

**SMITHFIELD FARM, STATION ROAD, NORTH KELSEY MOOR, WEST
LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TA 07032 01477
Planning ref.: WLDC 129036
PCAS Job No.: 1016
Site code: SNKM 13
Archive acc. code: 2013.59

Report prepared for

Mr. J. Rycroft

by

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June 2013



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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for extensions to the east and west sides of an existing dwelling at Smithfield Farm, North Kelsey Moor, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies adjacent to an area of known Prehistoric and Roman occupation, in close proximity to a Roman road and on the outskirts of North Kelsey, a village with known Saxon origins. Potential for archaeological remains was considered high, and a scheme of archaeological monitoring was required as a condition of planning consent.

The monitoring identified a single modern pit on the west side of the existing dwelling. A small corpus of modern pottery and glass was recovered from the subsoil on the east side of the house, indicating domestic activity. No other archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the development groundworks.

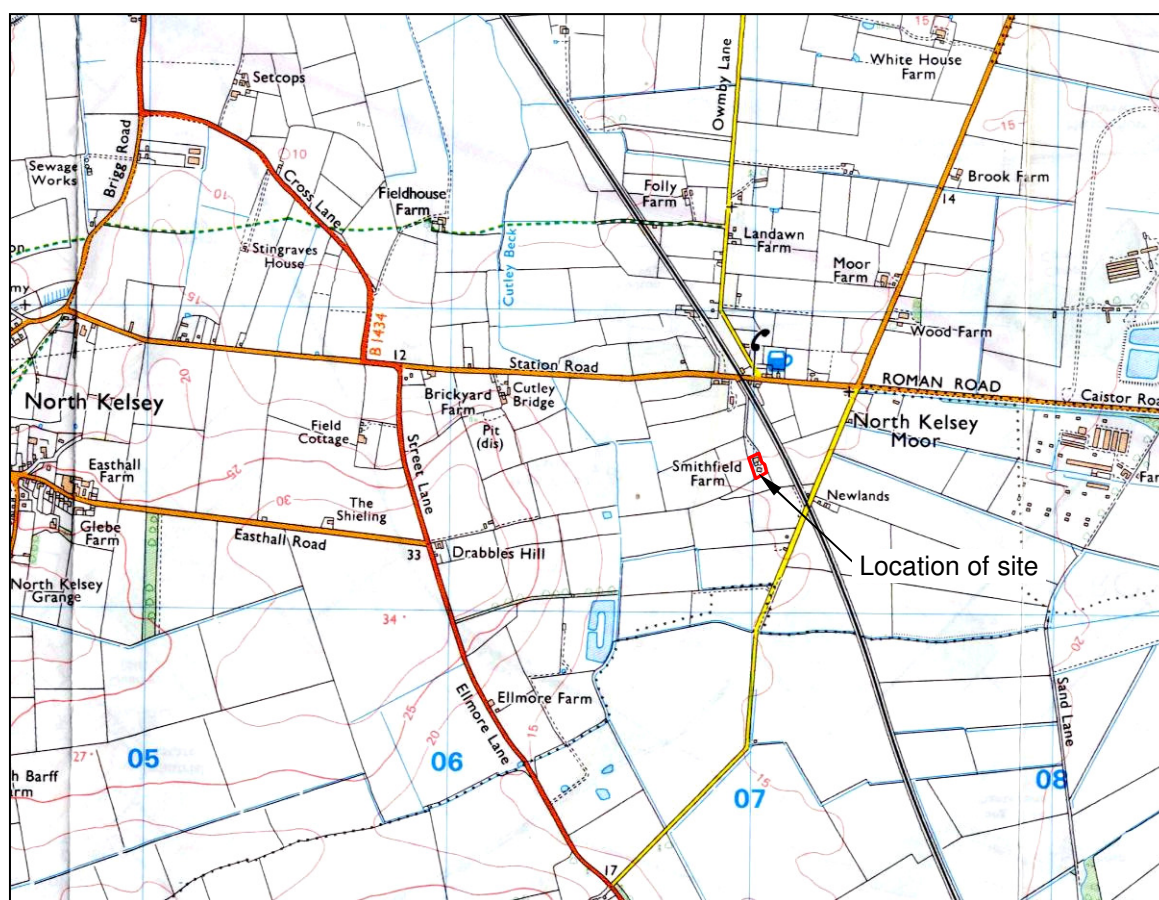


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The area of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr. Justin Rycroft to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with extensions to the east and west sides of the existing dwelling at Smithfield Farm, North Kelsey Moor.

