

**LAND OFF GLEBE CLOSE
DONINGTON ON BAIN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Planning Ref.: N/042/00848/12
NGR: TF 2360 8308
LCNCC Accession No.: 2012.169
PCAS Site code: DBGE 12
PCAS Job No.: 956

Report prepared for
Goodwin & Tucker Ltd

by

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February 2013



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Summary

- *Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr P. Morley on behalf of Goodwin & Tucker Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Glebe Close, Donington on Bain, Lincolnshire.*
- *This work was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to the granting of Full Planning Permission for the erection of a bungalow and detached double garage (ELDC application No. N/042/00848/12).*
- *A single trench, measuring c. 2m by 15m was excavated within the proposed development area. Part of a large undated pit was recorded, extending beyond the western edge of the trench; flint recovered from this pit has been identified as being of natural origin.*
- *No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed.*
- *Despite the lack of dateable archaeology identified during the evaluation, an archaeological monitoring scheme may be desirable during development groundworks. Due to the proximity of the medieval village centre, the site has the potential for further archaeological features, and may provide more information regarding the identified pit and any associated features.*

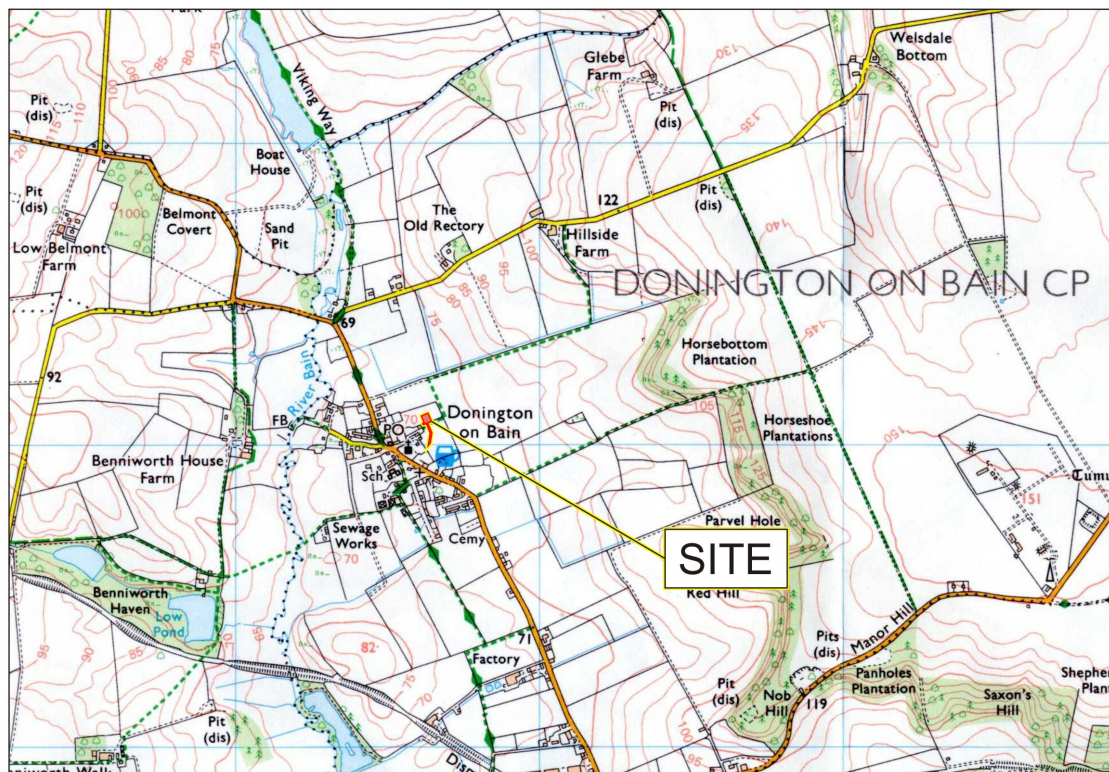


Fig. 1: Site location map. Scale 1:25 000
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr P. Morley on behalf of Goodwin & Tucker Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Glebe Close, Donington on Bain, Lincolnshire (NGR: TF 2360 8308). Site works were undertaken by the author on the 29-30/1/2013.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to meet the objectives of a project specification prepared by PCAS (2012) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist for East Lindsey District Council, conforming to the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), the *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 as revised) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 as revised).

