Scothern Lane (HER ref. 53158).

An archaeological evaluation comprising 18 trenches was carried out in 1995 in advance of an extensive housing development to the south-west of the present development site. Standing ridge-and-furrow earthworks had already been recorded in the field, but no other archaeological features were encountered, and no artefacts were retrieved from any deposit other than the topsoil (Wragg, 1996).

A further archaeological evaluation took place on the site of the Four Seasons Hotel, to the south of the present development site, in 2001. Only natural sand and silt deposits, with the remains of land drains and features interpreted as natural tree rooting, were encountered in the first three trenches; Trench 2 flooded during excavation, and the project was abandoned without excavating Trench 4. The evaluators concluded that the site had formerly been low-lying land, waterlogged and intermittently flooded, and unsuitable for permanent occupation or cultivation (McDaid, 2001).

An extensive programme of archaeological works was carried out between 1999 and 2003 in advance of and during the construction of an extensive housing development to the south-east of the present development site, alongside the A46. The programme began with an evaluation, in which the most westerly evaluation trench, 10m from the east side of Scothern Lane, was the only one to contain no archaeological deposits or features from any period. The absence of activity in this area was ascribed to waterlogged conditions similar to those identified during the Four Seasons Hotel evaluation. Elsewhere on the Scothern Lane development site, this evaluation encountered traces of Anglo-Saxon settlement, with Middle Saxon, Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery. It also exposed the remains of medieval stone buildings, identified as Dunholme Manor, in the north-western corner of the site (Allen, 1999).

A follow-up excavation clarified the interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon remains, which appeared to be principally associated with agricultural activity, and as such to represent land directly outside the village itself: the location of pre-Norman Dunholme remains uncertain. More of the medieval Dunholme Manor was exposed, showing it to have been a moated site covering an area of more than 160m<sup>2</sup> (Brett and Allen, 2002).

## **6.0 Methodology**

The bungalow which previously stood on the site had been demolished before archaeological monitoring commenced (plate 1). The first phase of groundworks consisted of the excavation of four test pits under archaeological supervision; Test Pit 2 had to be repositioned due to the presence of an active land drain (fig. 3; plates 2-5). A vegetation strip was then carried out, using a 180° excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless bucket, before the footings trenches of the new building were laid out. The footings trenches were excavated using a 180° excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothless bucket, and were c. 0.8m-0.9m in depth.

All deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS test pit and context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on standard PCAS site diary sheets. Sample sections were drawn at intervals in the footings trenches at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan; the test pits were also plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The archaeological monitoring programme began on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and was completed on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Monitoring was undertaken by Karen Francis and Julian Sleep.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 Test pits (fig. 3; plates 2-5)**