The development site lies on the edge of a village with known late Saxon origins, and in a field adjacent to the site evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation has been identified. Therefore the West Lindsey District Council Archaeological Officer advised that this development had the potential to impact upon significant archaeological deposits.

2.0 Site location and description (Figure 1)

The village of North Kelsey lies approximately 7km southeast of Brigg, and 14km northwest of Market Rasen. It falls on the east side of the River Ancholme valley, within the district of West Lindsey.

North Kelsey Moor lies to the east of North Kelsey, approximately 2km along Station Road which connects the village with Caistor. Smithfield Farm lies on the south side of Station Road (which becomes Caistor Road/North Kelsey Road closer to Caistor). This road is thought to follow a Roman road from Ermine Street (A15) at Redbourne to the Roman settlement at Caistor.

Smithfield Farm is accessed by a tarmac track, which extends almost parallel to the adjacent railway tracks to the east, through pasture land. The existing house lies on the southern side of the plot; the northern half consists of a complex of sheds, stables barns and garages. To the east, south and west of the house, beyond the garden, lies further pasture land.

The whole site covers an area of c. 2800 m² and is centred on NGR TA 07032 01477.

3.0 Geology and topography

The local drift geology of the area is recorded as blown sand, which overlies a solid geology of Upper Jurassic Ancholme Group clay (British Geological Survey, 1982).

North Kelsey lies on the western slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds, above the River Ancholme valley. North Kelsey Moor, lying slightly to the east of North Kelsey, lies close to the top of the Wolds; place name evidence *Moor* suggests that this area was moorland, and not suitable for agricultural cultivation prior to the 19th century.

4.0 Planning background

West Lindsey District Council granted full planning permission in November 2012 for the extensions to the east and west sides of Smithfield Farm and a change of land use of adjacent pasture land to garden (application number 129036).

Condition 6 of the granted planning permission required a written scheme of archaeological investigation to be submitted to, and approved by, the West Lindsey District Council Planning Archaeologist. This scheme detailed the archaeological methodology to be employed during the onsite groundworks, the post-excavation reporting and archive deposition timetable.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

(Replicated from job specification, Savage, 2013)

The settlement of North Kelsey appears in historical documentation as a very large village from 1086 onwards, showing little indication of decline at any stage. The two villages of North and South Kelsey were already distinct at the time of the Domesday Survey in AD 1086, where *Nortchelese* had a population of 53 taxable households and its own mill. The place-name 'Kelsey' is probably derived from an Old English personal name with the Old English *ey*, 'island' or 'raised ground in a marshy area'. The modern village is associated with extensive medieval earthworks, including at least two manor sites (HER ref. 53547).

The Lincoln Historic Environment Record notes that a flint blade and several blades or flakes of Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date were found at Smithfield Farm as part of the Colonisation of Britain Project (HER ref. 56512).

A late Neolithic/early Bronze Age occupation site has been recorded at TA 068 013, directly to the west of Smithfield Farm. The evidence for prehistoric occupation includes a stone axe, a small polished greenstone celt, barbed and tanged arrowheads, thumb scrapers, pigmy flints, cores, flakes and hammerstones, retrieved from a ploughed field (HER refs. 50721 and 53558).

The same field has produced large quantities of 3rd and 4th century Roman coarse pottery, roof and flue tiles, clinker and ash. A lead figure, an inscribed quernstone which may read 'MINO', whetstones, a spindle whorl and a few *minimi* (small bronze coins of low value) have been found. A coin possibly attributable to Tetricus I (AD 271-4) and an *antoninianus* of Gallienus (AD 253-68) were also found. A mass of Roman mortar was seen in the farmyard in 1929, but in 1963 neither the mortar nor any other visible evidence of a building could be identified (HER ref. 50562).

