

**LAND ADJACENT TO NEWCOMBE COURT, RADCLIFFE ROAD,
STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE PE9 1EQ**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 02599 07281
Planning ref.: S11/2683; S12/2459; S13/1654
PCAS Job No.: 1077
Site code: SRRM 13
LCNCC accession no. 2013.147

Report prepared for

Wythe Holland partnership LLP

on behalf of Simon Boon Homes Ltd

by

B. P. Hobbs

March 2017



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
Fax. 01522 703656
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk

©Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Description	2
3.0 Geology and Topography	2
4.0 Planning Background	4
5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	4
6.0 Methodology	6
7.0 Results	6
8.0 Conclusion	6
9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology	7
10.0 Acknowledgements	7
11.0 Site Archive	7
12.0 Bibliography	7

Appendix 1: Context Register

Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the excavation of foundation trenches for four new houses on land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies in an area of archaeological importance: although outside the medieval city walls of Stamford, the site was still considered potentially to have underlying archaeological deposits.

No features or finds of archaeological interest were exposed during construction groundworks: modern deposits of overburden from previous adjacent developments were observed, overlying an undated but likely post-medieval or early modern buried soil containing flecks of ceramic material. This deposit was considered to be levelling associated with



Fig. 1. Site location. Based on the 2002, 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, sheet 234. Reproduced at scale. PCAS Licence No.: 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Wythe Holland Partnership LLP on behalf of Simon Boon Homes Ltd., to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of four dwellings on land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe Road Stamford.

The development site lies in an area of archaeological importance, close to the line of the medieval town walls. The Senior Historic Environment Officer for South Kesteven District Council therefore advised that the development had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits relating to the late Saxon/early medieval settlement of Stamford.

The archaeological monitoring was carried out on 16th September; 9th, 15th and 17th October 2013.

2.0 Site Location and Description (figs. 1 & 2)

The town of Stamford is situated approximately 64km south of Lincoln, in the administrative district of South Kesteven. It lies either side of the River Welland and extends into the limestone uplands to the north and south.

The development site is on the north bank of the river, within the north-western edge of the historic core of the town. The site lies to the south of Radcliffe Road and east of Newcomb Court. Originally the land was part of a garden belonging to the Grade II listed 19th century Rock House. A number of human burials were located here in 1816. Later the land was part of a garage/petrol station.

The site covers an area of c. 0.156 ha and is centred on NGR TF 02599 07281.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The underlying bedrock geology is Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member, formed in the Jurassic period approximately 170 million years ago, in an environment dominated by shallow carbonate seas. Drift geology comprises Welland Alluvium riverine deposits.

Site elevation varies between 43.7m OD at the north to 41.5m OD to south. A visible slope to the south was observed in the natural deposits during excavation. At the south end of the site was an overgrown cliff edge down towards Scotgate.

4.0 Planning Background

Full Planning permission had been granted for two applications for the construction of two dwellings (SKDC ref. S11/2683 and revised application S12/2459). A third planning application was for a further two dwellings to the north of the above site (SKDC ref. S13/1654). There has been no previous archaeological work carried out on the site.

In considering the HER and other records, the Senior Historic Environment Officer for South Kesteven District Council recommended a programme of continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the development.

