

**NEW HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION, SALUTATION INN, CHURCH
STREET, NETTLETON, WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

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Report prepared for

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by

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the groundworks for the construction of eight holiday accommodation units on land adjacent to the Salutation Inn in the village of Nettleton, in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

Nettleton lies only a short distance from the Roman walled town of Caistor; no evidence for Roman settlement is recorded from within Nettleton village, but an area of intensive Roman activity, including a cemetery and a cropmark enclosure with evidence of industry and occupation, lies to the north-west of the village, approximately 650m from the site.

A pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon cemetery, believed to lie some 300m to the north of the proposed development site, attests to the origins of the present village of Nettleton. The settlement recorded in Domesday Book was already large and prosperous; the site lies within an area of peasant holdings forming part of the medieval village.

No archaeological features were observed during the programme of monitoring and recording.

Figure 1: OS map extract with site location at scale 1:25,000



1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Ms. J. Parsons to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of eight holiday accommodation units on land adjacent to the Salutation Inn in the village of Nettleton, in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

The Historic Environment Record Officer for the District of West Lindsey has noted that Nettleton is documented as a Saxo-Norman settlement, and that there is evidence for earlier Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area. The proposed development site has been identified as an area of peasant holdings within the medieval village. Consequently, a scheme of archaeological investigation is advised, to enable heritage assets within the site to be recorded prior to their destruction.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Nettleton is sited on the A46, approximately 1km to the south-west of the small town of Caistor and 10.5km to the north of Market Rasen. Development does not extend far along the A46 itself, but is loosely distributed along several smaller roads crossing and joining it, including the B1205 and the minor roads to Rothwell and Normanby le Wold.

The Salutation Inn is a public house and restaurant located on the east side of the A46 to Caistor, on the north side of its junction with Church Street, which leads eastwards out of the village towards Rothwell. The building is thought to be about 150 years old and is white-rendered with pitched slate roofs. There is a main two-storey element with two storey and single storey outrigger type extensions. A large car park fronts on to the A46 and gives access along its northern edge to a garden space/paddock, which is the application site. The site is bordered by open fields to the north and a paddock, where sheep currently graze, to the east. Bounding the site on the west is the A46 with several detached two storey houses and bungalows set back in a ribbon type development along the other side of the A46; the site is divided from the road by a drain. Currently, the site is under rough grass, with six or seven mature trees around its boundary. There are also strips of hedging and self-seeded sapling trees which give some screening along the boundary with the A46 (KKA, 2014).

The site is not within a Conservation Area or any other designated area, although it lies close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

3.0 Geology and topography

Nettleton lies on the eastern edge of the Ancholme valley, on the spring line at the foot of the west-facing scarp slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds, which rises steeply immediately to the south and east of the village, divided by the valley of a stream, the Nettleton Beck, on which the village lies. To the north and west is the flat, artificially drained land of the valley floor. The scarp face of the Wolds is unstable, and prone to landslips and soil creep: part of the village was destroyed by landslips in the late 17th century (Everson *et al.*, 1991).

The site is slightly raised above the level of the A46, and slopes gently down from north to south, ranging from approximately 43.8m to 43.1m above Ordnance Datum sea level (KKA, 2014).

The drift geology across the site and its neighbourhood is Blown Sand, over a solid geology of Ancholme Group clays (BGS, 1982).

4.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council in July 2014 for the construction of eight single-storey, pitched-roofed holiday units for short-stay accommodation, with associated landscaping and cycle store (planning application number 131136).

Planning permission was granted subject to the pre-start conditions that a written scheme of archaeological investigation should be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to development, and that the Local Planning Authority shall be notified in writing of the intent to commence the archaeological investigations at least 14 days beforehand (conditions 3 and 4). Conditions 5-7 further require that the archaeological site work should be undertaken only in full accordance with the approved WSI; that a written report of the findings of the site work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA within 3 months of the completion of site works, and that the project archive, consisting of the report and any archaeological evidence recovered from the site, shall be deposited with the approved museum of record within 6 months of the completion of site works.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

Although there is currently no evidence for prehistoric activity within Nettleton village, a number of finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts are known within its wider area: finds of Neolithic to Bronze Age flints, a Bronze Age dagger and Iron Age pottery have been recorded within a distance of 700m to 900m to the south of the site, with two further finds of Neolithic to Bronze Age and Bronze Age flints between 700m and 1km to the west (Gardner, 2002).

