

**REDEVELOPMENT OF PLAYING FIELD, STATION ROAD,  
COLLINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

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Report prepared for  
Derek Morris Architects Ltd.

by

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***Redevelopment of playing field, Station Road, Collingham  
Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording***

## Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the construction of a new supermarket with an associated extension to the village car park, on the site of an existing playing field in the village of Collingham in Nottinghamshire.

Prehistoric and Roman archaeology in the area is limited to isolated find spots, not within the immediate vicinity of the development but a desk-based assessment undertaken prior to the current scheme concluded that, although the potential of the site was generally negligible, there was a low possibility of encountering Saxon remains during development groundworks

No archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring process.



**Figure 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The 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 Derek Morris Architects Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks during redevelopment of the playing field off Station Road in the village of Collingham in Nottinghamshire. The development comprises the construction of a new supermarket and the extension of an existing village car park; alterations to the adjoining football pitch and club house were also included in the development.

## **2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1)**

Collingham is situated on the east bank of the River Trent, in the Newark and Sherwood district of Nottinghamshire. It lies on the A1133 (the old Newark to Gainsborough road, Collingham's High Street), 7km north-east of Newark.

The redevelopment site lies to the north of Station Road, to the rear of 20<sup>th</sup>-century housing fronting the road, and to the east of a small retail and amenity complex opening off the east side of the High Street (the Co-operative store forming the north side of this complex is to be replaced as part of the redevelopment). The northern boundary of the site coincides with part of the boundary of the Collingham Conservation and Historic Settlement Area (designated 1973). To the immediate north of the site are the large lawned gardens and a small area of woodland associated with Mayfield House on the High Street, an 18<sup>th</sup> century building of local Interest (HER: 3.56.68). To the east of the site are the sports pitches of the John Blow County Primary School. The development zone measures approximately 0.6ha and was previously occupied by a large grassed playing area (Francis, 2011).

National Grid Reference: SK 82915 62353.

## **3.0 Geology and topography**

Collingham village is situated within the eastern side of the Trent Valley on a floodplain terrace associated with the River Fleet, a tributary of the Trent running along the western side of the village. The site lies at an Ordnance Datum height of approximately 10m above sea level; it slopes gently downwards from east to west, following the general fall of the surrounding landscape towards the River Fleet and onwards to the Trent.

The BGS Geology of Britain Viewer shows the drift geology of the site as the Scarle sand and gravel member - sand and gravel formation, overlying a solid geology of mudstones of the Penarth, Scunthorpe, Charmouth or Mercia group ([www.bgs.ac.uk/](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/)). The published 1:50,000 BGS map (1966) shows the drift geology of the site as river gravels and alluvium overlying a solid geology of Keupar Marl/Marcia Mudstone.

The BGS online Borehole Record Viewer records that an 8m-deep borehole was excavated either on, or very close to, the proposed development site at SK 8321 6163 in 1972. The borehole log records upper layers of 0.50m of brown sandy silty topsoil overlying the sandy gravel drift geology, with the solid geology reached at the full depth of 8m (Francis, 2011).

#### **4.0 Planning background**

Full planning permission was granted on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 for the erection of replacement supermarket premises with a gross external area of 943 square metres; alterations and extensions to the village centre car park to increase the existing 60 spaces to 165 spaces; replacement of a skittle alley with an extension to the Collingham Football Club pavilion of 136 square metres; construction of an all-weather surface with improved access to the football ground from Station Road, and ancillary works to provide segregated delivery access to the new supermarket and enhanced pedestrian and cycle access from the High Street (planning ref. 11/01151/FULM).

Condition 04 of the planning permission required the submission of a scheme for an archaeological watching brief to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme would be carried out by an archaeologist or archaeological body approved by the local planning authority and a report submitted to them; the results would also to be made available to the Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record.

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

An archaeological desk-based assessment for this project compiled in 2011 (Francis, 2011). In summary, this noted that prehistoric and Roman activity in Collingham is indicated only by isolated finds of artefacts, none of which were on or in the immediate vicinity of the site. An archaeological excavation to the west of the High Street exposed evidence for the late Saxon origins of the village, but again, this was at distance (c. 350m) from the present site.

