

**Bridge House, Osgodby Road, South Owersby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire
LN8 3PJ**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 0624 9370

Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

WLDC Planning Application No.: 129513.

PCAS Job No.: 1075

PCAS Site Code: SOBM13

LCNCC accession no.: 2013.143

Report prepared for Neil Dowlman Architecture

On behalf of Mr & Mrs Wright

By M. Wells, Bsc MA

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

47, Manor Road

Saxilby

Lincoln, LN1 2HX

Tel. 01522 703800

Fax. 01522 703656

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Non-technical summary

Planning Permission was granted for a detached self-contained annex at Bridge House, Osgodby Road, South Owersby, Market Rasen, centred on NGR TF 0624 9370. A scheme of monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with this scheme was undertaken to fulfil a condition of the planning permission.

A deposit interpreted as a possible furrow containing 11th – 13th century pottery, and two undated pits were observed in the footing trenches. These features potentially relate to activity in the deserted medieval settlement of Owersby.

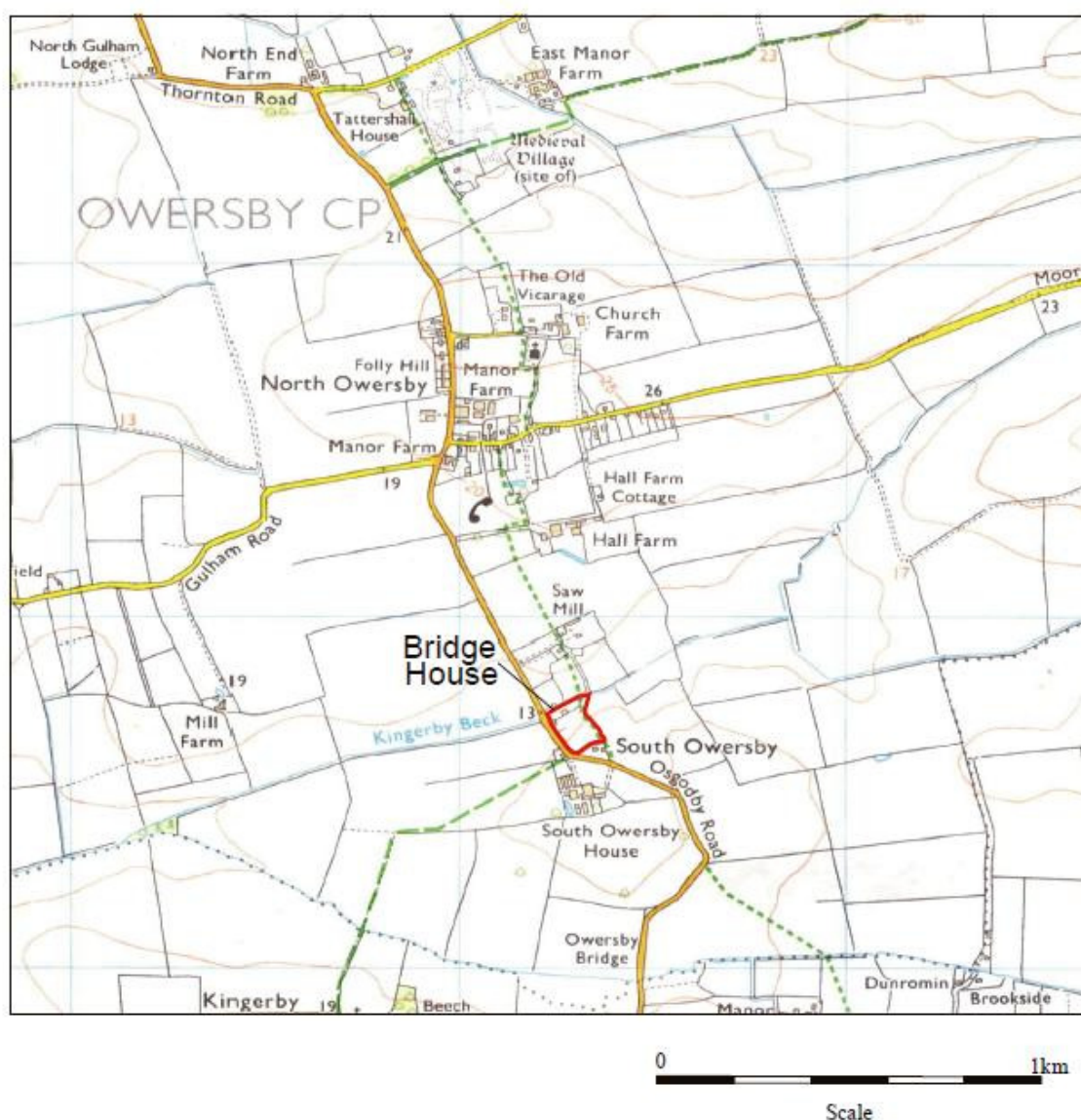


Fig. 1. Site location. Based on the 2012, 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, sheet 281. Reproduced at 1:20,000 scale. PCAS Licence No.: 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Neil Dowlman Architecture on behalf of Mr and Mrs Wright to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all groundworks associated with the development of a detached self-contained annex at Bridge House, Osgodby Road, South Owersby .

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 South Owersby is a small hamlet located c. 10km northwest of Market Rasen. Together with North Owersby, it forms part of a line of villages located along the geological boundary (from blown sand to till) running along the eastern side of the River Ancholme Valley (Everson *et al.*, 1991). The parish of Owersby encompasses the settlements of both South and North Owersby. The two settlements lie some 0.5km apart, and are divided by the Kingerby Beck, a tributary of the Ancholme that forms the site's northern boundary.
- 2.2 The development site at Bridge House lies to the immediate east of the Osgodby Road, which connects North and South Owersby. To the east of the redline boundary is a large area of woodland; to the south are the adjacent property boundaries of Bredon and The Bungalow (Fig. 2). The mean elevation of the site is c. 15m AOD.

3.0 Geology and topography