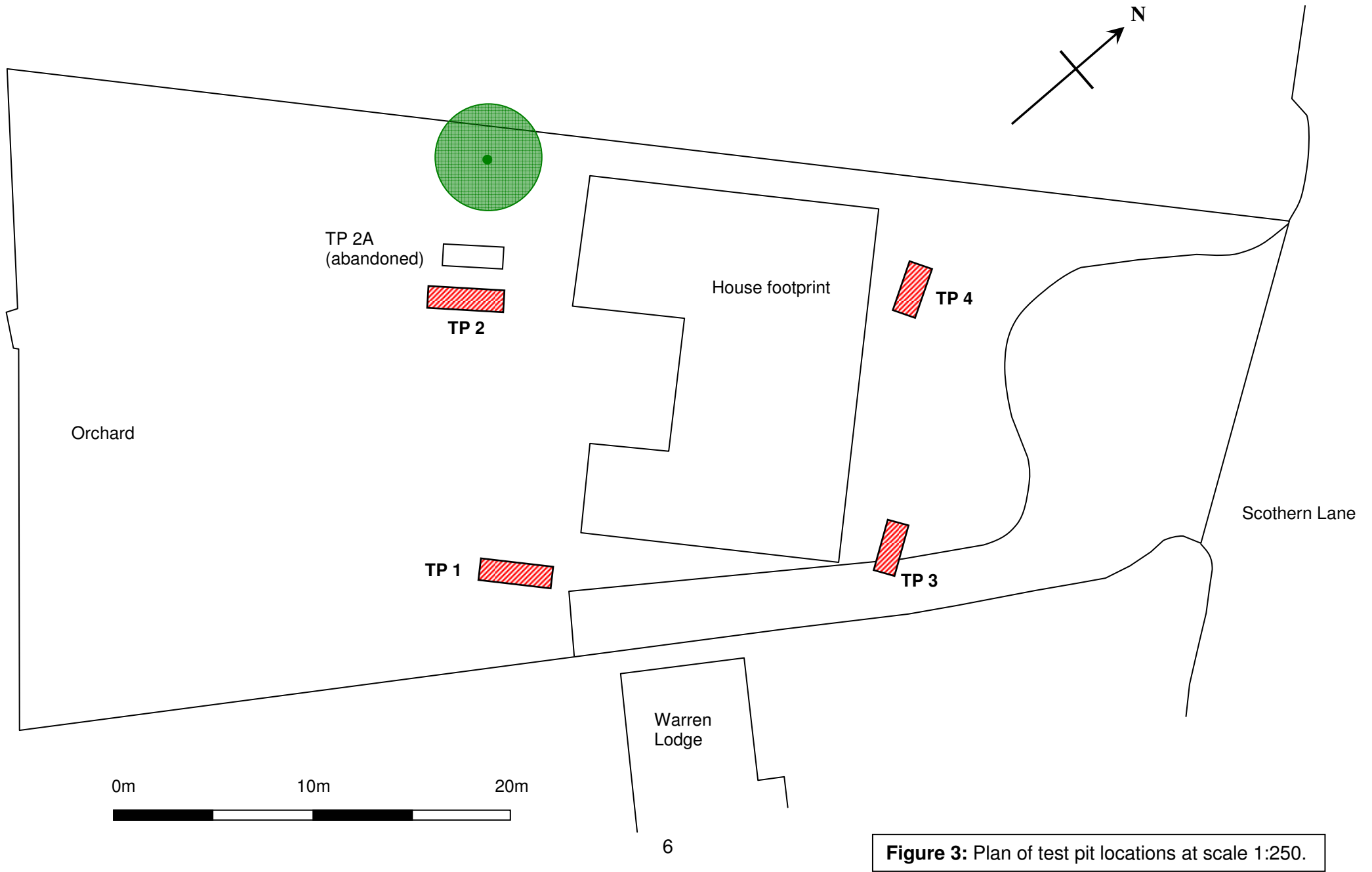
Natural clay was encountered at the base of all test pits, recorded variously as 103, 203, 303 and 403. This was overlain in Test Pits 1 and 4 by a subsoil layer, 102 and 402, overlain by topsoil 101 and 401. Test Pit 3 contained no subsoil: topsoil 301 directly overlay the natural. A fragment of post-medieval glazed pottery was retrieved from topsoil 301, but was discarded without processing. Test Pit 2 adjoined the footprint of the former building on the north side of the site. Neither topsoil nor subsoil was present in this test pit: the natural clay was overlain by a single, disturbed deposit, 204, apparently deriving either from the construction or the demolition of the bungalow.