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 & 2 see Photograph No. 1)

Donington on Bain is a small village and civil parish in the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire. It lies in the Lincolnshire Wolds approximately 10km southwest of Louth, and around 10km north of Horncastle. The village sits on the east bank of the River Bain within a predominantly agricultural landscape.

The proposed development site is located on the northeast side of the modern village, immediately to the north of Glebe Close and a short distance to the north of St Andrew's Church, close to the medieval core of the village. The national grid reference for the site is centred at NGR TF 2360 8308, and its mean elevation is c. 70m AOD.

The site comprises a rectangular parcel of uncultivated land, currently used as a builder's storage yard. It is defined by the rear gardens of properties to the south and west, and a paddock and grazing land to the east and north respectively. Most of the site has been stripped of topsoil and has a chalk rubble hardcore surface.

The solid geology of the area is Spilsby Sandstone formation. Alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel are recorded along the course of the River Bain to the west but no superficial drift deposits are recorded in the vicinity of the site. The valley of the Bain, in which the village of Donington on Bain stands, has Kimmeridge clay beneath glacial meltwater sands and gravels, all of which have been used over the centuries for brickmaking and sand and gravel extraction (PCAS 2012).

3.0 Planning Background

Full Planning Permission was for the erection of a bungalow and detached double garage was granted by ELDC on 20/9/2012 for application No. N/042/00848/12 stipulating the following three archaeological conditions (Nos. 7-9):

7. No development shall take place on site until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. This scheme shall include the following:

- *An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements);*
- *A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording.*
- *Provision for site analysis.*
- *Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records.*
- *Provision for archive deposition.*
- *Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work.*

Reason: To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation and in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and to accord with guidance contained within Policy 27 of the East Midlands Regional Plan 2009.

8. The archaeological site work shall be undertaken only in full accordance with the approved written scheme of works referred to in Condition 2. The applicant will notify the Local Planning Authority of the intention to commence at least fourteen days before the start of archaeological work in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. No variation shall take place without prior written consent of the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory archaeological investigation and retrieval of archaeological finds in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and to accord with guidance contained within Policy 27 of the East Midlands Regional Plan 2009.

9. Within three months of the completion of the archaeological scheme of works, two copies of the final report of the archaeological investigation must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and to accord with guidance contained within Policy 27 of the East Midlands Regional Plan 2009.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

An archaeological and historical background of the site has been outlined in the project specification (PCAS 2012) and is reproduced here:

Prehistoric

A scheduled Bronze Age bowl barrow lies west of the Bluestone Heath Road, c. 2.3km east of the proposed development site. Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. They occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries and often acted as a focus for burials in later periods. The Donington on Bain barrow has been ploughed out and is now only visible as a raised area of soil.

Donington on Bain is located approximately mid-way between the Caistor High Street and Bluestone Heath Road, both of which were ancient trackways. Early archaeological finds in the village include a flint axe, a small bipartite urn; and a bronze spearhead found in 1954.

Roman

In Roman times Donington on Bain High Street formed an important link between the River Humber and Horncastle.

Meaney (1964, 154) records a doubtful reference to a field called Ringlands, where, prior to 1833, fragments of Roman or Anglo-Saxon cinerary urns with human and other bones were 'frequently turned up by the plough' (Pastscape Mon. 353110). Neither the field name nor the finds were traceable in 1958. Meaney suggests that the reference indicates a cremation cemetery in the vicinity of Hall Hill, close to the parish boundary with Withcall, which is delineated by the Bluestone Heath Road.

A series of Iron Age/Roman rectilinear enclosures, a field boundary and trackway are visible as cropmarks on air photographs to the far northeast of the site, centred at TF 2460 8438. The features are extant on the latest 2008 specialist oblique photography (Pastscape Mon.: 1048927).

Saxon

In the 1850's, it was reported that Saxon coins were frequently found in fields south of the village to the east of what is now Station Road. With the exception of the possible Anglo-Saxon cinerary urns reported from a field called Ringlands in 1833 (Meaney 1964, 154), no other Saxon remains are recorded in the village (Pastscape Mon. 353110).

Medieval

The name Donington on Bain is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Book as '*Duninctune*'. The manor was owned by Ivo Tallboys and contained two mills, 240 acres of meadow but no church (Morris 1981: 14,51). The place-name of the village probably means, 'the farmstead, village associated with *Dunn(a)* from the Old English pers.n. with the OE connective particle **-ing** and OE **tūn**. The affix on Bain is self-explanatory (Cameron 1998, 38).