- 3.1 The underlying solid (bedrock) geology of the development area is Ancholme Group clay (BGS 1982). The British Geological Survey's online Geology Viewer shows the site's solid geology as the Ampthill Clay Formation of mudstone, Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 154 to 159 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. There are Quaternary Superficial Deposits of Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) in the vicinity of the Kingerby Beck (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/>).
- 3.2 The BGS records four confidential boreholes previously excavated to the south of the site between Kingerby and Kirkby (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/boreholescans/>). No details are available online.

4.0 Planning background

- 4.1 Planning Permission was granted for a 'detached self-contained annex' at Bridge House, Osgodby Road, South Owersby (WLDC planning ref. 129513).
- 4.2 Planning Permission for the development was granted on 23rd May 2013. Four archaeological conditions attached to the planning permission stipulated that:

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

1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e.

preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).

2. A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording.
3. Provision for site analysis.
4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records.
5. Provision for archive deposition.
6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work.
7. The scheme to be in accordance with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook.

Reason: In order to facilitate the appropriate monitoring arrangements and to ensure the satisfactory archaeological investigation and retrieval of archaeological finds in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. Specifically the site has been identified as falling within an area of crop marks and earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval settlement of Owersby.

7. The local planning authority shall be notified in writing of the intention to commence the archaeological investigations in accordance with the approved written scheme referred to in condition 6 at least 14 days before the said commencement. No variation shall take place without prior written consent of the local planning authority.

Reason: (as per condition 6).

11. The archaeological site work shall be undertaken only in full accordance with the written scheme required by condition 6.

Reason: (as per condition 6).

12. Following the archaeological site work referred to in condition 11 a written report of the findings of the work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority within 3 months of the said site work being completed.

Reason: (as per condition 6).

