

**LAND ADJACENT TO NURSERY GROVE, LINCOLN**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 9840 7270  
Planning ref.: 2010/0884/F  
PCAS Job No.: 828  
Site code: NGLM 11  
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Report prepared for

Banks, Long & Co.

by

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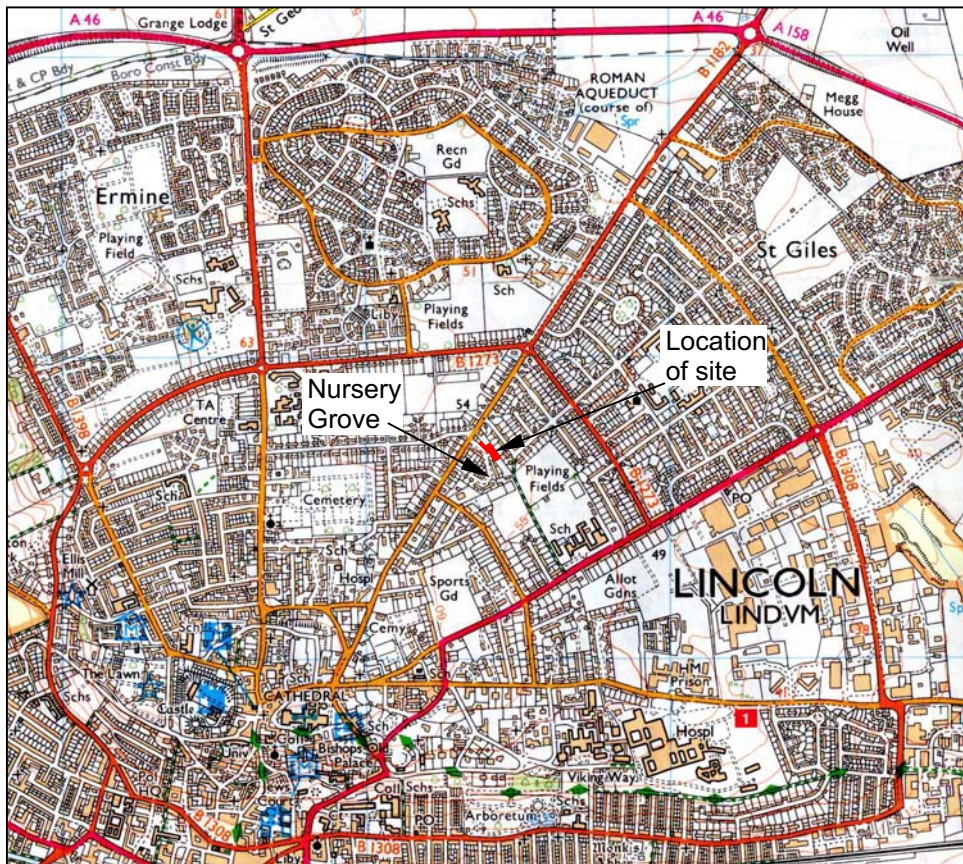
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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of five new detached dwellings on land adjacent to Nursery Grove, Lincoln.

Although the site lies in an area of archaeological importance, 19<sup>th</sup>-century quarrying has caused considerable previous disturbance and little of archaeological note was encountered.