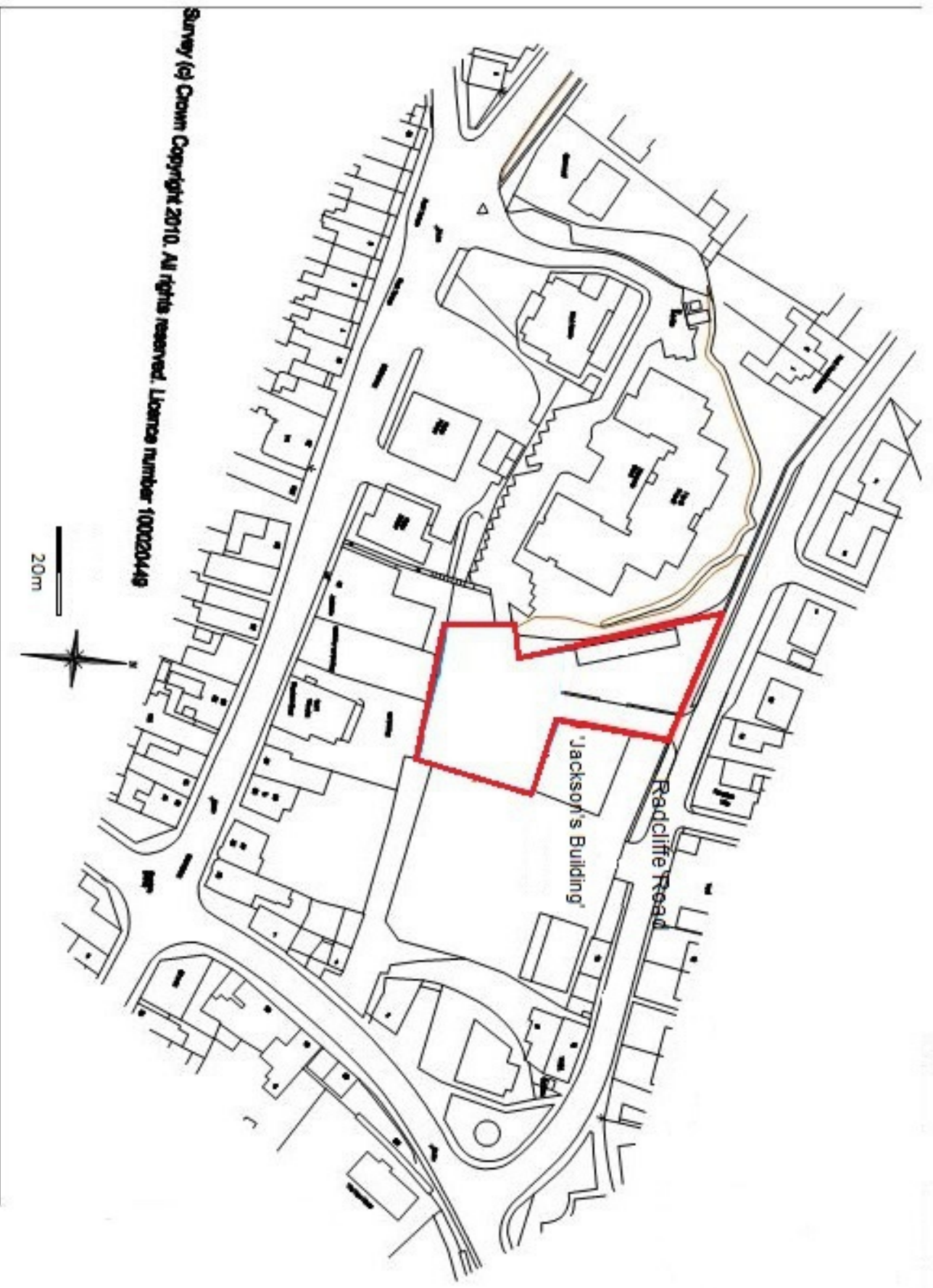


Figure 2: Site Location

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The first settlement of Stamford is believed to date to the Saxon period: A priory founded here in the 7th century was known to have been destroyed by Viking raiders (Mee, 1970), and the town became a defended Danish settlement complete with fort close to the crossing of the Welland. This was replaced by a fort to the south of the river when the town was recovered by the Saxons in 918. In the late 10th century Stamford was a fortified settlement within the Danelaw, having its own mint, iron-working and cloth industries (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

After the Conquest, a Norman castle was built on the north side of the river. Throughout the medieval period, Stamford was a prosperous town and port, being the highest point on the Welland that ships could reach. In the 13th century the town wall was constructed; initially a timber palisade but later replaced in stone. The Norman castle was abandoned by the 14th century and was destroyed by in 1933. The area of the proposed development site was recorded on John Speed's map of 1600, also showing the circuit of the medieval walls.

Several sites of historical and archaeological interest are recorded within a 500m radius of the current development site, most to the south and east. No's 51, 52 and 59 Scotgate to the south are Grade II listed buildings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries (HER nos. 37903; 37639; 37641). Medieval pottery has been found at the location of Scotgate/North Street to the east of the site (HER no. 390725). The location of the medieval town defences lie to the east of the site along North Street (HER no. 30735). Adjacent to the east of this site is the location of part of the medieval town outside the walls by Barnhill House (HER no. 30734). Grade II listed Rock House (HER no. 37638) immediately to the west of the development dates from 1842. (*Heritage Gateway website*).

In 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) conducted an archaeological watching brief on land at St Mary's Street, c. 1km south-east of the current development site. The work recorded a portion of the town wall and part of a buttress. The soils were primarily 18th century made ground, deeper towards the river (Savage, 2008).