### **7.2 Footings trenches (fig. 4)**

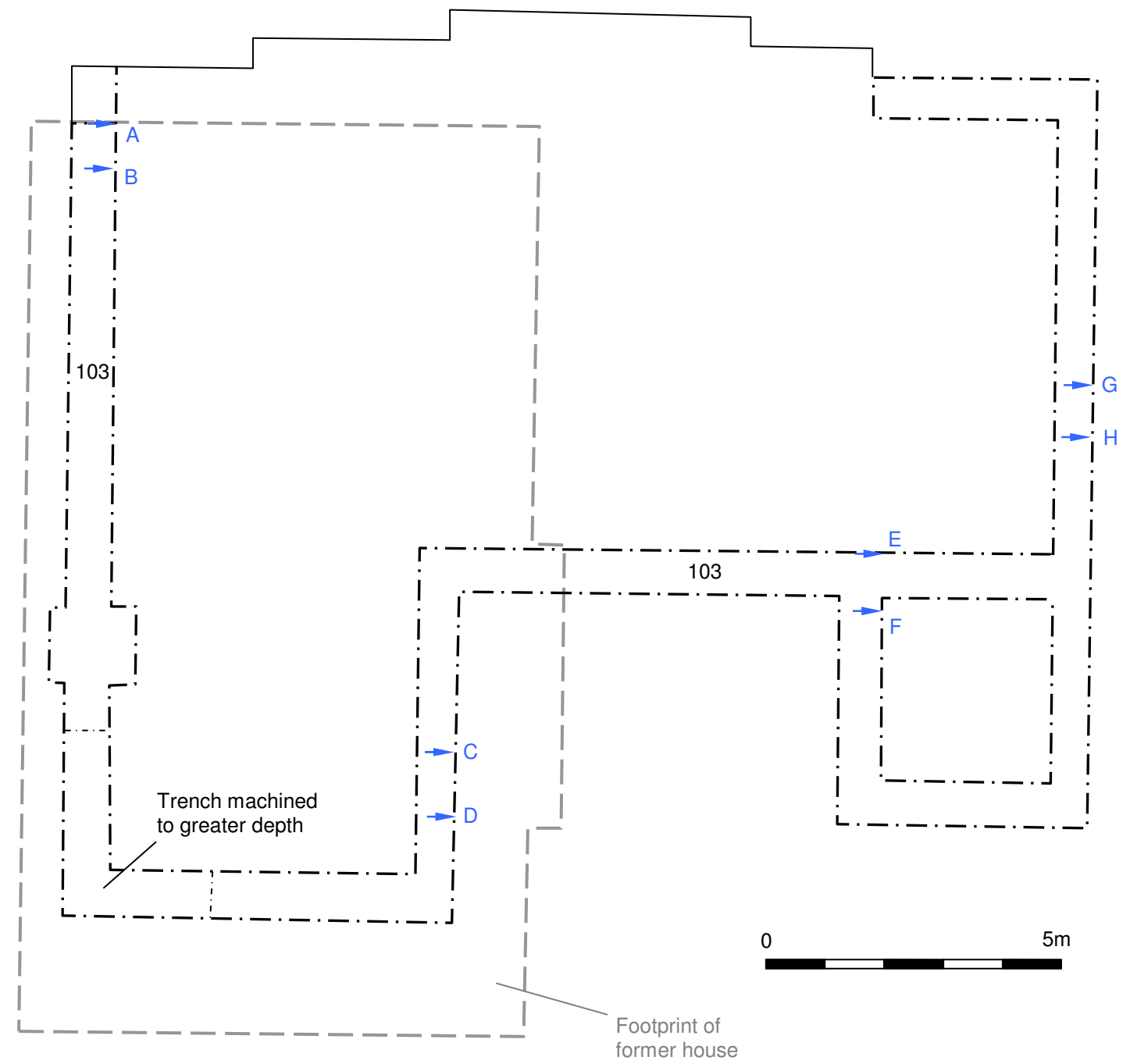
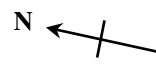
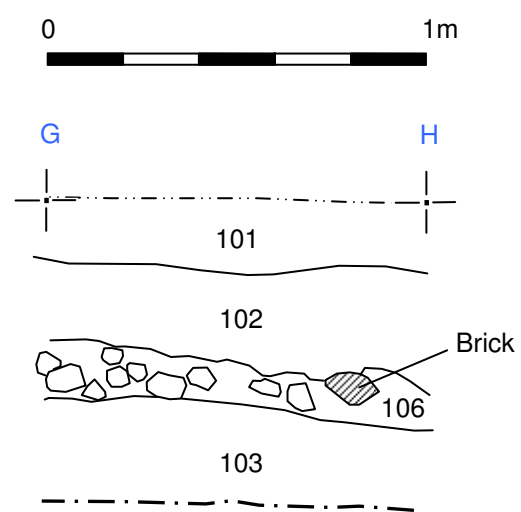
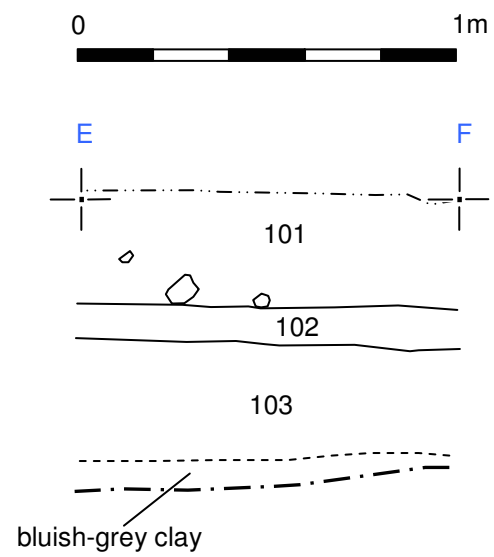
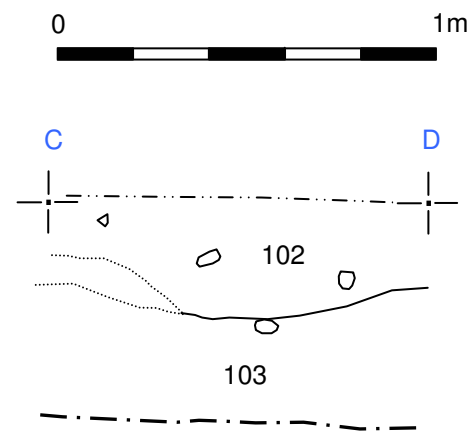
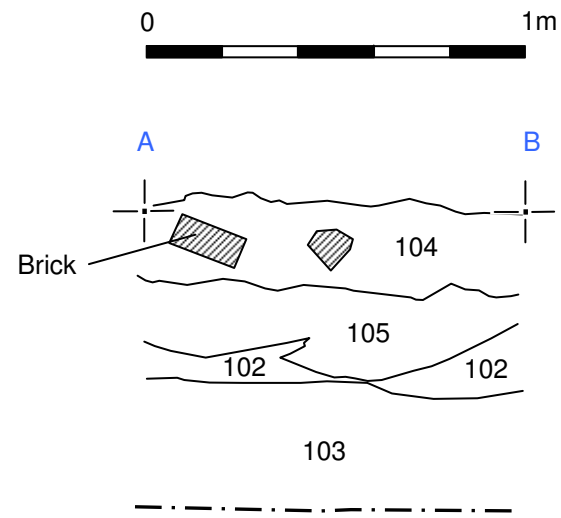
The lowest deposit encountered in the footings trenches was natural clay 103. Over much of the house footprint, the natural clay was overlain by sandy clay subsoil 102; in some areas, this was sealed by topsoil 101, although this layer had been largely truncated or removed by the previous vegetation strip (plate 6). A small amount of pottery and a fragment of CBM were retrieved from the topsoil while vegetation stripping was taking place: the pottery was later identified as post-medieval to modern domestic crockery, and the finds assemblage was discarded without processing.