**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).

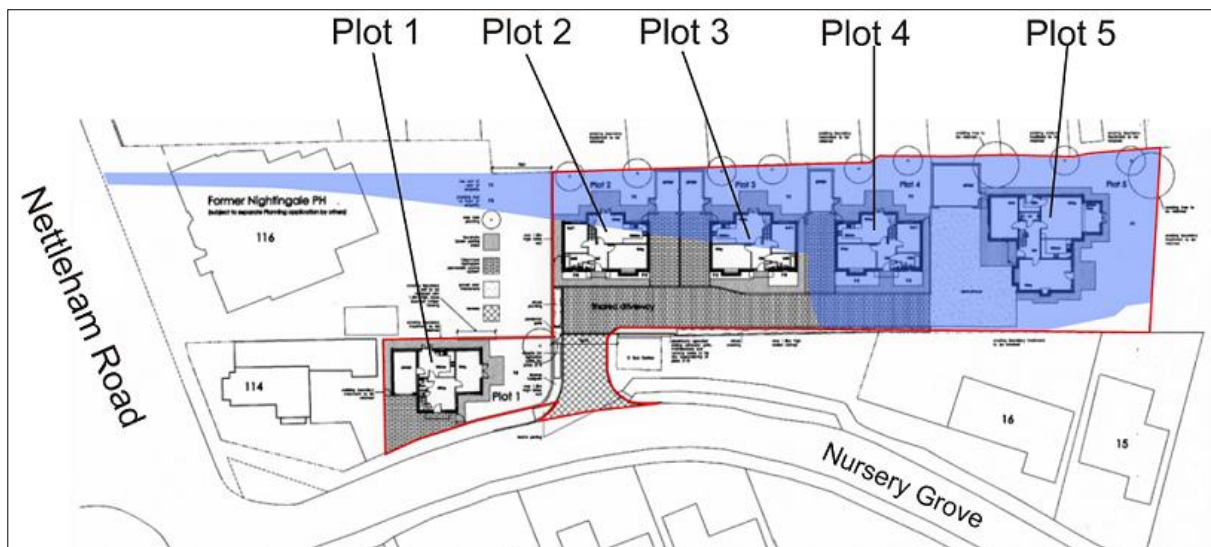
## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Banks, Long & Co. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of five new detached dwellings on a plot of land off Nursery Grove, close to Nettleham Road. The following sections outline the context of the work in more detail and include a full description of the results of the monitoring and recording brief.

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

The development lies just outside the northern boundary of the Newport and Nettleham Road Conservation area (CLC 2010), within the North Lincoln Ribbon Development Character Area (HCL 2010). The site itself is located just to the north of Lincoln city centre, on the north-east side of Nursery Grove, a cul-de-sac on the eastern side of Nettleham Road.

The site comprises plots of land to the rear of two properties, both of which front on to the south-east side of Nettleham Road: No. 114, Nettleham Road and the former Nightingale Public House. The plot to the rear of The Nightingale is a narrow rectangle, aligned north-west to south-east; the smaller, irregular plot to the rear of No. 114 adjoins its western corner. Foundation trenches and appropriate drainage facilities were to be excavated for five proposed building plots (Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** The planned development (area of presumed 19<sup>th</sup>-century quarrying shown in blue).

## 3.0 Geology and topography

The British Geological Survey records no drift geology in the vicinity of the site. The exposed solid geology is undivided Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS 1973). Previous archaeological work in the area noted a natural limestone brash with lenses of sand (Williams 2006).

A soil survey carried out on the site in 2010 sunk five boreholes to a maximum depth of 1.5m. All boreholes encountered modern backfill to a depth of approximately 1m and made ground comprising sand, clay, wood, clinker, slag, glass, rubble, slate and brick and black clay. Below this, a natural layer of clayey coarse sand with limestone gravel and sub-angular

cobbles was encountered. Five test pits were subsequently excavated for soil contamination testing purposes. These encountered the same deposits, noting the presence of some sandstone boulders and occasional large items of refuse (such as a metal boiler) in the made ground (Intersoil 2010).

The site lies to the north of the Witham Valley, on whose southward-facing slope the city centre is positioned; the land in the area slopes gradually with the northward fall of the Lincoln Edge. The approximate height above sea level of the immediate area is 55m OD.

#### **4.0 Planning background**

Full planning permission was granted for the construction of five detached dwellings and an associated shared access on land to the rear of the Nightingale public house, in Nursery Grove, off Nettleham Road, Lincoln (planning application number 2010/0884/F). This permission was granted subject to conditions, including the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording to assess, preserve and/or record the archaeological content of the site.

#### **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

Prior to the Roman period we have little precise information about how land in the neighbourhood of Nettleham Road may have been used. It is likely to have been either pastoral or arable land during the prehistoric era, although no evidence of early field boundaries has yet been found (HCL 2010).