6.0 Methodology

The construction company used a 360° excavator with a 0.80m wide toothed bucket for the groundworks and footing trenches. The type of bucket was used due to the presence of modern made ground and rubble encountered. The eastern part of the site appeared to have been already stripped of topsoil/garden soil prior the site work.

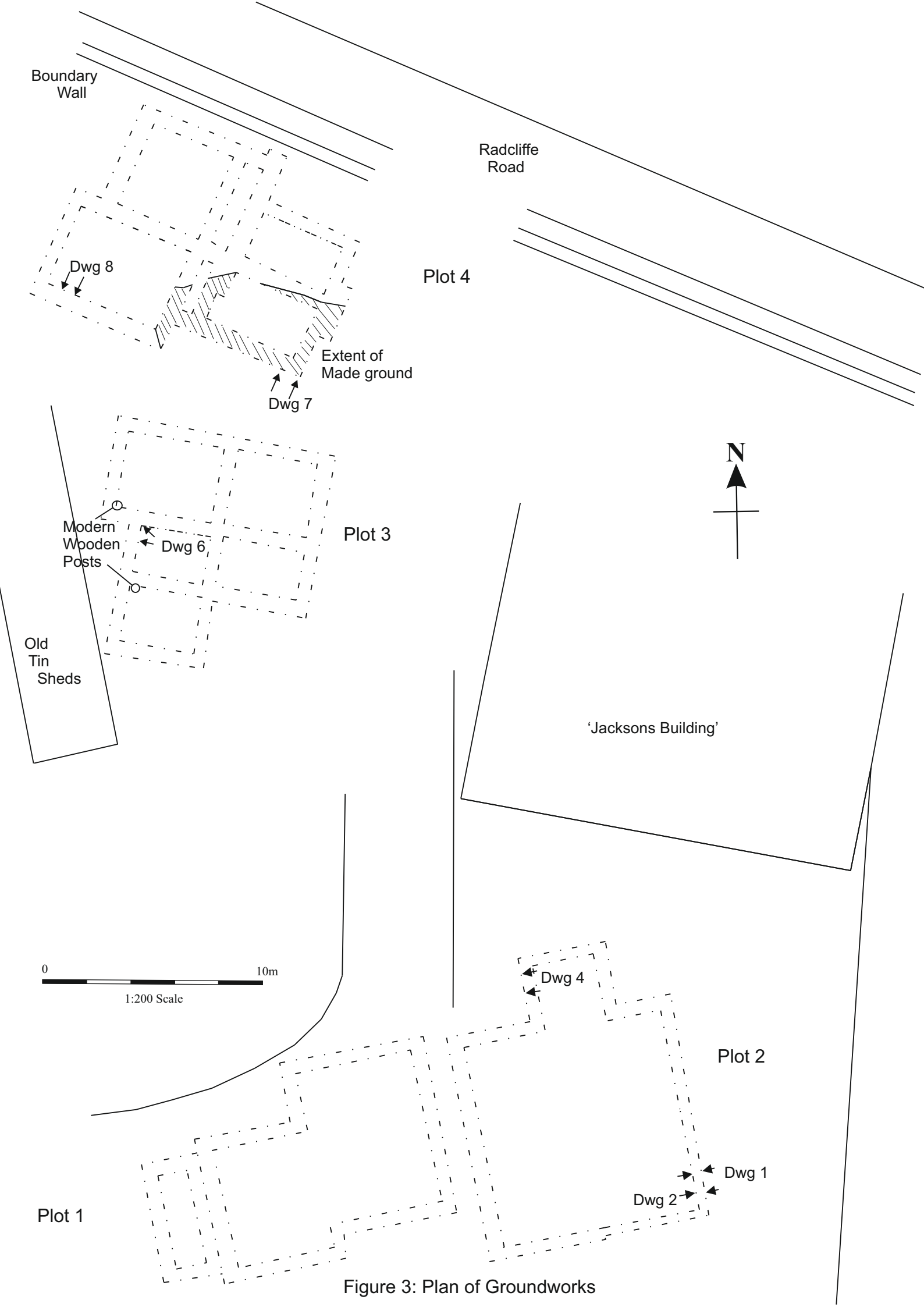


Figure 3: Plan of Groundworks



Plate 2: Excavation of made ground facing north-west

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context 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. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained.

The footings trenches for the four dwellings were completed over a period of four days the two plots to the south of the site were excavated first followed at a later date by the two plots to the north. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken at various times by Karen Francis and Rachael Savage.