Nettleton lies only a short distance from the walled Roman town of Caistor, believed to have been both an administrative and a market centre for the surrounding area. No evidence for Roman settlement is recorded from within Nettleton village, but an area of intensive Roman activity lies to the north-west of the village, approximately 650m from the site. The cropmark of a quadrilateral enclosure with rounded corners has been provisionally identified as a Roman fort or camp; fieldwalking carried out in 2013 retrieved late Iron Age and Roman material including pottery, furnace slag from metal working and two 1st to 2nd-century bronze brooches. A geophysical survey was carried out on the site the following year, but conditions were poor and only a short section of possible ditch was recorded (HER ref. 50545). A Romano-British cremation cemetery was found close to the north edge of the cropmark in the 19th century: the cinerary urns are believed to have dated from the 4th century, and may have been associated with Caistor, as Roman civic law forbade burials within town walls (Gardner, 2002).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating to the 5th to 6th century was found around 1855, 'about halfway between [Caistor] and the adjoining village of Nettleton'; it is believed to have lain on the east side of the A46 Caistor Road, approximately 300m to the north of the site, although its location and extent are not certain. Several finds of skeletons, with grave goods including spearheads, a 5th-century bronze hanging bowl, and beads were reported. Further finds of skeletons have been reported during the 20th century, including one found during construction of the bypass in 1937, three found during drain digging in 1964 and several found on the outskirts of Caistor between 1964 and 1969. A single burial found in 1972 in a garden on the east side of Nettleton Road, on the south edge of Caistor, may also be connected with this cemetery (HER refs. 50220, 50587; Gardner, 2002).

The present settlement of Nettleton is first documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Early medieval Nettleton was a substantial and extremely prosperous settlement divided between five landowners, with a church, nine mills and a population of fifty-three households (Morgan and Thorne, 1986). The Grade II* Listed parish church of St. John the Baptist, on the north

side of Church Street approximately 100m to the east of the site, retains some features of the church listed in Domesday Book, with Saxo-Norman stonework in the tower, but was altered in the 15th century and restored and largely rebuilt twice in the 19th century (HER ref. 50215). Areas of earthwork ridge-and-furrow and other agricultural earthworks surviving around the village attest to the extent of arable cultivation in medieval Nettleton (Gardner, 2002).

Approximately 100m to the south-east of the site is the farmstead of Glebe Farm. The farmhouse here is recorded as a Grade II Listed, possibly late 15th-century timber-framed building, encased in brick in the 18th century (HER ref. 55677); however, this building is believed to have been demolished in 1988 after having become irreparably derelict. The outlines of house plots abandoned after the 17th-century landslips can be seen as earthworks to the rear of Glebe Farm. Earthworks observed in the orchard of Glebe Farm during a site visit for a desk-based assessment included a possible house platform; no building appeared in this position on the 1794 enclosure award plan, indicating that it must have pre-dated the late 18th century (Gardner, 2002; HER ref. 54744).

The Grade II Listed Old Rectory, constructed of ironstone rubble and red brick in the early 19th century, and now a private house, stands about 100m to the south of the site on the south side of Church Street (HER ref. 55676). Post-medieval buildings of local significance in the immediate neighbourhood of the site include two chapels, both on Church Street. The former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Nettleton was built of brick and stone in 1848, and has a brick-built Sunday school, dating from 1912, to the rear, while the former Primitive Methodist Chapel, built of brick, can be dated only to the late 19th century (HER refs. 55045-6).

The only archaeological find recorded in the centre of Nettleton is that of a knife with silver wire decoration, found on the east side of Caistor Road in June 1956 (HER ref. 50219).

6.0 Methodology

A 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket was used to excavate the segmented footings trenches for the new structures, which were 40cm x 1m reaching a depth of 1.15m. Subsequently a 5m x 2m pit was excavated to deposit turf and hardcore material. At a later stage of the project service trenches were excavated from the new structures towards the car park in south of the site.

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: a selection from this is reproduced in the current report.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Richard Mandeville from 26/11/14 to 19/1/15.

7.0 Results

Nothing of note was observed during the course of archaeological monitoring.

Footing excavations demonstrated topsoil (103) sealed the upper subsoil (102). This layer in turn covered the underlying sandy loam (101), which sealed the natural clay geology.

Drainage excavations in the car park exposed modern concrete and hardcore overlying subsoil (102). Drainage north of the car park exposed hardcore levelling material overlying subsoil (103).

8.0 Conclusion

No archaeology was recorded during the course of this watching brief.

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 Ms. J. Parsons 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 December 2015.

12.0 Bibliography

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

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Kate Kelly Architect (KKA), 2014, *The Salutation Inn, Nettleton – Holiday Accommodation Design and Access Statement*. Unpublished client report.

Morgan P. and Thorne C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book vol. 31: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester.

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Lincolnshire Wolds North, Louth & Market Rasen: 1:25,000 scale Explorer series no. 271*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Figure 2: Location Plan at scale 1:1250
excavations highlighted in red

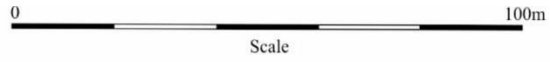


Figure 3: Footing excavations at scale 1:100

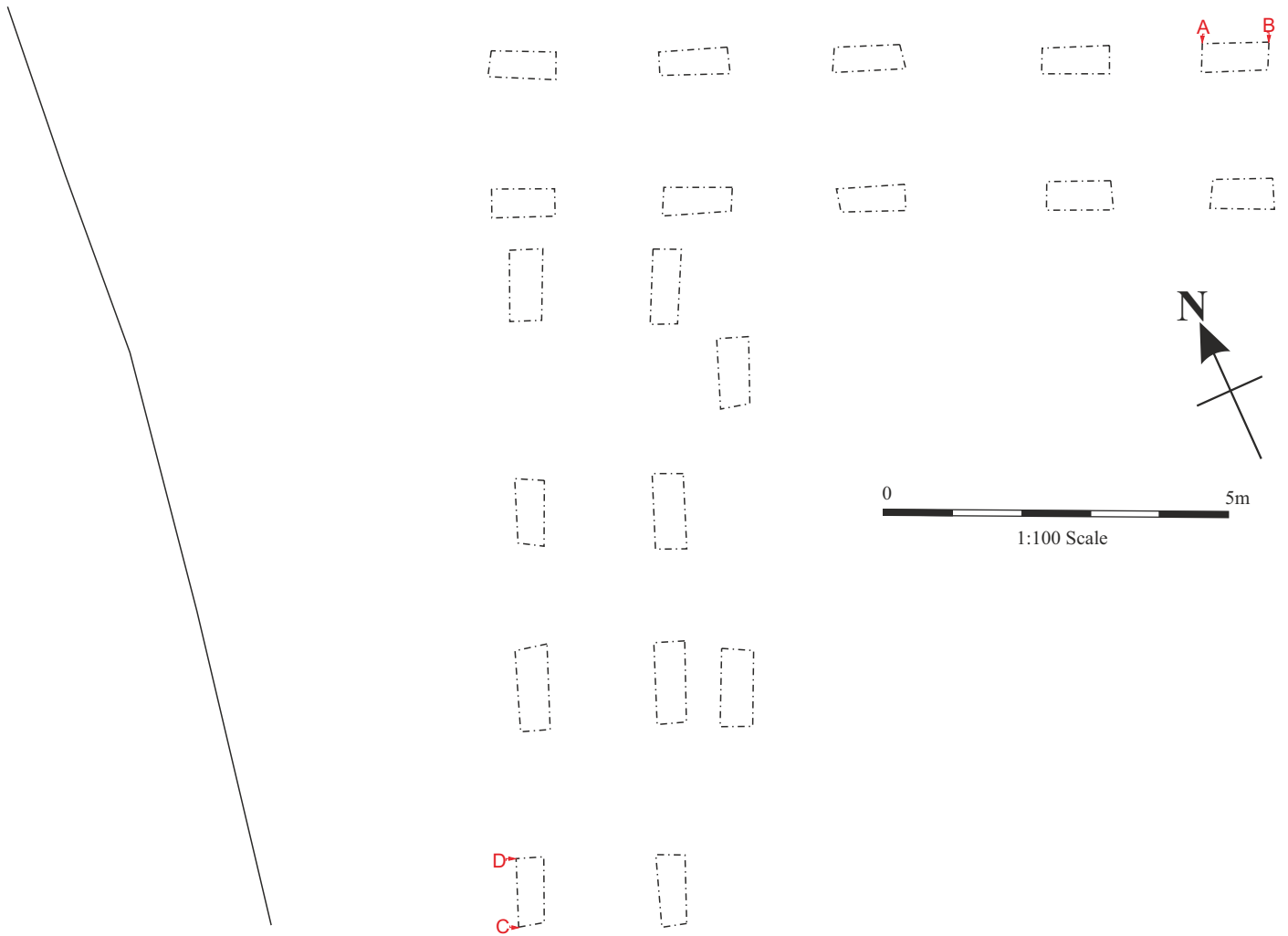


Figure 4: Footing sections at scale 1:20

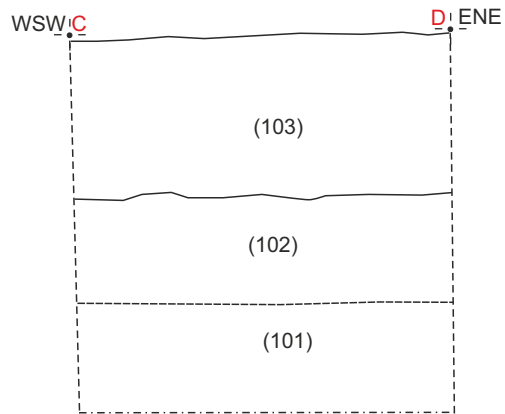
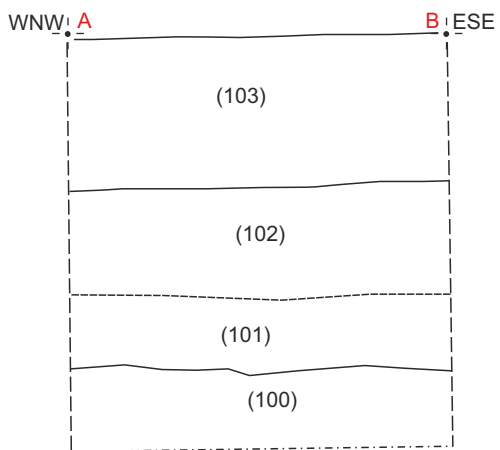


Figure 5: Drainage excavations at scale 1:200

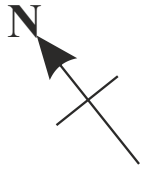
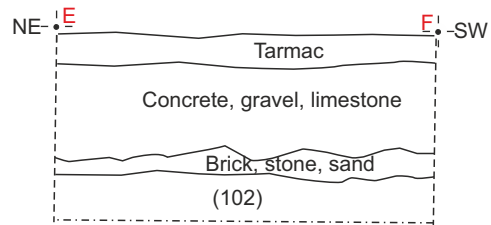
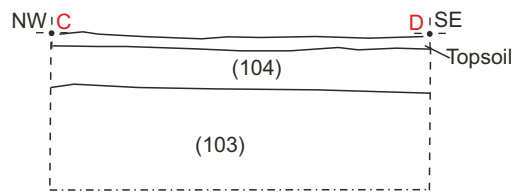
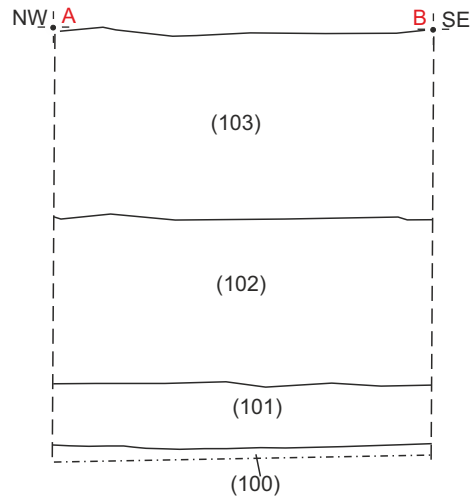


Figure 6: Drainage sections at scale 1:20



Appendix 1 Colour Plates



1. Site on arrival, looking northeast



2. Footing sample section A-B, looking north-north-east



3. Footing sample section C-D, looking north-north-west



4. Drainage sample section A-B, looking northeast



5. Drainage sample section C-D, looking southwest



6. Drainage sample section E-F, looking southeast

Appendix 2 Context Summary

<u>context no.</u>	<u>type</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>width (cm)</u>	<u>length (cm)</u>	<u>depth (cm)</u>	<u>finds</u>
100	layer	mid yellow-brown silty sand			20 LoE	
101	layer	mid grey-brown sandy loam			20	
102	layer	mid grey-brown sandy loam			30	
103	layer	dark grey-brown sandy loam			40	
104	layer	hardcore				