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 5.1 Archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of South Owersby is limited. None of the earthworks recorded in the study area are believed to be of Pre-Roman or Roman origin. The HER records a number of findspots in the area, which include Roman coins and other metal artefacts of Roman and later date, recovered primarily by metal-detectorists.
- 5.2 The place-name Owersby first appears in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 as *Aresbi*: at the time, there appears to have been only one settlement of this name, although the land was divided among six owners.
- 5.3 The early 14th-century Lay Subsidies indicate that Owersby was very wealthy; however, the parish was almost completely depopulated by the Black Death epidemic of 1348-49. Only thirty taxpayers were recorded in 1524, but by 1542-43 the population had increased to 80

households (Everson *et al.*, 1991). From the later 16th century, documentary sources divide Owersby into two parts and it seems likely that the south end of 'Long Owersby' may have been an independent economic unit well before the 19th-century census returns formalised it as North and South Owersby (PCA 2005, 5).

- 5.4 In the early 17th century, the systematic depopulation of Owersby parish to create more profitable pasture took place, resulting in the now-extensive areas of medieval earthworks, as the boundary banks and ditches of earlier fields; trackways leading to and from them; streets and cottages of the derelict villages; and the characteristic 'ridge-and-furrow' earthworks caused by the medieval system of strip ploughing were simply grassed over, forming a residual fossil landscape under the expanse of pasture (PCA 2005, 6).
- 5.5 In 2005, PCA Lincoln carried out a desk-based archaeological assessment on an adjacent development site to the immediate north of the Kingerby Beck. The assessment found that the development area represented, 'one of the last relatively undisturbed portions of an extensive system of earthworks representing the relict landscape of the shrunken medieval village of Owersby' (PCA 2005, 1). An aerial photograph taken in 1972 and reproduced in the 2005 assessment (PCA 2005, fig. 6), shows the field surrounding Bridge House under pasture. No earthworks are visible, although the photograph is at a small scale (1:7,500).
- 5.6 The assessment also examined the current redline development site of Bridge House. This field was under pasture in 2005 and no earthworks were observed. However, the site is known to contain a series of linear earthworks that were mapped in 1981 by a Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (RCHM) survey (PCA 2005, Fig. 3).

6.0 Methodology

Prior to the start of the monitoring, vegetation was removed; after which an archaeologist was present to monitor all further groundworks. First, a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.60m smooth bucket was used to strip the topsoil. A 0.60m smooth blade was then used to dig the footing trenches, which were c. 0.70m wide and between 0.80m and 1.40m deep.

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. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan which was produced 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 footings trenches were completed over the course of two days, the 9th & 10th September 2013. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by K.D. Francis & M. Wells.

7.0 Results (Fig. 2-6)

Modern topsoil (001) covered the entire site, sealing all potential archaeological deposits. A fragment of 13th – 15th century CBM was recovered from this layer, but is considered residual. Immediately beneath topsoil lay deposit (003), a localised deposit of dark grey silty clay around 13m wide and up to 0.40m deep, running north-south through the middle of the building footprint. This deposit yielded two fragments of fired clay and seven sherds of pottery, identified as Stamford ware and North Lincolnshire Shelly ware, dating from the 11th – 13th century. A single undated pit was recorded in section cutting through deposit (003); pit [008] was a gentle concave shape, and contained a single

fill of dark grey and dark brown silty clay (007). This feature contained no dateable artefacts, however stratigraphically it post dates the 11th – 13th century deposit (003).

Beneath (003) lay a thick layer of greenish brown possibly alluvial clay (002). A second pit was identified cut into this layer; pit [006] had steeply cut, irregular sides and a flattish base, measuring at least 1.30m in diameter and 0.80m in depth. It contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay (005), with occasional charcoal inclusions. This feature remained undated.

Along the northern edge of the monitored area, at a depth of 0.80m below existing ground level, patches of intermittent bands of brown stony-gravelly clay (004) were observed and recorded. This deposit was interpreted as possible lenses of stone and gravel within the clay. Context (004) was seen to the maximum trench depth of 1.40m along the southernmost run of the footing trench.

8.0 Conclusion

Two pits and the remains of a possible furrow were the only evidence of archaeological activity identified in the monitored footings. Although the two pits were void of any dateable artefacts, one was cut into a layer from which medieval pottery and a small quantity of building material was recovered. It seems likely that these features relate to the medieval occupation of Owersby. The features are suggestive of occupation on the periphery of settlement rather than a focus of occupation.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

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

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Neil Dowlman Architecture on behalf of Mr and Mrs Wright 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'), with the exception of the finds, which are to be discarded.