7.0 Results

7.1 Plots 1 & 2

The required overall formation depth of the footings was 1.2m to 1.50m depending on depth of the subsoil. On average there was 0.30m depth of red-brown sand silt topsoil, **001** and silt sand subsoil, **002** over c.0.80m depth of made ground and levelling deposits, **003**: geological limestone, **004** was observed at the base of the trenches.

In the north portion of the footings it was observed that the underlying bedrock was closer to the surface with a corresponding reduction in the depth of overlying deposits. A residual layer of buried subsoil, **005**, <0.35m thick, of dark red-brown silt clay with fragments of building material was identified at the north-west end of the eastern plot, with thin layers of the same visible in the trenches below made ground **003**. The topsoil and subsoil deposits were very shallow in the east side of the plots and may have been stripped off in the past. The made ground in this area appeared to be tips of modern rubbish and rubble overlying the geological bedrock.

A section drawing of a portion of the eastern trenches shows the depth of made ground beneath a tarmac surface layer, underneath modern subsoil deposits (Fig.3 Dwg. 1). These

deposits were also observed in the footings of the housing plot adjacent to the west, the overlying topsoil/subsoil deposits here being somewhat less shallow in this area.



Plate 1: Section 1; east-facing

No features of archaeological interest and no finds were located during the archaeological monitoring of the southern house plots.

7.2 Plots 3 & 4

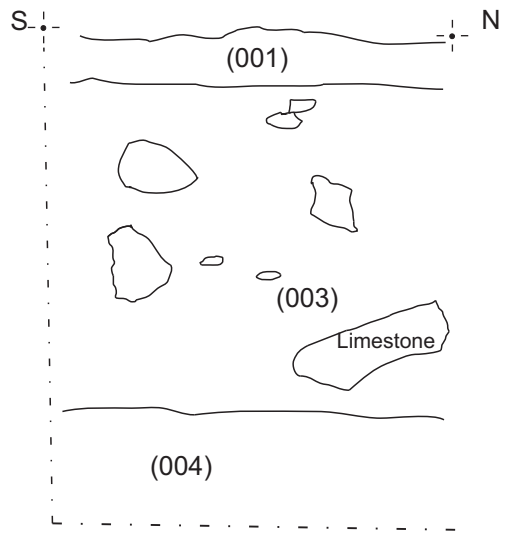
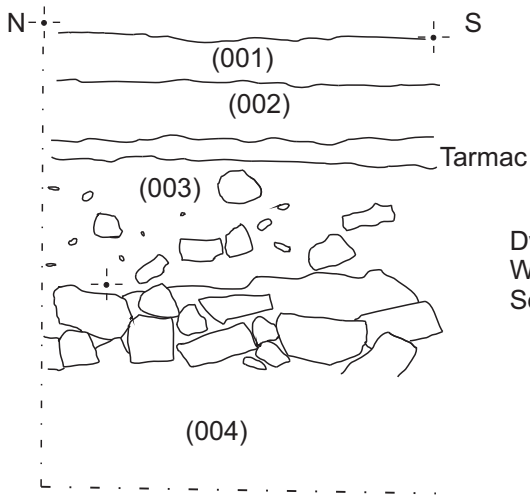
The northern housing plots were located close to the south of Radcliffe Road, the northernmost plot being adjacent to the south boundary wall of the road. The footings were of 0.80m width as were the southern plots. The western footings of the plots were heavily disturbed by tree roots and the soil in the trench sections looser and containing more rubble than that to the east. This was identified as an area of terracing and made ground.



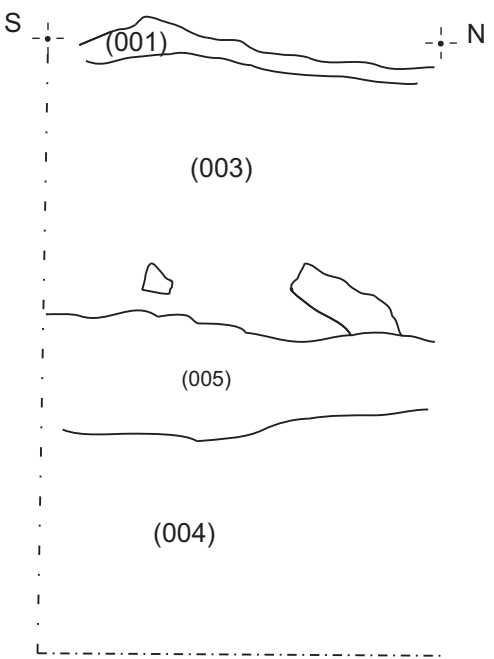
Plate 5: Footings of plot 3 facing north-west

The 1888-1913 6" OS map of Stamford shows a row of buildings, likely dwellings, along the boundary wall to the north of the site. These were demolished prior to the 1960's and it is likely that the demolition rubble was to some extent incorporated within the levelling layer.