During the Roman military occupation (the first phase of Roman imperial rule, comprising the period AD 60-AD 90) this area would have been within the direct influence of the early legionary fortress as part of the *canabae* (an informal civilian settlement outside the fortress gates). Agricultural production and services in this area would have been dedicated to the service of the legion rather than the local population. When Lincoln became the regional capital, *Lindum Colonia*, an aqueduct was built, entering the city roughly on the line of the present day Nettleham Road. A number of archaeological investigations along the north-west side of this road in previous years, between the 1970s and the present day have encountered the aqueduct, while sections of road surface have also been found and presumed mostly to be of Roman origin. The existence of the Roman aqueduct has been known for several hundred years and its construction and alignment are now well attested. Its source is commonly thought to be the Roaring Meg Spring, located approximately 1km to the north. From here its course has been projected along Nettleham Road (Williams 2006).

Economic decline of the city following the end of Roman imperial rule may have resulted in much of the land in this area becoming less intensively farmed, although it is likely that local heathland continued to be grazed. During the re-organisation of the landscape in the early and high Middle Ages, between AD 850 and 1350, land to the north and east of the city became part of Lincoln's open field system and would have been strip cultivated (HCL 2010).

From possibly as early as the Roman military occupation, land in the North Lincoln Ribbon Development Character Area has been used for the quarrying of limestone amongst other materials. Growth of the city during the Early Industrial Period required raw materials quarried from within the Character Area. Several small, now abandoned, quarries were active from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (HCL 2010). Ordnance Survey mapping from 1889 shows a quarry occupying much of the Nightingale plot. The quarry had an access on to the Nettleham Road, running along the northern edge of the plot and increased in width towards the south-east. The north-western half of this plot has been quarried away to about half its width, while the quarry occupied almost the whole of the

south-eastern half. The quarry is shown as extant, but abandoned, on the 1907 OS map and is not labelled on any subsequent mapping (Intersoil 2010: Appendix A).

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, ribbon development occurred along the radial roads, mostly in the form of large individual villas close to the city centre. Allotment gardens were created along many of the radial and connecting roads (HCL 2010). The Ordnance Survey map from 1907 shows a cluster of glasshouses on the land now occupied by Nursery Grove and the houses adjoining it, including the land to the rear of no. 114, Nettleham Road. The nursery continued to occupy this site until the late 1970s (Intersoil 2010: Appendix A).

The quarry site to the rear of The Nightingale Public House remained undeveloped: OS mapping from 1966 shows it as still being sunken, but with a slope on the south side, indicating that it was filling gradually. It appears to have been completely back-filled by the 1970s. A recent desk-based assessment of the site notes that the back-filling must have taken place before the 1974 Control of Pollution Act, as there is no record of the material with which it was filled (Intersoil 2010).

## 6.0 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring and recording was required and carried out on all groundworks within the areas of the development site.

The purpose of the archaeological observation was to establish the extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and to interpret these in the context of relevant historical sources and with reference to any previous archaeological work that had been undertaken in the vicinity.

If any archaeologically significant material was encountered, a full and permanent record was to be created. Archaeobotanical and environmental evidence was to be taken into account as appropriate.

An online record of the project data has been initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database), and relevant documentation shall be submitted at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of this report.

## 7.0 Results (fig. 3)

In order to observe various different stages of the groundworks, the site was visited by a monitoring archaeologist on eight separate occasions between the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2011 and the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2012. As expected, observation of the digging of footings for Plots 4 and 5 only revealed what was presumably quarry backfill. This turned out also to be the case with plots 2 and 3, which it had been thought might have been less disturbed, the cut of the quarry being clearly visible at the western extent of plot 2. This left only the area around Plot 1 unaffected by previous quarrying activity. Here, within the footing trenches, a linear brick structure, likely to have been a heating flue [103]/[105/ or drainage culvert associated with the former nursery, was encountered. This was planned and recorded. It appeared to have two phases of construction, a new lining having been added at some stage of its use. The structure survived to six or seven courses of red brick, two courses thick. In its second phase it had been lined with an extra layer of bricks and highly fired grey tiles. No other archaeological features of note were observed.