Station Road has generally been thought to follow the course of a Roman road from Ermine Street to Caistor, described by the Roman road expert Ivan Margary as '*made from Redbourne, on Ermine Street towards Caistor, crossing Ancholme Level in North Kelsey... the road or viaduct was formed of oak piles which carried a platform*'. Oak piles were ploughed up here some years ago. However, Station Road has also been interpreted as an enclosure road (HER ref. 53545).

Cropmarks of a possibly multi-period settlement have been identified at TA 066 011, south-west of Smithfield Farm and south of the prehistoric and Romano-British site described above. The main complex consists of small, regular, rectangular, ditched enclosures, possibly representing buildings and field boundaries, with traces of double-ditched trackways. To the east of the main complex are traces of irregular or sub-oval ditched enclosures with possible internal circular features, and curvilinear features that may represent double-ditched trackways or naturally occurring palaeochannels (HER ref. 50563).

6.0 Methodology

Groundworks monitored on site included the excavation of the footing trenches for the extensions on the east and west side of the existing dwelling, the removal of a tree bowl from the southeast corner of the plot and a vegetation strip of the area within the footings.

The footings were excavated using a 1.6 tonne excavator fitted with a toothed 0.6m bucket due to ground conditions (building rubble and dense roots). Excavated footings were approximately 0.8m wide and 0.65m deep. The excavation of the tree bowl, which lay partially within the footing trenches, was completed using the same machine. The vegetation strip, carried out following the excavation of the footings, was completed using the same

machine fitted with a flat bladed c. 1m bucket. Spoil was removed from the area using a site dumper.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS trench recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan drawn at a scale of 1:100. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The monitored groundworks were completed over the course of three days. The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Mike Johnson on 5/4/13, and Alison Lane on 22+23/5/13.

7.0 Results (fig. 3)

Footings trenches were monitored on the east and west sides of the existing house, and recorded separately.

The lowest context recorded on the east side of the house was a natural brownish orange soft sand (102). This was only observed in the northern half of the trenches excavated on this side of the house, due to the average depth of the trenches being 0.6m.

This deposit was beneath a mid grey-brown silty sand subsoil (101). This layer was observed across the area of the monitored footings, varying in depth due to bioturbation from the roots of trees and bushes which formerly occupied the area. A group of pottery, glass and degraded metalwork was concentrated in one area, close to recorded section C-D (see Figure 2); a selection of the pottery and glass were retained and dated to the 19th – 20th century (Appendix 2). These artefacts were within the subsoil, not contained within any cut feature, and appear to indicate domestic rubbish.

The uppermost layer recorded on the east side of the existing house was a dark brown-black silty sand topsoil (100). This again contained a substantial amount of roots, especially in the southern half of the area. The recorded depths of the topsoil suggest it is deeper on the east side of the house than the west side.

In the south-east corner of the area of footings monitored on the east side of the house, a modern tree root bowl (measuring approximately 4m x 4m) was excavated by machine as it partially fell within the development footprint. The tree had been felled prior to the excavation of footing trenches, however the tree stump and root bowl remained. The layers observed during the excavation of this root bowl consisted of the same topsoil and subsoil layers observed elsewhere; albeit the layers were thicker, and the area was very disturbed by bioturbation. The natural sand 102 was also observed towards the base of this root bowl.

A similar sequence of contexts was recorded on the west side of the existing house. Mid orange natural sand (202) was identified as the earliest layer, and was seen throughout the monitored footings.

Into the natural sand, a single feature was cut: a large pit [203], with irregular, c. 45 angle sides was identified. This was filled with a soft grey-black-brown slightly silty sand (204). Contained within this context was fragments of modern wood and asbestos, therefore dated as modern and was not excavated further.

Above this feature lay a dark grey-brown clayey-sand subsoil (201), and a dark brown silt topsoil (200) overlay the whole.

8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 19th century. This suggests the possibility that the prehistoric and Roman occupation of the adjacent field do not extend this far eastwards.

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. J Rycroft for this commission.

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 August 2013, with the exception of the finds, which will not be retained for the archive.