PastScape records the presence of substantial earthworks to the west of the road at TF 2345 8320 mapped from poor quality air photographs but possibly suggesting an extension of the medieval settlement. The RCHME MORPH2 database recorded a bank and ditched boundary defining two sides of a probable enclosure very close to the proposed development site at TF 2357 8305, continuing the line of existing boundaries. Also close to the site, at the east end of the enclosure is an amorously shaped pond at TF 2379 8301. At the west end of the enclosure a small oblong depression may be the site of a former building. Areas of ridge and furrow were recorded both within the western half of the enclosure and further north at TF 2358 8315; hollow ways are associated with some of these areas. To either side of the main road running north from the village, at TF 2344 8318, is a fragmentary system of bank defined boundaries. (Morph No. LI.217.1.1-11).

During the 15th and 16th centuries widespread depopulation and village desertion began mainly due to changes in climate and farming methods. The Black Death in 1349 and the change of land use from arable to sheep farming resulted in the extinction of many Lincolnshire villages and hamlets. Donington on Bain survived but there are three deserted villages nearby.

Post-medieval

Enclosure of the parish took place between 1785 and 1789, with most of the 1696 acres of land being awarded to Robert Carr Brackenbury of Raithby by Spilsby. The location of the proposed development site off Glebe Close suggests that it may have been Glebe land at Enclosure, of which there were 5 acres. However, the post-enclosure map of 1789 shows that the area of the site lay just east of the village settlement within the former open North Field on land awarded to Brackenbury (Russell and Russell 1987, 82).

A number of features seen as earthworks and mapped from poor quality air photographs are evidence of possible Post-medieval extraction or quarrying, seen as a concentrated area of amorphous pits. These lie within an area of ridge and furrow centred to the northeast of the site at TF 2415 8316 and TF 2422 8304 (Pastscape Mon. 1048916).

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within a proposed development area. Such information is used to assist the Local Planning Authority to reconcile development proposals within their own policy framework, of safeguarding archaeological remains when at risk from development proposals and inform the need for any further archaeological intervention and take into consideration such things as sympathetic foundation designs with a view to minimising damage to archaeological deposits (mitigation) where appropriate.

6.0 Methodology

A single trench measuring 2m x 15m was located within the proposed development area and accurately located by offsetting from the site boundary. It was then opened using a 1.5 ton excavator fitted with a smooth blade down to the first archaeologically significant horizon/the natural substrate. This was undertaken under constant supervision by the author. The trench was then hand cleaned. All potential archaeological features were then partially or fully excavated and recorded as appropriate.

Context sheets were completed for each feature/deposit, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan and section. Plans were recorded at 1:50, sections at 1:20, and these scales were sufficient to allow a comprehensive understanding of relationships to be made and to show the detail of features and deposits. Colour slide and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts.

7.0 Results (see Figs. 2 & 3 and Photographs Nos. 2-4)

Evaluation Trench (ground level: 72.01m OD (NNW) – 72.10m OD (SSE))

The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new building.

The natural substrate was encountered at c. 0.6m below the existing ground surface. This consisted of predominantly mottled light-mid yellow - orange-brown sand with lenses of light yellow-brown clay (105).

A single, presumed sub-circular, pit [103] was observed cut into the top of the natural substrate. Its extent within the trench was recorded as being 1.9m wide, 0.6m deep, extending beyond the western side of the trench.

The material within the pit (104), consisting of a subtly mixed mid brown – mid red-brown silty sand was identical to the subsoil (102) and as such it was not clear if the pit had been cut through the subsoil or was entirely sealed by it. The pit fill was fully excavated in an attempt to recover dating evidence, but only natural flint fragments were found. A bulk sample was taken from the excavated fill, but this, when processed, produced no identifiable plant or other remains (Appendix 3).

The natural substrate was sealed by mid red-brown silty sand subsoil (102) which contained rare small, yellow-brown flint gravels, identical to those recovered from the pit fill. This was up to 0.68m thick.

The subsoil was sealed by up to 0.2m of imported crushed chalk and modern demolition waste (101), providing a rough hardstanding over this part of the site.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Only a single undated archaeological feature, pit [103], was observed within the evaluation trench. The absence of any redeposited sand or clay within the fill of this pit suggests that the excavated material was removed from the immediate area. The pit appears to be too large to have been a setting for a post, and there was no evidence that it ever contained any other (perhaps structural) material which may have been subsequently robbed out. Neither was there any evidence the pit was ever used as a receptacle for waste disposal: it appears to have been excavated and then left to silt up naturally.