## 8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, although it is clear that this was due to the high level of destruction caused by earlier quarrying. Other nearby areas may be less disturbed and thus contain important archaeological deposits.

## 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 Banks, Long & Co. for this commission.

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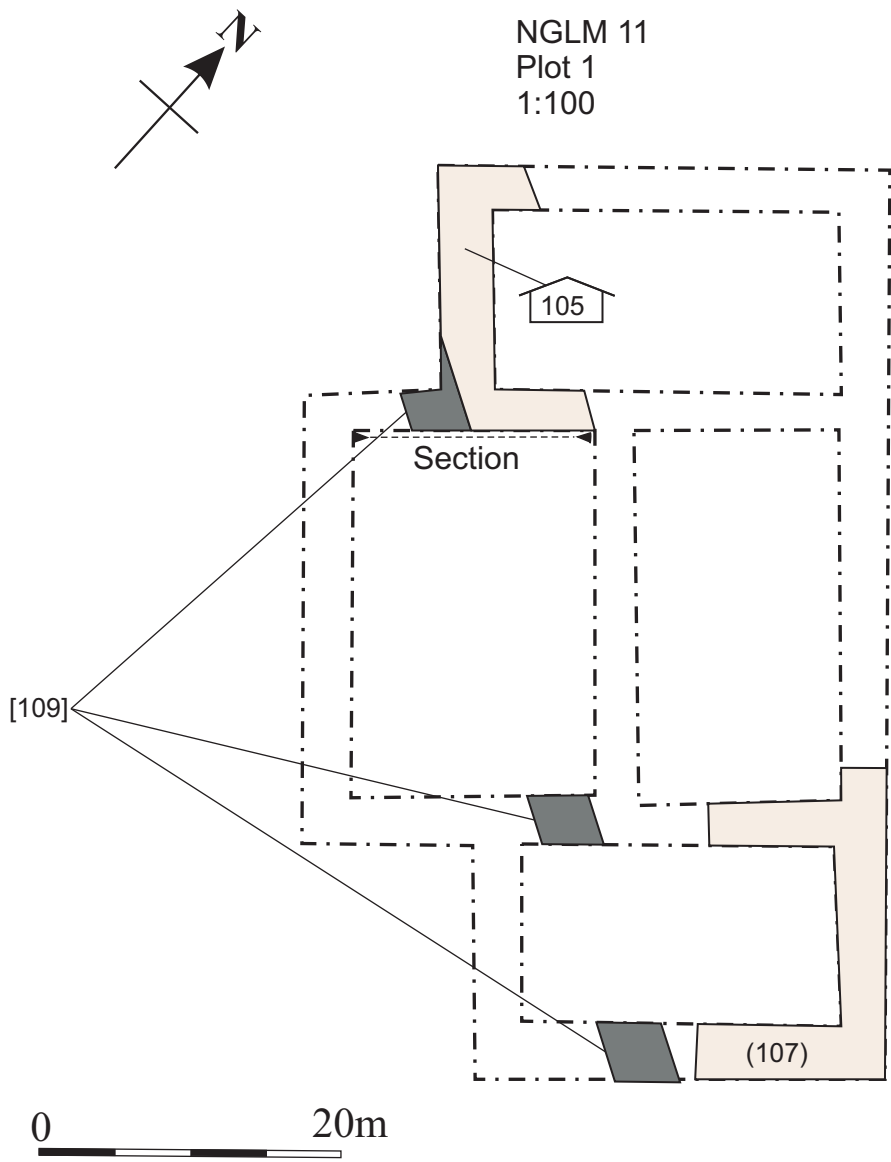
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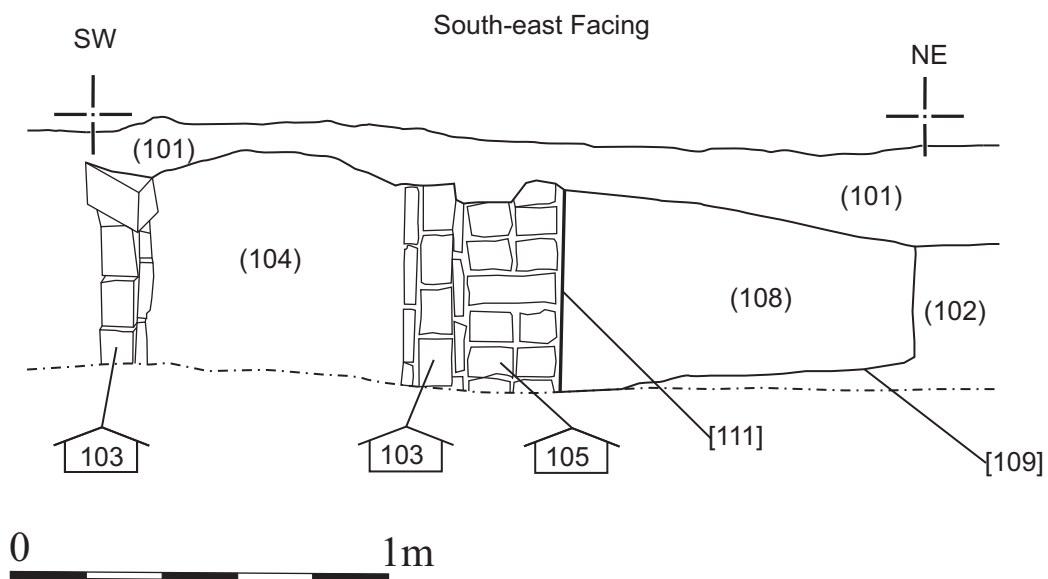
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**Figure 3.** Plan of features found during mechanical excavation of Plot 1