The original settlement of 'Long Collingham' was divided into two villages, North and South Collingham, each with its own parish church, during the early Middle Ages. It is thought that Low Street was once the original main street of both villages, with High Street functioning as a back lane. Post-medieval development increasingly took place along High Street, resulting in the High Street becoming the busier route and Low Street a quiet and winding back road. The site appears to have been agricultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The villages had once more been combined by the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a considerable amount of new housing development took place: this was chiefly on open land to the east of the historic village core.

The DBA concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was generally negligible, although there was a low possibility of encountering Saxon remains during groundworks.

#### **6.0 Methodology**

The development project was divided into two distinct stages with Area 1 being the construction footprint of an all-weather playing surface at Collingham Football Club. Area 2 consisted of the redevelopment of Collingham playing field east of the existing shopping precinct.

Area 1 was stripped using a 360 excavator with a 2m wide flat bladed bucket, and subsequently the site was bulldozed as part of the same stripping process. Following this, seven drainage trenches, orientated NNW-SSE, and an adjoining East-West drainage trench were excavated with a 360 mini excavator using a toothed bucket. Excavation of the associated soakaway was not monitored.

Area 2 was stripped using a 360 excavator with a flat bladed bucket; this same machine was also used during the excavation of two soakaway trenches. Drainage trenches were excavated using a 60cm flat bladed bucket.

Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on General Account sheets. Features were drawn in section at scale 1:20 and plotted on base plans at scale 1:100. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The archaeological monitoring programme commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and was completed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014. It was carried out at various times by Michael Rowe and Benedict Wheeliker.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 Area 1 (fig. 3&4)**

In the west of Area 1, topsoil (100) was stripped and found to overlie a subsoil deposit, context (101). Following the excavation of drainage trenches, it was observed that the subsoil deposit overlay natural sand (106). No archaeological remains were observed in the west of Area 1.

In the east of Area 1, the topsoil (102) similarly overlay a subsoil (103). Following the excavation of drainage trenches it was observed that the subsoil overlay deposits of natural sand (106).

One cut feature was observed in the eastern half of Area 1, however the sandy friable ground conditions and use of a **toothed bucket** meant that this feature, [107], had been badly disturbed. It was observed in Trench 1 but was only partially visible, as construction trenches were only 30-40cm wide. Its fill (108) was a dark brown silty deposit with a number of modern inclusions, including plate glass, plastic and brick fragments; as such the feature was not of archaeological interest.

### **7.2 Area 2 (fig. 5&6)**

In Area 2, the topsoil (200) was stripped to reveal subsoil (201), which typically overlay natural sands (202). Fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil, all of which date to 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. Pottery from the topsoil has delivered a spot date of mid-18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century, whilst the same methodology delivered a spot date of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century for the subsoil (201).

A cut feature observed in the north of Area 2 was modern: feature [203] appeared to have been recently backfilled and was likely a test pit to examine underlying ground conditions.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

During the course of monitoring, no archaeologically significant remains were observed in either Areas 1 or Area 2. A small group of post-medieval finds in Area 2 demonstrate ephemeral activity, but have left no archaeologically identifiable footprint.

## **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 Derek Morris Architects Ltd. for this commission and for their co-operation during the groundworks.