12.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1982, *Brigg: England and Wales 1:50,000 Series sheet 89, Drift Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

Ordnance Survey, 2000, *Ancholme Valley, Scunthorpe, Brigg & Barton-on-Humber: Explorer series no. 281, 1:25,000 edition*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Savage, R, 2013, *Specification for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording: Smithfield Farm, Station Road, North Kelsey, West Lindsey*. Unpublished strategy document for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.

Websites:

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

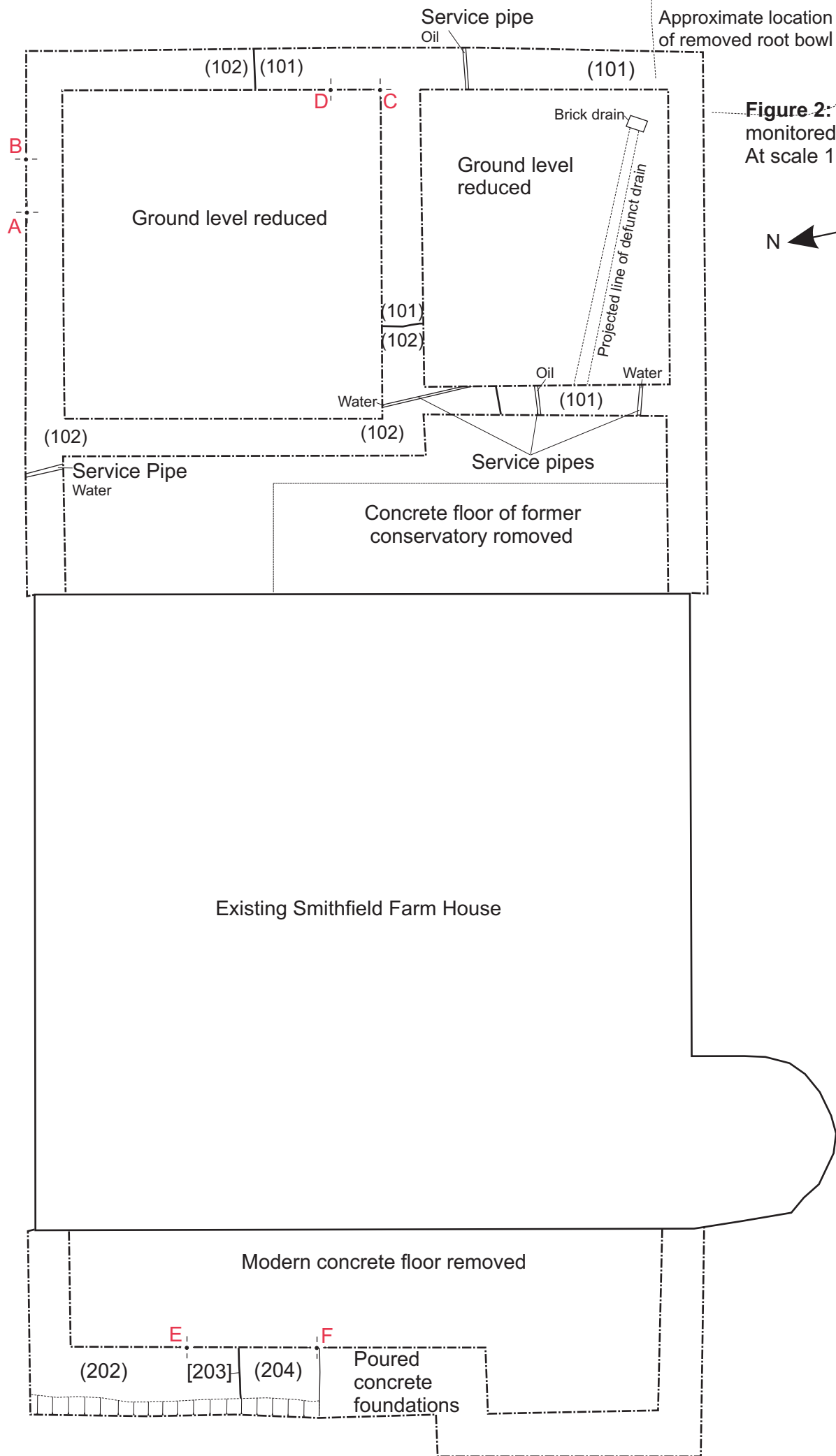


Figure 2: Location of monitored footings. At scale 1:100@A4.