Based upon the evidence currently available, it is possible that the pit was a small sand/clay quarry; possibly contemporary with putative post-medieval quarry pits observed to the northeast of the site (see **4.0 Archaeological and historical background** above).

Excluding the isolated pit described above, the evaluation has not identified any archaeological or artefactual remains. A plausible interpretation of the identified feature has been proposed, and although it is possible that further pits of this nature will survive within the development footprint, it is doubtful that additional archaeological intervention will yield beneficial results.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed was suitable to allow the investigation and recording of deposits exposed within the evaluation trench and thus inform the planning process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr George Tucker for his assistance with this project.

11.0 Bibliography

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. 2012 *Specification for an Archaeological Scheme of Works: Land off Glebe Close, Donington on Bain, Lincolnshire*.

Russell, E. and Russell, C. 1987. *Parliamentary Enclosure & New Landscapes in Lincolnshire*. LCC Libraries.

12.0 Site Archive

The documentary and physical archive for this site is currently held by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months of completion of the full report under Accession No. 2012.169.

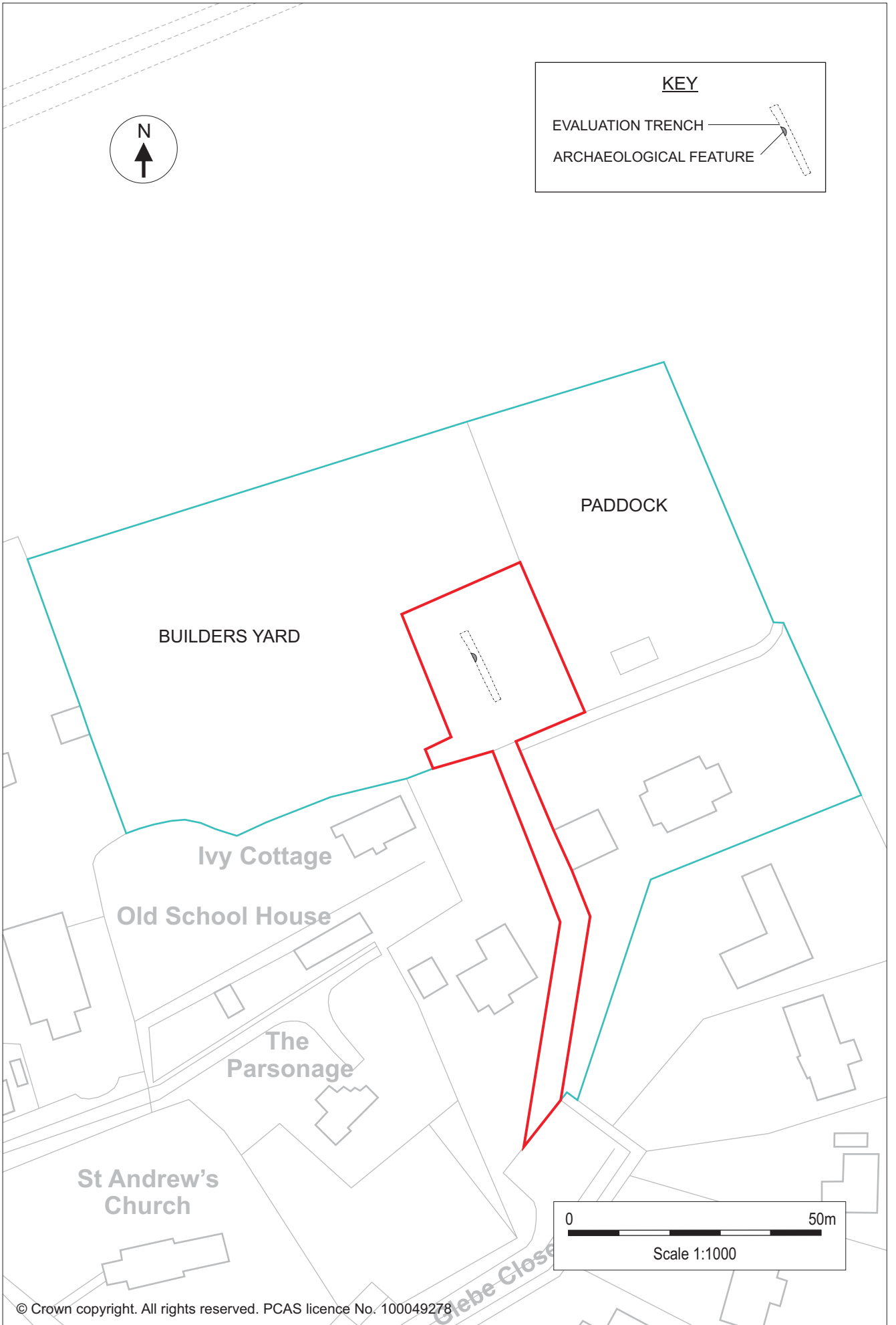


Fig. 2 Trench location plan. Scale 1:1000

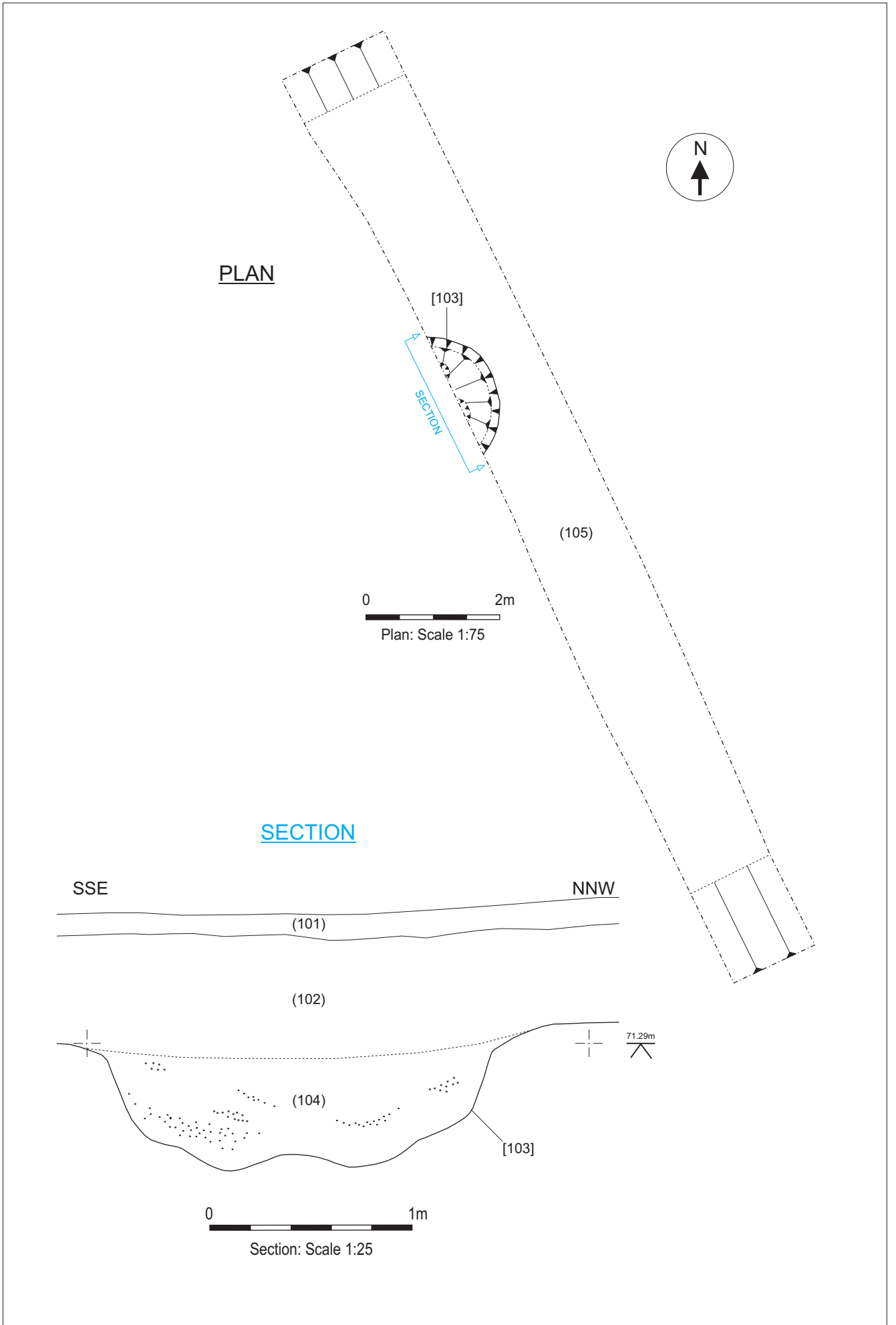


Fig. 3 Trench plan and section through pit [103]
 Scales: Plan: 1:75 and Section: 1:25

Appendix 1: Photographs



Photo No.1 Location of the proposed new build, within the southeast corner of the site. Chalk rubble hardcore being removed by the machine. Looking southwest.