## **11.0 Site Archive**

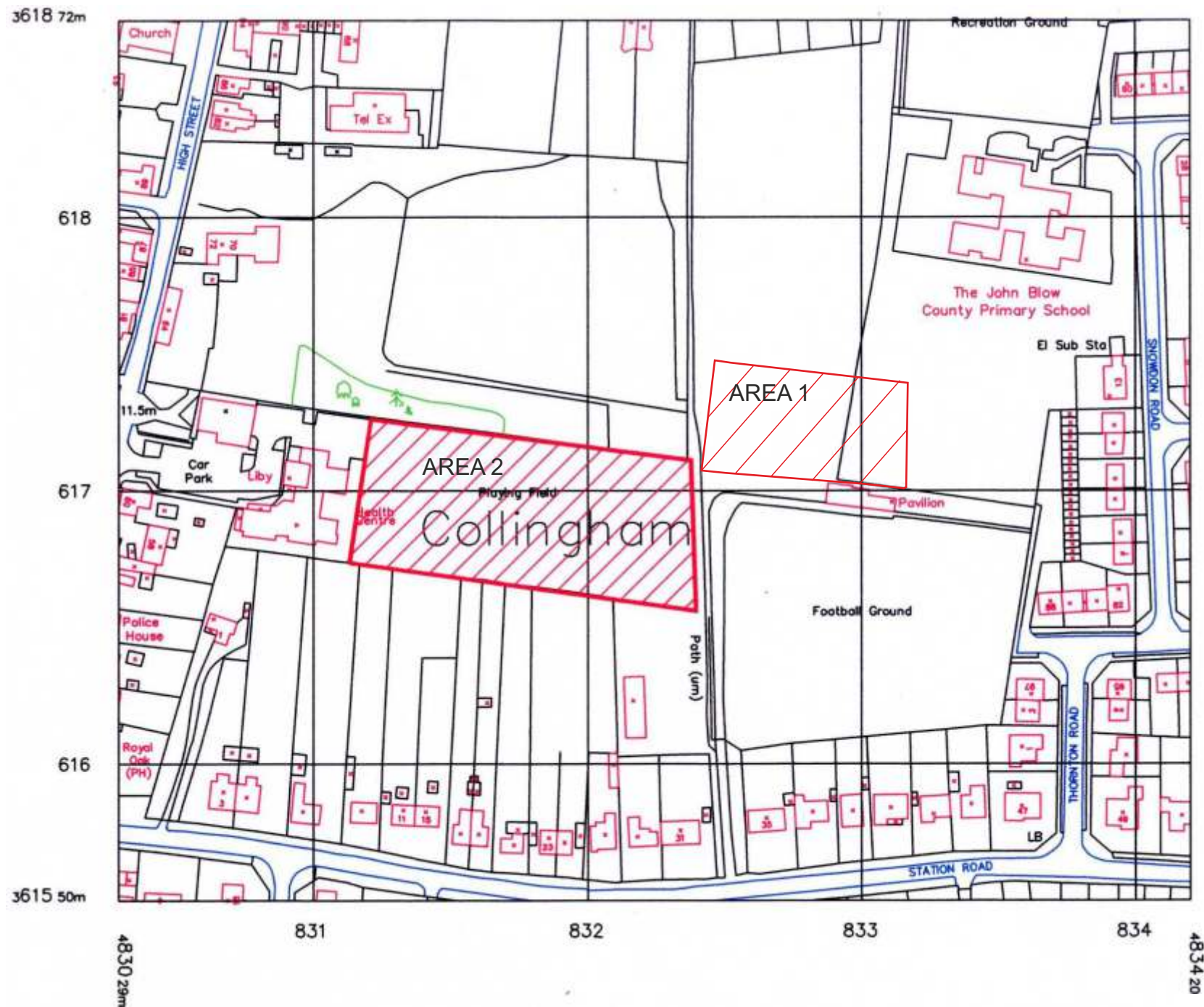
The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will remain there until transference to a suitable receiving museum can be arranged, with the exception of the finds, which are to be discarded.

## **12.0 Bibliography**

Francis, K. D., 2011, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land Off High Street, Collingham, Nottinghamshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.

Ordnance Survey, 2000, *Newark-on-Trent, Retford, Southwell & Saxilby: Explorer series no. 271, 1:25,000 edition*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.





**Figure 2:** Plan of the development Area 2 (hatched red) at scale 1:2000. Plan courtesy of Derek Morris Architects Ltd.