Towards the northern side of the house footprint, topsoil was absent and subsoil 102 was overlain by 104, a demolition deposit from the previous bungalow. A disturbed, contaminated contact horizon between the two layers was separately recorded as deposit 105 (plate 7).





**Figure 3:** Plan of test pit locations at scale 1:250.



**Figure 4:** Plan of the monitored footings trenches of the new house at scale 1:100, with four sample sections at scale 1:20, located on the plan.

At the south side of the house footprint, a stony clay layer with greenish clay lenses, 106, was seen between the natural clay and the subsoil (plate 8). No dating evidence was retrieved. This deposit was tentatively associated on site with the construction of 'Warren Lodge', the neighbouring house to the south, but this interpretation seems unlikely, as 'Warren Lodge' is a very recent development, post-dating the former bungalow at 'Chesterton', which appears on the 1966-71 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map while 'Warren Lodge' does not (old-maps.co.uk). Earlier OS mapping shows no development in this area, and it seems more likely, considering that several previous evaluations in the neighbourhood have demonstrated that it was wet and unreliable terrain, that deposit 106 represents an area of ground consolidation at an earlier date, possibly a cartload of earth and stones with odd brick fragments, spoil from work elsewhere, tipped into a wet patch in a field.

Following discussion with the Historic Environment Advisor for West Lindsey District Council, the archaeological monitoring programme was concluded before the completion of the groundworks.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Deposit 106, which may have represented an improvement to wet ground, suggested that the land may have been put to some kind of use, probably agricultural, in the past, but as no artefactual material was retrieved from the deposit, no further conclusions could be drawn. These findings are in concordance with those of evaluations carried out to the south and south-west of the site, as well as with the results of the most westerly evaluation trench on the Scothern Lane/A46 development site, which indicated that this area had until recently been marginal land, waterlogged and prone to flooding, unsuitable for habitation or arable cultivation and usable at best for seasonal pasture.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

## **10.0 Acknowledgements**

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Mr. R. Green for this commission. Thanks are also due to Ms. Alexandra Thornton, Historic Environment Advisor for West Lindsey District Council, for her advice during the archaeological monitoring programme.