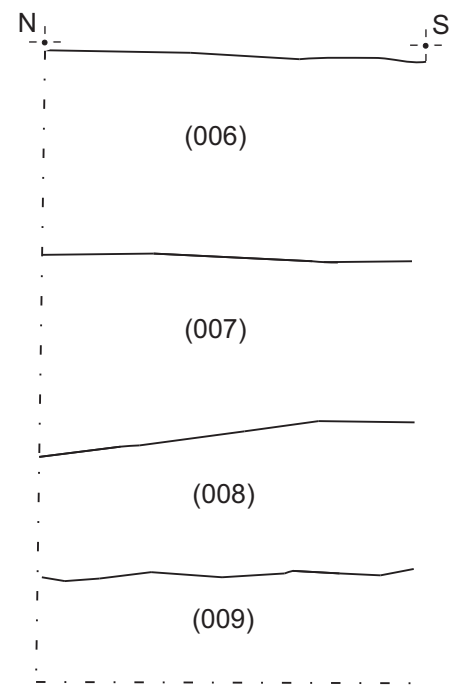
The deposits in the footings in the northern plots differed from those to the south. In the south-most plot of the area the loose sand silt modern overburden, **006**, was 0.50m in thickness and contained rubble and domestic refuse. It overlaid an homogenous 0.50m thick subsoil or levelling layer, **007**, a brown-grey sandy clay containing building material and frequent charcoal flecks. This may be associated with an increase of terracing in this area of the site and was consistent with deposit **005** seen in the southern plots.



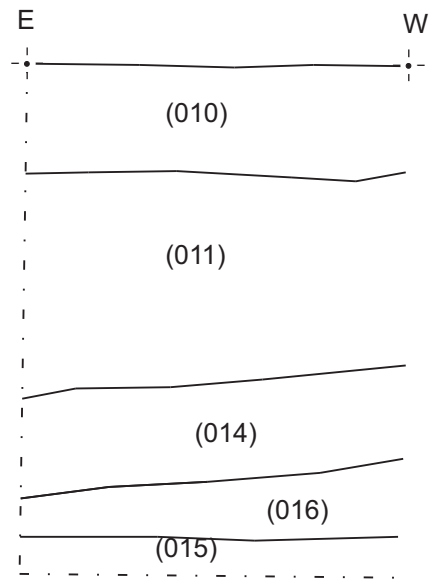
Dwg 2
East Facing
Section



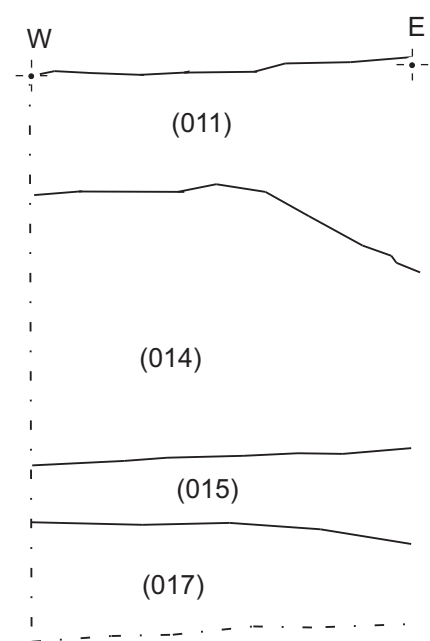
Dwg 4
East Facing
Section



Dwg 6
West Facing
Section



Dwg 7
North Facing
Section



Dwg 8
South Facing
Section



1:20 Scale

Figure 4: Section Drawings



Plate 3: Section 6; east facing

Beneath deposit **007** was mid-reddish-brown fine sandy clay, 0.35m thick, with fragments of limestone brash, **008**. This deposit was identified on site as a possible natural soil of the type found above limestone: The underlying geological base rock, **009** was located directly beneath this and was observed to be closer to the surface than seen in the south plots.