**Figure 4.** South-east facing section showing modern linear, brick structures



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1** General location shot of site down Nursery Grove



**Plate 2** General site shot



**Plate 3** General site shot showing the excavation of footings in Plot 1



**Plate 4** Footings for Plot 1 showing possible flue of heating duct [103]/[105] in section (shot faces SE)

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
101	Layer	Modern disturbed ground.	Brick rubble, sections of ceramic, iron and plastic pipes (no finds kept).
102	Layer	Clay and limestone brash below (101). Probably natural.	None
103	Structure	Modern linear, brick and cement structure. Possible flue?	None
104	Fill	Fill in void of structure 103, which consisted mainly of brick rubble and dark brown sandy silt.	Some modern glass fragments (no finds kept).
105	Structure	Slightly older modern linear, brick structure, butted by, or cut by, 103.	
106	Structure	Structure made from brick and stone.	
107	Fill	Demolition deposit filling cut [110].	Brick rubble, broken and whole bricks (no finds kept).
108	Fill	Fill of cut [109], but very similar to (101).	
109	Cut	Possibly the construction cut for 103.	
110	Cut	Cut made by demolition of structure 106.	
111	Cut	Construction cut for structure 105.	
112	Deposit	Deposit observed behind structure 106.	Brick and limestone fragments (no finds kept).

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**OASIS ID: preconst3-124342**

### Project details

Project name	LAND ADJACENT TO NURSERY GROVE, LINCOLN
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of five new detached dwellings on land adjacent to Nursery Grove, Lincoln. Although site lies in an area of archaeological importance, 18th and 19th-century quarrying on the site had caused considerable disturbance and little of note was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 21-11-2011 End: 26-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE LINCOLN LINCOLN LAND OFF NURSERY GROVE, LINCOLN
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 9840 7270 53.2419073046 -0.525315507493 53 14 30 N 000 31 31 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC acc. no.: 2011.432
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC acc. no.: 2011.432
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing'
Entered by	Matt Hobson (findsroom@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on	26 April 2012

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