Figure 3: Plan of Area 1 at 1:500

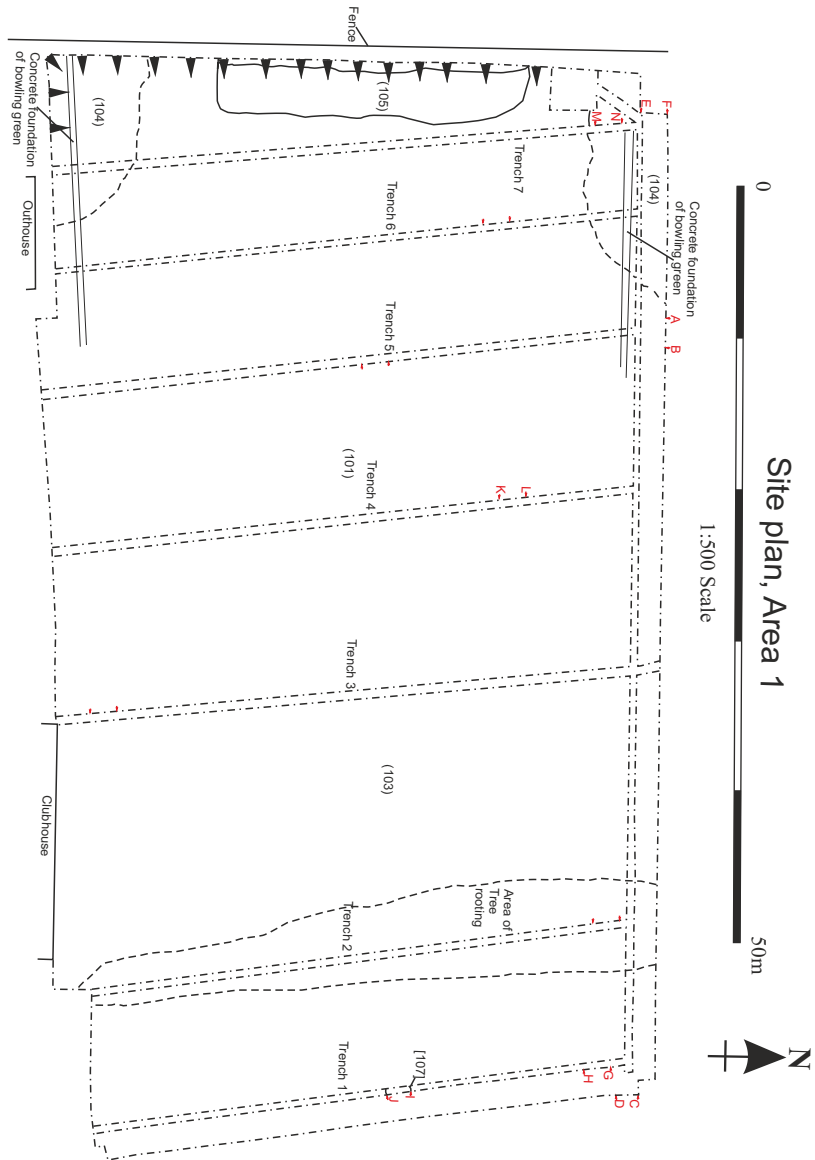


Figure 4: Area 1 sections at scale 1:20

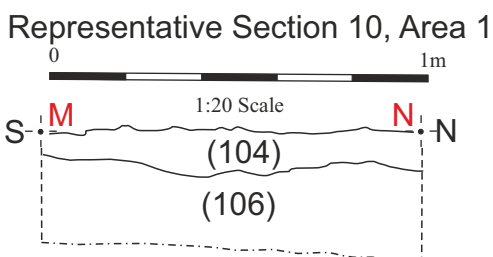
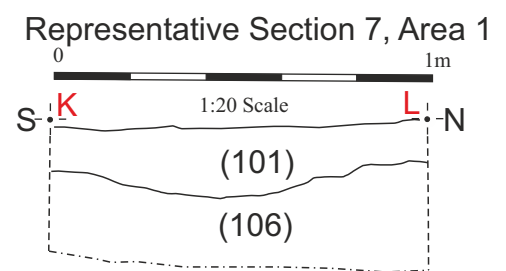