In the north-most plot of the north area of the site, the modern overburden was largely absent in the area of the footings. This left the deposit **007** appearing more likely to be a levelling layer for terracing. Remnants of topsoil were observed on the northern edge of the footings, but as there was a topsoil and vegetation strip prior to the monitoring programme stratigraphic relationships of the upper deposits were not apparent in the trench sections.



Plate 4: section 8; south facing

The northern trench of the north-most plot was excavated against the Radcliffe Road modern boundary wall. At the finished depth of the trenches a layer of soft natural sand was observed in areas beneath the limestone at the base of the trench.

No features of archaeological interest or finds were observed in the footing trenches for the two northern plots.

8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 19th century. These findings suggest that, although the land has been terraced upslope from the possible line of the town wall at Scotgate, it has remained undeveloped other than a row of houses against Radcliffe Road to the north shown on the OS 6" 1888-1913 map and presumably formed part of the gardens of Rock House located to the west of the site on the same map.

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 Wythe Holland Partnership LLP and Simon Boon Homes Ltd for commissioning the programme of archaeological monitoring. Fieldwork was carried out by Karen Francis and Rachael Savage.

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').

12.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1995, *Stamford: England and Wales Sheet 128, Solid and Drift Geology 1:50,000 Provisional Series*. BGS.

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Heritage Gateway website; Lincolnshire HER information:

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MLI30600&resourceID=1006 (accessed 14/03/2017)

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*. Bulletin 13, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Harpenden.

Mee, A. 1970 *The King's England: Lincolnshire* Hodder & Stoughton, London

Pevsner N. and Harris J., revised by Antram, N., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*. Penguin Books, London.

Savage, S. 2008. *Land at the Rear of 4-8 St Mary's Hill, Stamford, Lincolnshire* (PCAS Report, unpublished)

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Red-brown sandy silt topsoil, up to 0.10m thick with roots, Glass bottles; CBM including ceramic drain pipe fragments; animal bone; pottery	Modern
002	Layer	Light orange-brown sandy loam subsoil, up to 0.50m deep... Contains rubble	Modern
003	Layer	Tips of made ground; levelling deposit up 0.80m thick. Contains building rubble	Modern
004	Natural	Light brown-grey geological limestone brash	-
005	Layer	Residual buried subsoil-dark red-brown clay up to 0.35m thick with flecks of CBM	Post-medieval deposit
006	Layer	Modern overburden, mixture of limestone rubble, hardcore and clay sand, contains CBM and domestic refuse up to 0.50m thick	Modern
007	Layer	Mid brown-grey sand clay, frequent charcoal flecks; roots. Up to 0.50m thick	Post-medieval
008	layer	Mid red-brown sand clay with limestone fragments	Probably geological
009	Natural	Same as 004	-
010	Layer	Modern overburden, same as 006	Modern
011	Layer	Levelling deposit, same as 007 but with limestone and charcoal flecks	Post-medieval
012	Layer	Remnants of dark brown silt sand topsoil deposit at north edge of plot. Tree root disturbance	Modern
013	Structure	Footings of rough limestone blocks; boundary wall on edge of Radcliffe Road. 1 step out at base. Appears to cut 011.	Modern
014	Layer	Mid yellow-brown clay sand up to 0.20m thick	Probably geological
015	Natural	Limestone brash overlying bedrock	-
016	Layer	Red-brown sand clay, up to 0.20m thick, overlying geological limestone; same as 008	Probably geological
017	Layer	Pale yellow sand observed beneath in places limestone brash 015	Geological

Land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe Road, Stamford Lincolnshire

Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Appendix 2: Oasis Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: preconst3-159141

Project details

Project name	land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
Short description of the project	Full Planning Permission has been granted for two applications (SKDC Ref.: S11/2683; and revised application S12/2459), for two detached dwellings on land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire. A third planning application (not yet determined) is for a further two dwellings to the north of the previous application site (SKDC planning ref. S13/1654). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 02587 07304. Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., (PCAS) have been commissioned by Wythe Holland Partnership LLP on behalf of Simon Boon Homes Limited, to conduct a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the site.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SRRM13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1077 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2013.147 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	

LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN STAMFORD Land adjacent to Newcomb Court, Radcliffe Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Site coordinates TF 02599 07281 52.65318457409 -0.483122272056 52 39 11 N 000 28 59 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Project director/manager Will Munford

Project supervisor Karen Francis

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by Rachael Savage (rachael@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 15 March 2017