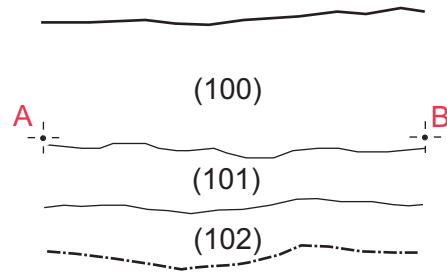


Figure 3: South facing representative section, east side of existing house.

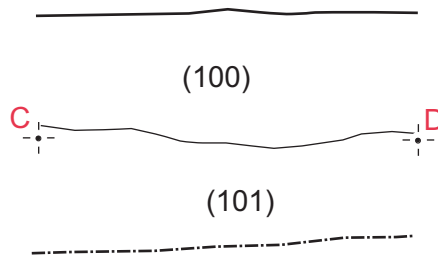
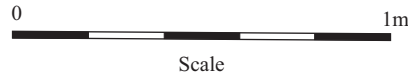


Figure 4: East facing representative section, east side of existing house.

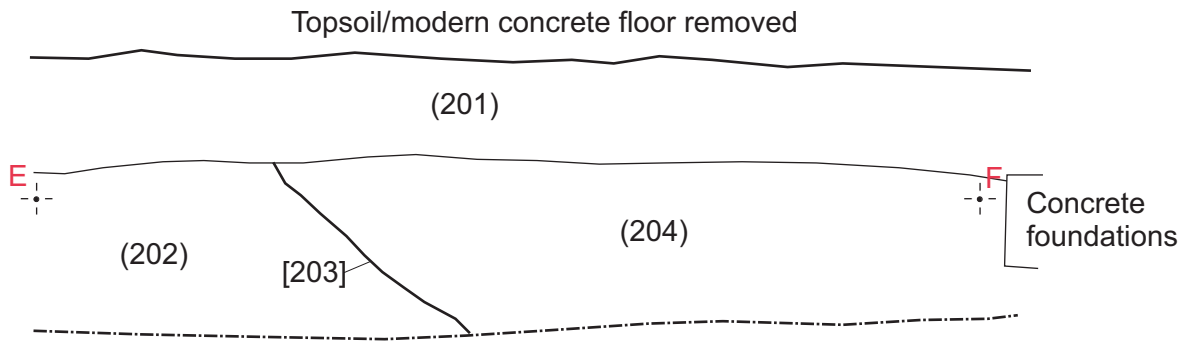
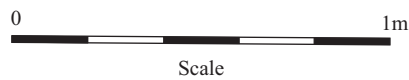


Figure 5: West facing section, west side of existing house.



Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Southfield Farm house, looking south.



Plate 2: Monitored footings on east side of existing house.



Plate 3: Excavated root ball in southeast corner of the footings.



Plate 4: South facing representative section (Figure 3).



Plate 5: East facing representative section (Figure 4).



Plate 6: Footings monitored on west side of existing building.

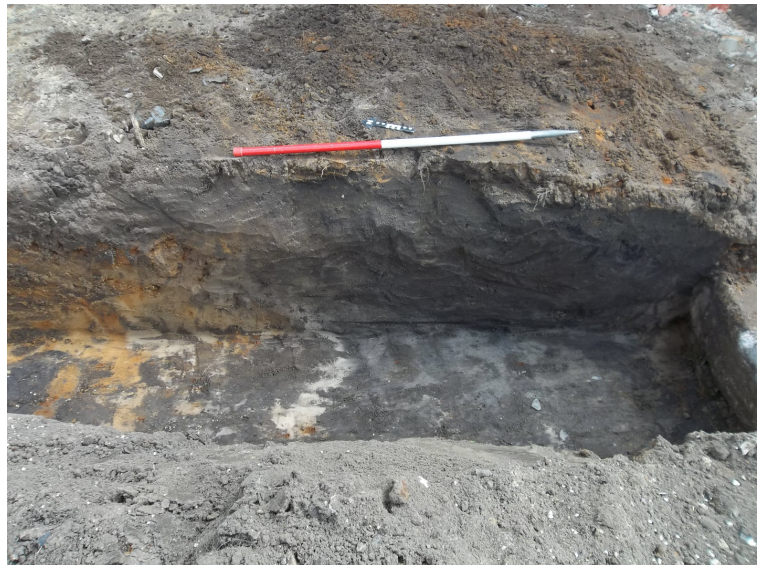


Plate 7: West facing section of pit [203].