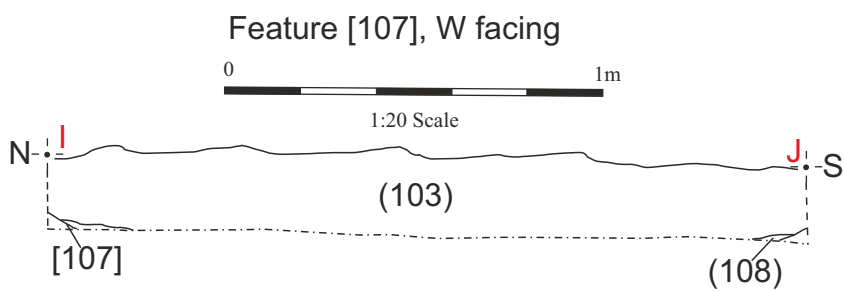
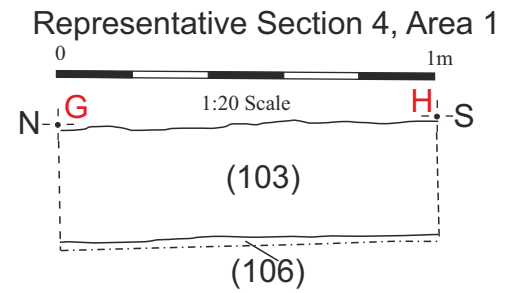
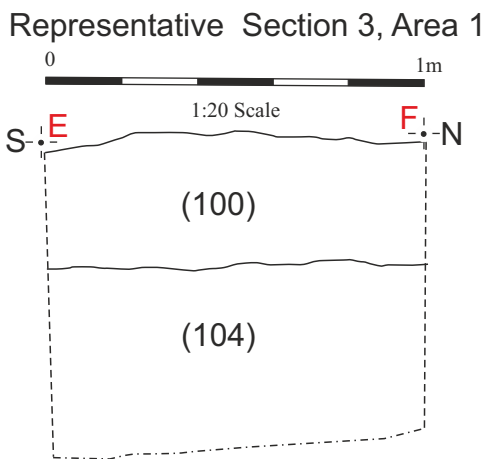
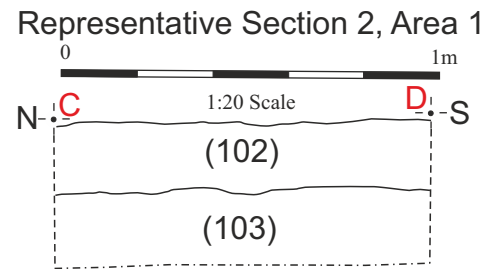
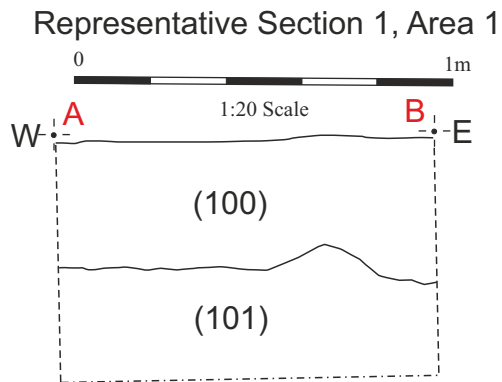