12.0 Bibliography

PCA: Pre-construct Archaeology (Lincoln). 2005. *Land at Tyddyn Uchaf, south Owersby, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpublished client report for Robert Alder Architect Ltd., by R. D. Gardner.

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

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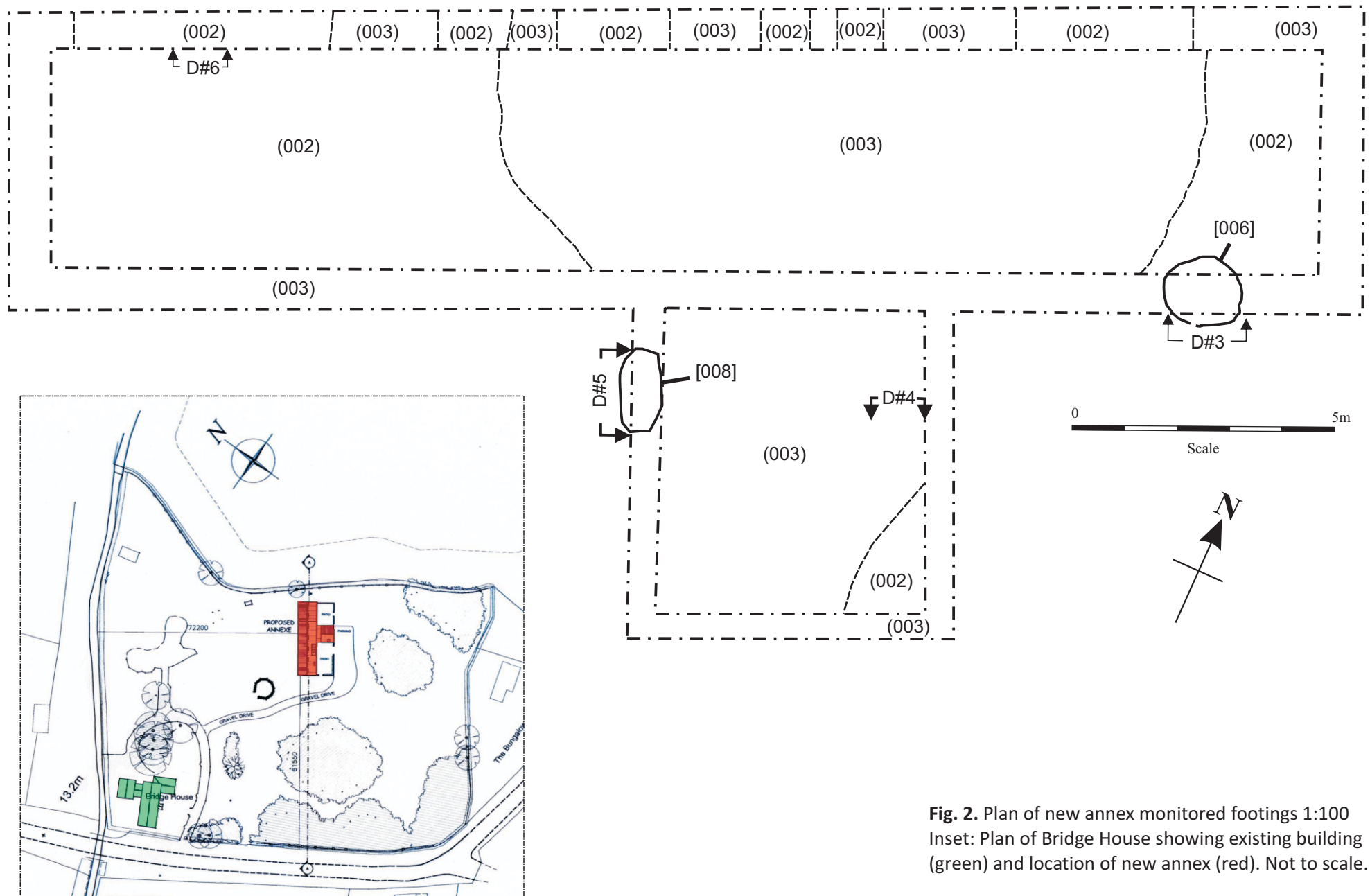


Fig. 2. Plan of new annex monitored footings 1:100
 Inset: Plan of Bridge House showing existing building (green) and location of new annex (red). Not to scale.