Photo No.2 The evaluation trench machined. The natural substrate was a mix of mottled sand with clay lenses. Scales: 1m. Looking north-northwest.



Photo No.3 Pit [103] was well defined, with a distinct semi-circular shape, cut through the natural substrate. Scale: 0.5m. Looking west-southwest.



Photo No.4 Pit [103] fully excavated within the evaluation trench. It appears to have silted up naturally as there is no redeposited sand or clay within its fill (104). Scales: 1m and 0.5m. Looking west-southwest.

Appendix 2: Levels and context descriptions

Levels are recorded as meters above Ordnance Datum (OD), calculated from the bench mark on the south side of the main door of St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain (72.14m OD).

Evaluation Trench: Ground level 72.01m OD (NNW) – 72.10m OD (SSE).

Context No.	Type	Description
101	Layer	Hardcore surfacing. Modern imported chalk rubble hardcore with occasional brick fragments and other modern demolition material. <0.2m thick.
102	Layer	Sub-soil. Mid slightly reddish brown silty sand with rare small yellow-brown flint chunks. <0.68m thick.
103	Cut	Pit. Extends beyond the western side of the evaluation trench. Semi-circular plan with steep sides and an irregular concave base. <1.9m long x >0.55m wide x <0.6m deep.
104	Fill of 103	Fill of pit [103]. Subtly mixed mid brown - orange - red-brown silty sand with rare small yellow-brown flint chunks. <1.9m long x >0.55m wide x <0.6m deep.
105	Layer	Natural substrate. Mixed, mottled mid yellow - orange-brown sand with lenses of light yellow-brown clay. = Limit of excavation.

Appendix 3: Specialist reports

Flint:

By Tom Lane

A total of 17 flints were recovered from ditchfill 104 at site DGBE12. Each item was examined macroscopically and all were found to be natural and unworked. As a result all of the items have been discarded.

Environmental Sample:

Archaeobotanical Remains from Donnigton, job 956: DBGE12

Anita Radini (ULAS, February 2013)

Introduction

One soil sample 1 (104) was taken from a large undated pit, to enable the recovery of plant and other remains and therefore assess the potential for the preservation of evidence relating to past environment and food production and consumption on the site.

Materials and Methods

Sample 1 (104) consisted of about 8 litres of greenish brown clayey sandy soil. The sample was wet-sieved in a sieving tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation through a 0.30mm mesh sieve. The residue in the tank mesh was air dried and sorted for all finds. The flotation fraction (flot) was air dried and scanned under a stereomicroscope at magnifications between 10x and 40x. A magnification of 400x was used for the identification of charcoal fragments.

Results and discussion

No charred plant remains such as seeds and fruits were recovered from the sample. The flot contained a small number of elder seeds probably of modern origin and a few root and rootlet fragments, indicative of modern contamination. A very small number of charcoal fragments and flecks were retrieved from the sample, probably representing the deposition of windblown material from nearby fires, and none were large enough to identify. No other finds were retrieved from both tank mesh and flots.

Conclusions

Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage was extremely poor in terms of charred plant remains and provided no useful dating evidence.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

No further archaeobotanical analysis is recommended on this sample as the assessment was negative for the survival of this line of evidence. However, it is important to take into account that soil conditions can vary widely across different areas of a site. Despite the paucity of remains recovered in this assessment, an appropriate sampling strategy is still highly advisable if future archaeological work is undertaken in the area.

Appendix 4: Oasis Summary Record

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst3-143669

Project details

Project name	Land off Glebe Close, Donnington on Bain, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Evaluation on land to the north of Glebe Close, Donnington on Bain, Lincolnshire. A single undated pit was identified during the scheme.
Project dates	Start: 29-01-2013 End: 30-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DGBE 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2012:169 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY DONINGTON ON BAIN Land to the north of Glebe Close
Postcode	LN11

Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates TF 2360 8308 53.0 53 19 47 N 000 08 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 70.00m Max: 70.00m

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 director/manager Will Munford
Project supervisor Mike Rowe
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Archive ID 2012.169
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Diary","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Entered by Alison Lane (findsroom@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on 14 February 2013

OASIS:

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