Appendix 2: Context Summary

East side of existing house:

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
100	Layer	Dark brown-black silty sand, rare stone inclusions, lots of roots, moderately firm. Topsoil.	Modern
101	Layer	Mid greyish-brown silty sand, rare stone inclusions and some roots, moderate to loose compaction. Subsoil.	5 complete glass bottles and a small corpus of pottery, 19 th – 20 th century. Modern
102	Layer	Brownish-orange sand with no inclusions, moderate compaction. Natural sand.	Natural

West side of existing house:

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
200	Layer	Dark brown-black silty sand, occasional stone and CBM inclusions. Topsoil.	Modern
201	Layer	Dark grey-brown clayey sand. Subsoil.	Modern
202	Layer	Mid orange sand. Natural.	
203	Cut	Probable pit; slightly irregular sides with a c. 45 angle, base not established. Cut through subsoil.	Modern pit
204	Fill	Grey-black-brown slightly silty sand, soft compaction.	Modern wood fragments and asbestos fragments – not retained. Modern.

Appendix 3:

Smithfield Farm, North Kelsey (SNKM13) Finds Catalogue

Context	Material	Description	Dimensions	Date
(101)	Glass	<p>5 complete bottles:</p> <p>1. Aqua, moulded, screw-top beer bottle. "Hull Brewery Co. Ltd" runs around base</p> <p>2. Clear, moulded, rectangular bottle. Moulded triangle with fox above, says "WALFOX BRAND"</p> <p>3. Clear, moulded, rectangular bottle. Moulded triangle with fox above, says "WALFOX BRAND"</p> <p>4. Clear, moulded bottle, with screw on metal lid, containing liquid. Moulded "H7" and "10" to base</p> <p>5. Clear, moulded bottle, with screw on metal lid, containing liquid, as above. Moulded design on front shows a rearing horse with caped rider across which is written "meggeson", and beneath which it says "TRADEMARK", within a circular frame.</p>	<p>260mmx77mm</p> <p>142mmx48mm</p> <p>142mmx48mm</p> <p>94mmx53mm</p> <p>94mmx53mm</p>	C19-20
(101)	Pottery	<p>6 sherds:</p> <p>1. Blue and white transfer decorated china tea plate in 2 joining pieces.</p> <p>2. 2 joining pieces form base of a china brown transfer decorated dish. Marked "F & SONS", "MAYFIELD", "B" to base in brown transfer.</p> <p>3. Body sherd, china vase/jug. Hand painted art deco style flower in orange/black/ochre on outside.</p> <p>4. Cream glazed china ?lid sherd.</p>	<p>Diam 17mm</p> <p>Diam 130mm</p> <p>110mmx66mm</p> <p>43mmx36mm</p>	<p>C19-20</p> <p>C19-20</p> <p>C20</p> <p>C19-20</p>

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OASIS ID: preconst3-154153

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Smithfield Fram, North Kelsey Moor, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring during groundworks for extensions to the east and west sides of the existing building at Smithfield Farm, North Kelsey Moor, Lincolnshire. A single modern pit was identified.
Project dates	Start: 05-04-2013 End: 23-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TAPM 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2013.59 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY NORTH KELSEY Smithfield Farm, North Kelsey Moor, Lincolnshire
Postcode	LN7
Study area	2800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TA 07032 01477 53 0 53 29 55 N 000 23 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

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	M. Johnson, A. Lane
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr. Justin Rycroft

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Archive ID	2013.59
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	2013.59
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Alison Lane (alison@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on	1 July 2013

OASIS:

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