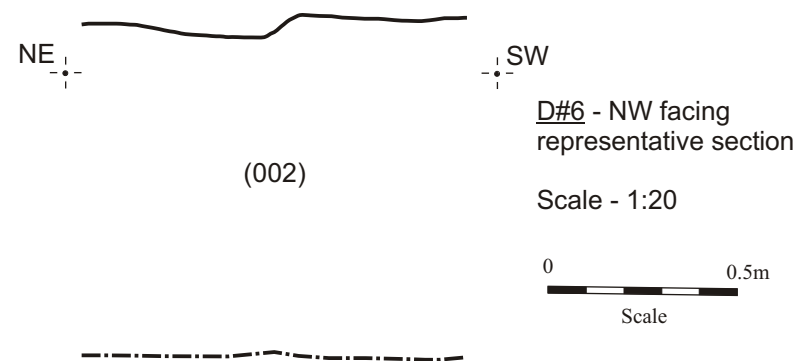
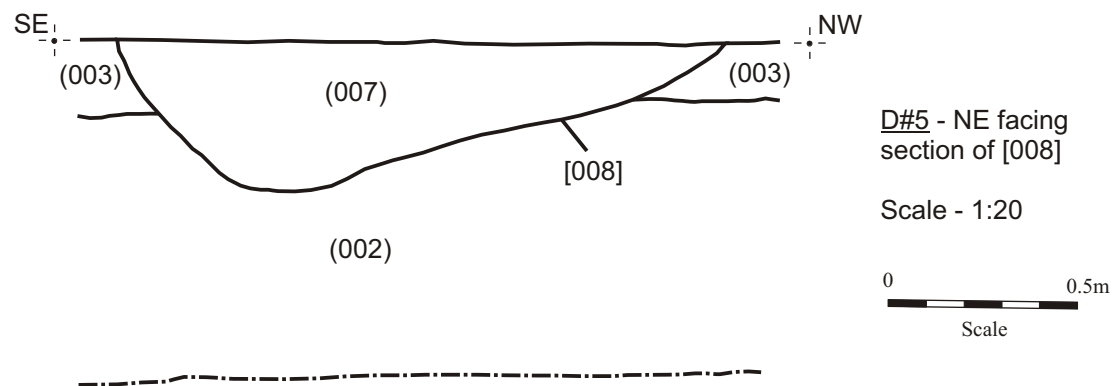
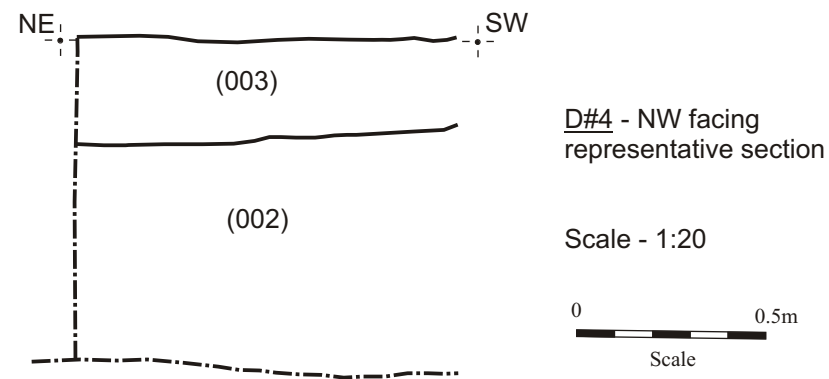
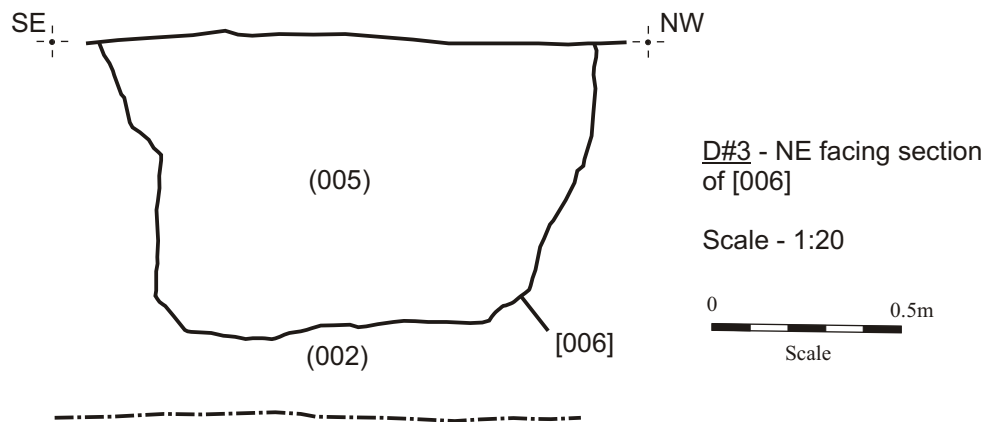


Fig. 3: Recorded sections. For locations see Figure 2.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1 – NW facing section of pit [006]



Plate 2 – General shot of machining footing trenches, looking NW



Plate 3 - NW facing representative section showing layer (003) (see section D#3)



Plate 4 – NE facing section of possible pit [008]



Appendix 2: Context Register

<i>Context number</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
001	Topsoil	Medium orangey/greyish brown sandy loam. Occasional stones and chert	Up to 0.50m deep
002	Subsoil (Alluvium)	Medium greenish brown plastic silty clay. Occasional stone and chert	-
003	Layer	Dark grey silty clay. Occasional chert and stone, degraded CBM and fired clay	Up to 0.35m deep
004	Natural	Medium orangey brown clay and sand. Frequent stone	-
005	Fill	Backfill of pit [006]. Dark grey silty clay. Occasional small charcoal fragments and stone/chert.	-
006	Cut	Possible pit	1.30 wide, 0.80m deep
007	Fill	Fill of pit [008]. Mixed dark grey and reddish brown	-
008	Cut	Possible pit	1.50 wide, 0.35m deep

Appendix 3: Finds catalogue

Bridge House, South Owersby, Lincs (SOBM13) Finds Catalogue

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Date</i>
001	Fe	Flat washer	Diam: 55m, thickness: 3mm. 25g	C19th- 20th
001	Cow tooth	1 shell	15g	-

Appendix 4:

Bridge House, South Owersby, Lincolnshire (SOBM13)

THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

THE POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the pottery type series for Lincolnshire. A total of seven sherds from three vessels, weighing 28 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery dates to the early medieval period.

Results

Table 1, Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
003	NLEMS	North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	Jar/ bowl	4	1	18	Base + BS	Leached shell; burnt base; abraded	Early 12th to early 13th
003	ST	Stamford Ware	Jar/ Pitcher	1	1	5	BS	No glaze; soot; abraded	11th to 12th
003	ST	Stamford Ware	Jar/ bowl	2	1	5	BS	No glaze; abraded	11th to 12th

Potential

The sherds are stable and suitable for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of three fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 38 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
001	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Toynton	1	20	Abraded	13th to 15th
003	FCLAY	Fired clay		1	2	Amorphous	-
003	FCLAY	Fired clay		1	16	Flat surfaces	-

Potential

The fragments are stable and suitable for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	13th to 15th	Date on single fragment of CBM
003	Early 12th to early 13th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group	NoF	Number of Fragments
		NoS	Number of sherds
BS	Body sherd	NoV	Number of vessels
CBM	Ceramic Building Material	TR	Trench
CXT	Context	UHJ	Upper Handle Join
LHJ	Lower Handle Join	W (g)	Weight (grams)

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- ~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <<http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>>
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Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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