Figure 5: Area 2 plan

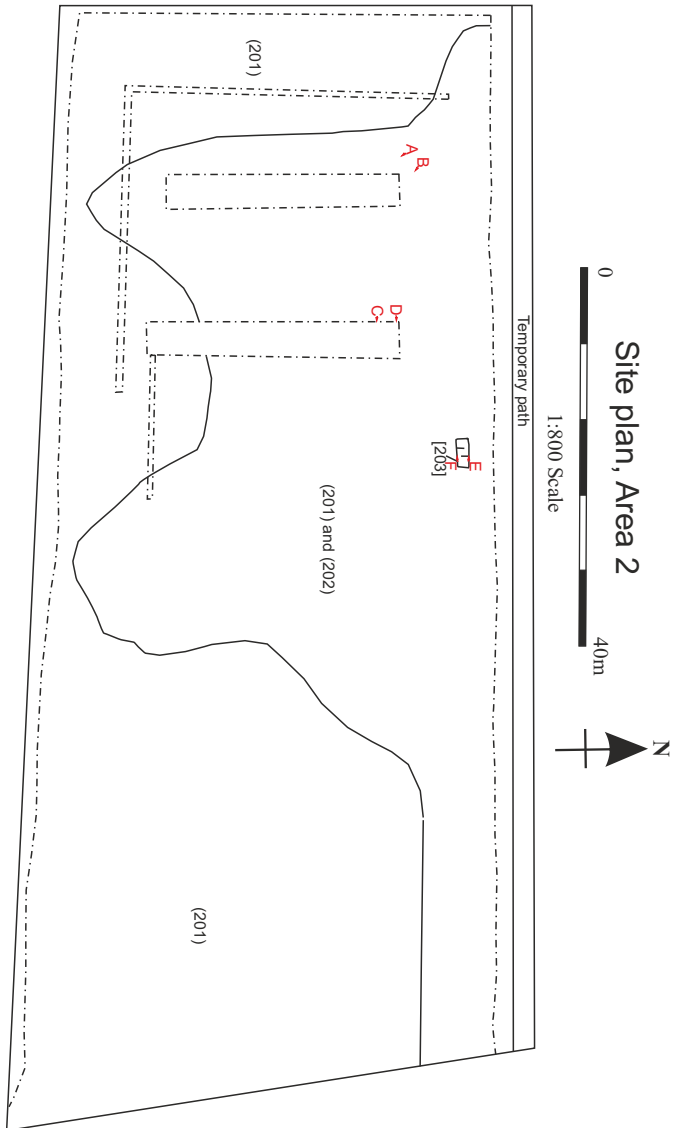
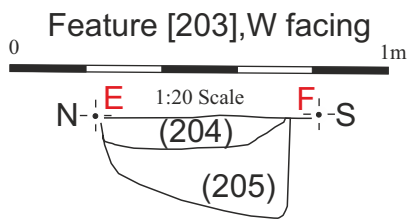
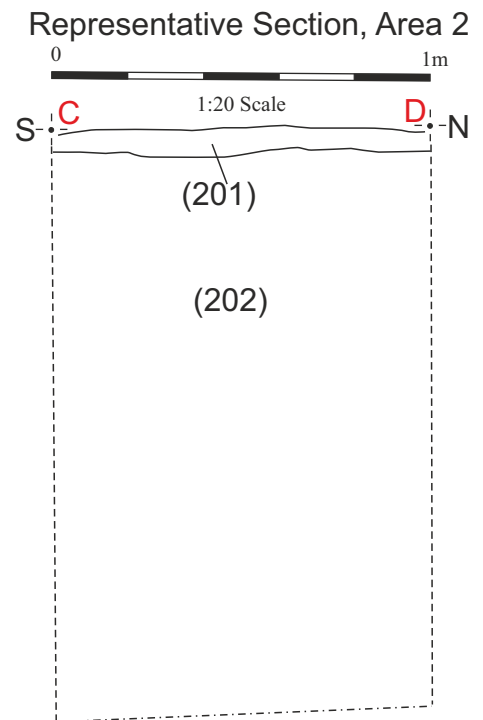
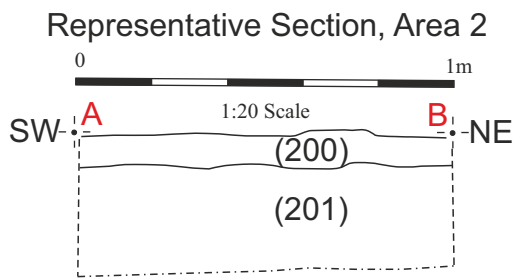