## **11.0 Site Archive**

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') by June 2012.

## **12.0 Bibliography**

Allen, 1999, *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report: Land off Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

- Brett, A., and Allen, M., 2002, *Archaeological Excavation Report: Land off Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).
- British Geological Survey (BGS), 1999, *Market Rasen: England and Wales Sheet 102, Solid and Drift Geology 1:50,000 Provisional Series*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.
- Cope-Faulkner, P., 1998, *Desk-top Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of Proposed Construction at Manor Farm, off Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Archaeological Project Services.
- Gardner, R. D., 2006, *The Four Seasons Hotel, Scothern Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).
- Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCC), 2011, *Archaeological Brief: Chesterton, Scothern Lane, Dunholme*.
- McDaid, M., 2001, Dunholme, *Four Seasons Hotel: Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished client report for Lindsey Archaeological Services.
- Ordnance Survey, 1999, *Lincoln, Sleaford, Metheringham & Navenby: 1:25,000 Explorer Series no. 272*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.
- Ordnance Survey, 1966-71, 1:2500 scale mapping, consulted online 22/02/12 at <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>.
- Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.
- Wragg, K., 1996, *Land off Lincoln Road, Dunholme, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished client report for City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General shot of the site before the commencement of groundworks, looking east-north-east from its south-western corner. The position of the former bungalow is visible as an area of disturbed ground on the north side of the site.



**Plate 2:** NW-facing section of Test Pit 1.



**Plate 3:** NW-facing section of Test Pit 2.



**Plate 4:** E-facing section of Test Pit 3.



**Plate 5:** W-facing section of Test Pit 4.



**Plate 6:** The footings trenches during excavation, looking south from the centre of the house plot.



**Plate 7:** Sample section at the north-eastern corner of the house plot, showing the demolition layers 104 and 105.



**Plate 8:** Sample section at the south side of the house plot, showing possible ground consolidation deposit 106.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
<b>Test Pit 1</b>			
101	Layer	Mid-orange-brown clayey sand topsoil, 0.30m deep	None
102	Layer	Light- to mid-orange-brown clayey sand subsoil with sub-rounded limestone fragments, 0.40m deep	None
103	Layer	Natural clay: bright orange near horizon, changing to bluish-grey mottled orange at depth.	Geological
<b>Test Pit 2</b>			
201		Void: given out to Test Pit 2a, which was abandoned due to the presence of a working land drain	
202		Void: given out to Test Pit 2a, which was abandoned due to the presence of a working land drain	
203	Layer	Natural orange and blue mottled silty clay	Geological
204	Layer	Mid-orange sandy clay with limestone flecks and clay lenses, 0.35m deep: disturbed material in the footprint of the previous bungalow	None
<b>Test Pit 3</b>			
301	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay topsoil with limestone fragments and charcoal flecks, 0.35m deep	Post-medieval pottery (discarded)
302		Void	
303	Layer	Natural orange and blue mottled silty clay	Geological
<b>Test Pit 4</b>			
401	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay topsoil, 0.30m deep	None
402	Layer	Mid-orange-brown sandy clay subsoil, 0.30m deep	None
403	Layer	Natural orange and blue mottled silty clay	Geological
<b>House Plot</b>			
101	Layer	Mid-orange-brown clayey sand topsoil, 0.25m deep	Post-medieval to modern pottery and CBM (discarded)
102	Layer	Mid- to light orange-brown sandy clay subsoil below layer 105, 0.18m deep	None
103	Layer	Natural silty clay: mottled orange and blue above, becoming bluish-grey and firmer in texture below 0.4m	Geological
104	Layer	Demolition layer from previous bungalow, 0.20m deep	Recent
105	Layer	Dark- to mid-grey sandy clay below demolition layer 104, 0.20m deep, probably arising from contamination of underlying subsoil 102	Recent
106	Layer	Mid-orange-brown silty clay with greenish clay lenses and sub-angular limestone fragments, 0.20m deep, below subsoil 102 at S side of house footprint	Modern?

### **Appendix 3: OASIS summary**