Figure 6: Area 2 sections at scale 1:20



## CPFM14 Appendix 1



1. Area 1. Site on arrival, looking NE



2. Area 1. Representative Section 1, looking north



3. Area 1. Representative Section 2, looking east



4. Area 1. Representative Section 3, looking west



5. Area 1. Representative Section 4, Looking east



6. Area 1. Disturbed feature [107], looking east



7. Area 1. Representative Section 7, looking west



8. Area 1. Representative Section 10, looking west

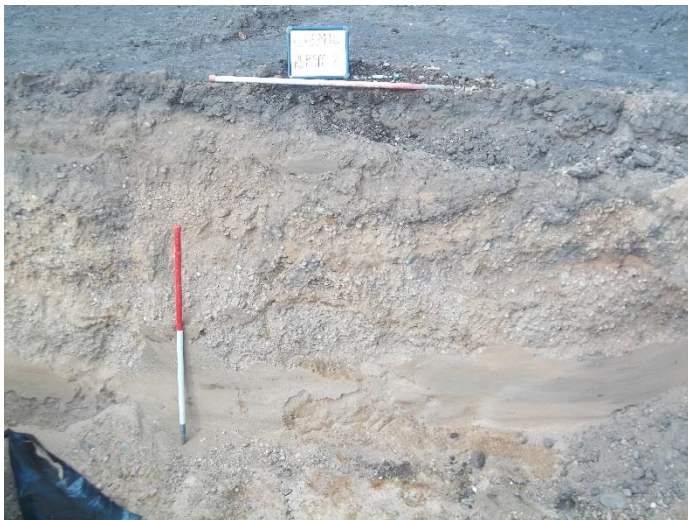


9. Area 2. Site on arrival, looking east





10. Area 2. Representative Section, looking NW



11. Area 2. Representative Section, looking west



12. Feature [203], looking east



13. General shot of shallow trench, looking west

## CPFM14 Appendix 2

### Area 1

Context no.	Type	Description	Dimensions	Finds
100	Layer	Dark brown with a slight grey hue. Sandy silty deposit with a loose friable compaction and occasional rounded pebbles (<4cm). Topsoil.	D=40cm	
101	Layer	Mid brown with a slight orange hue. Sandy silty deposit with a loose compaction and frequent rounded pebbles (<40cm).Subsoil.	D=36cm, LoE	
102	Layer	Dark brown loose sandy silt. No inclusions. Topsoil on the east of Area 1.	D=20cm	
103	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt with a loose compaction, very frequent rounded pebbles and occasional CBM and charcoal.	D=20cm, LoE	
104	Spread	Yellow-browns and with a loose compaction and small rounded pebble inclusions.	D=48cm, LoE	
105	Spread	Yellow brown sand mixed with broken concrete. Deposit is friable with rounded pebble inclusions.	D= LoE	
106	Layer	Orange-brown silty sand. Deposit is compact but friable with frequent rounded pebble inclusions (<4cm)	D= 32cm	
107	Cut	Unknown shape in plan, sides gradual sloping, base beyond LoE.	D=LoE W=1.70m	
108	Fill of [107]	Dark brown silty loose deposit with frequent CBM and pane glass.	D=LoE W=1.70m	

### Area 2

Context no.	Type	Description	Dimensions	Finds
200	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt with a loose compaction, rooting and well sorted occasional rounded pebble inclusions (<4cm). Former plough soil.	D= 8cm	
201	Layer	Light brown very sandy silt with a moderate to loose compaction and very frequent rounded pebbles (<6cm).	D=30cm	
202	Layer	Orange-brown very sandy silt with a firm compaction and very frequent rounded pebbles (<6cm). Natural.	D=1.50m, LoE	

203	Cut	Rectangular in plan, corners with 90 angle, steep sided with a concave base and E-W orientation.	D=28cm W=50cm	
204	Fill of [203]	Redeposited topsoil (200).	D=9cm W=50cm	
205	Fill of [205]	Redeposited natural (202).	D=26cm W=50cm	

### Appendix 3

Redevelopment of Playing Fields, Station Road, Collingham, Notts  
CPFM14

#### Finds Catalogue

Context	Material	No.	Weight (g)	Description	Date	Action
200	Clay tobacco pipe	1	2g	Plain stem fragment	C19th/20th	Discard
201	Clay tobacco pipe	2	5g	Plain stem fragments	C19th/20th	Discard

## Appendix 4

### Playing Fields, Station Road, Collingham, Nottinghamshire (CPFM14)

#### 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). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the pottery type series for Lincolnshire, which also covers Nottinghamshire. A total of 20 sherds from 15 vessels, weighing 184 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 from the Roman to the early modern period.

##### Results

*Table 1, Pottery Archive*

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
200	BL	Black-glazed wares	Bowl	1	1	31	Rim	Square everted rim
200	LERTH	Late Earthenwares	Bowl	1	1	33	Rim	Rounded rim
201	BL	Black-glazed wares	Jar	4	1	31	Base + BS	
201	BS	Brown stoneware (generic)	Bottle	1	1	5	BS	
201	CIST	Cistercian-type ware	Drinking vessel	3	1	17	Base + BS	
201	CMO	Coal Measures Orangeware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	5	BS	
201	GFIN	Miscellaneous Fine Grey ware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	4	BS	Very abraded
201	GFIN	Miscellaneous Fine Grey ware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	7	BS	Burnt; ?ID
201	LERTH	Late Earthenwares	Garden pot	3	3	10	BS	
201	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	Bowl	1	1	9	Rim	
201	NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	Jug	1	1	18	BS with LHJ	Pressed HJ; very abraded
201	NOTGL	Nottingham Light Bodied Glazed ware	Jug	1	1	12	BS	Ridged body; cu glaze; very abraded
201	WHITE	Modern whiteware	Open	1	1	2	BS	Blue sponge decoration

## Potential

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

## SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 2, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
200	Mid 18th to 19th	
201	19th to 20th	

## 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)

## REFERENCES

- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

## Appendix 5

### Playing Fields, Station Rd, Collingham, Nottinghamshire (CPFM 14)

#### *The Animal Bone*

*By Jennifer Wood*

### Introduction

A total of 1 (15g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at Playing Fields, Station Rd, Collingham, Nottinghamshire. The remains were recovered from Area 2, layer 201.

### Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging at grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of burning, butchery, working or gnawing was noted on the remains.

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
201	N/A	Cattle	Tooth	L	1	15	Upper premolar

As can be seen, cattle were the only species identified within the assemblage.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

### References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge