

**LAND OFF BANOVALLUM GARDENS, COWLING CLOSE,
HORNCastle, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD

NGR: TF 26507 69357
ELDC Planning ref: S/086/01255/14
PCAS site code: HCCX 14
PCAS job no.: 1408
Accession No.: LCNCC 2014.234
OASIS ID: preconst3-225266

Prepared for
Bell and Shinn

by R. Mandeville

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk
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Fig. 1: Location of the development site at scale 1:25,000. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Fig. 2: Site layout showing area of strip, map and record (blue) prior to development groundworks. 1:500 @ A4. Plan supplied by client.

Fig. 3: Plan of area stripped and recorded at scale 1:200.

Fig. 4: Excavated sections at scale 1:10/1:20.

Non-Technical Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. was instructed by Bell and Shinn to undertake a programme of strip, map and recording prior to construction groundworks associated with residential development at Cowling Close, Banovallum Gardens.

Roman Horncastle was a thriving town with occupation probably commencing in the late Iron Age and continuing throughout the Roman period. The early Roman town appears to have been concentrated to the south, with a walled enclosure constructed in the 3rd century AD.

The development site lies within the extra mural zone surrounding the walled settlement. Prior research suggested the site was part of a cremation cemetery which lay outside the town walls, since more than 20 cremation burials were encountered during excavations for Horncastle Workhouse, less than 20m southwest of the site. However, no burials were uncovered, and the few features which were encountered were of 20th century date.



Fig. 1: Location of the development site at scale 1:25,000. Extract from OS Explorer sheet 249 (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Bell and Shinn to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of construction works on Plots 13-18, Cowling Close, Horncastle.

The site lies close to the Romano-British walled settlement of Banovallum, within the extra-mural settlement zone. Evidence of Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity during previous works, and suggested the possibility of human remains being encountered within the area of the new houses. Therefore, planning permission was granted subject to excavation and recording prior to any development groundworks taking place.

This document details the results of the archaeological recording, as required by the planning decision notice. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance, and is subject to the approval of the Planning Archaeologist for East Lindsey District Council (ELDC).

2 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1-2)

Horncastle lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 28km east of Lincoln. The town is centred on the crossroads of the A153 and A158, with the confluence of the Rivers Bain and Waring directly to the north-west.

The site falls within a 20th century residential development zone on the east side of Horncastle, to the south of Spilsby Road (A158), on land to the west of Banovallum Gardens. The proposed Cowling Close lies to the west of Banovallum Gardens, a cul-de-sac accessed off of Maltby Way. The development consists of a new access and six new houses, with associated parking and services.

The central National Grid Reference of the site is TF 26507 69357.

3 Geology and Topography

Bedrock geology in Horncastle and the surrounding area is recorded as Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone; formed during the Jurassic Period in a shallow sea environment.

The overlying drift geology consists of Quaternary Period till deposits, laid down during the mid Pleistocene glacial period. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/>)

The site lies just above the 35m OD contour line. There are multiple benchmarks recorded in the area, but the closest to the site is cut into the west face of no.43 Albert Street, about 50m from the west end of the site. The recorded level is 36.64m OD, cut 0.50m above existing ground level.

4 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This placed the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF s141). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

Cowling Close is the latest phase of construction for a new residential estate around Banovallum Gardens, on the east side of Horncastle. Previous phases of work have been subject to archaeological monitoring following an archaeological evaluation completed prior to the development of Banovallum Gardens which identified archaeological remains. Investigations in the immediate area identified a Romano-British cremation cemetery.

The planning application (Ref: S/086/01255/14) is for the development of six new houses with associated access from Maltby Way, parking and services. Due to the identified archaeological potential of the site, the planning permission was granted subject to archaeological conditions.

The archaeological conditions required the production and implementation of a scheme of investigation; to be completed prior to the commencement of any construction groundworks, and followed by the production and submission of a report on the results of the fieldwork. The scheme of archaeological strip map and recording was proposed following consultation with the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Evidence of early occupation and activity around Horncastle is sparse; scatters of flint tools have been recovered during fieldwalking exercises around Horncastle, and flints indicating activity throughout the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages have been identified. These flints are largely unstratified or have been recovered as residual finds in features also containing later pottery, with very few cut features to suggest a focus of activity or settlement.

The first identified evidence of permanent occupation around Horncastle is an Iron Age enclosure on the east side of Horncastle approximately 400m southeast of the site. This enclosure is defined by large ditches with extensions to the east and west, however there is no evidence of internal enclosures suggesting it may be a stock enclosure on the edge of a farmstead (LHER ref: 41865).

Settlement at Horncastle was well established by the late Iron Age/early Roman period (HER ref. 43747) and is tentatively identified as the known settlement of *Banovallum*, when the town developed as a market town and local administrative centre (Whitwell, 1992). The settlement was defined in the 3rd century by the construction of a town wall, which encompassed a rectangular area of about 2 hectares between the Rivers Bain and Waring. The walls are recorded by English Heritage as being the best preserved Roman walls in Lincolnshire, surviving in places to over 3.5m in height and at least 3m thick (List Entry id: 1005034). Excavations have identified significant archaeological remains to the south of this enclosure, which may be part of the open, earlier settlement or the extra-mural activity which surrounded the town. Cropmarks to the south of Horncastle suggest agricultural enclosures and field systems beyond the occupational activity of the town.

The development site lies to the east of the walled enclosure and the extra mural settlement, where a significant numbers of inhumation and cremation burials have been revealed. Human remains have been recovered from site from Banovallum House on Jubilee Way to the north and as far south as Churchill Avenue, and construction in the early 19th century around Albert Street, less than 50m from the development site, disturbed at least 26 Iron Age and Roman cremation urns (LHER ref: 41870). Roman burials were prohibited within the limits of the settlement, and burials are commonly found along the roads extending away from the settlements; both the A158 from Wragby to the coast and the track way now known as High Street extending through the Wolds from South Ferriby to Horncastle are known Roman Roads.

Archaeological recording prior to and during the development of Banovallum Gardens revealed a series of ditches and other features thought to relate to the extra mural settlement

around Horncastle, and excavation at Foundry Street around 200m west of the site revealed at least three inhumation burials and a high density of ditches, gullies and pits. These features are all recorded associated with a layer of “dark soil”, which is interpreted as an occupation layer, and features have been identified both cut into and beneath this layer. In addition, an archaeological evaluation Bargate Lane, near Foundry Street to the west, encountered the remains of a large wall of likely Roman date and two contemporary floor surfaces, one of which was *opus signinum*. The wall was cut by a later robber trench and covered by a sequence of dark occupation layers and topsoil. A quantity of pottery from the site was dated to between AD 120 and AD 200 (Francis, 2012). This evidence suggests high density occupation and utilisation of the area of the development site.

Occupation at the settlement continued into the Saxon period, although it is likely the settlement experienced a decline following the withdrawal of the Roman Empire back to the Continent. Both early and late Saxon artefacts have been recovered from the area around High Street, Bridge Street and Conging Street, suggesting settlement may have contracted inwards to be focused within the defensive walls of the Roman town (LHER ref: 43886).

Despite this change in the settlement dynamics, Horncastle continued to be an important local town. A late Saxon royal mint at Horncastle is recorded in documentary sources, although the location of the mint is unknown, and the manor continued to be held by the regent into the early Norman period; Horncastle is recorded in the Domesday Book as being held directly by the king, and as well as being a substantial manor in its own right it also had jurisdiction over 14 other villages and their associated lands (Morgan and Thorne, 1986).

Horncastle received its market charter in 1230, and the town continued to prosper throughout the medieval period as a locally important market town at a crossing of the River Bain. Early records suggest that the river was forded rather than being crossed via a bridge; the existing bridge at Horncastle is of comparatively modern date (LHER ref: 41868).

Horncastle experienced a recession in the 17th century with the arrival of the canal and railway bringing the town into more direct competition with the larger towns in the area (ELDC, 2008).

Horncastle Union workhouse was built off Foundry Street in the late 1830s. The building survives today, and lies immediately to the southwest of the development site. During the excavations for the construction of the building, 24 Roman cremation burials were disturbed. The development site itself has not been previously investigated, but available mapping indicates the site was not involved in any 19th or 20th century development and may be undisturbed.

6 Methodology

The area of investigation was stripped in two phases. Topsoil was removed under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless blade, in spits no more than 20cm thick. Machine excavation ceased at the first archaeologically significant horizon or the surface of the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

Where exposed, individual features were planned at a scale of 1:20 (occasionally 1:10 for the smallest), and incorporated onto a site plan, prepared at scale 1:100 (main area) or 1:200 (western part). A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon, feature cut and deposit was made on standard PCAS context recording sheets. This record was supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary and registers. A digital photographic record was maintained during the course of the investigation, along with colour slides of features in the main area.

7 Results (Fig. 3, Plates 1-7)

The majority of features encountered consisted of 20th century refuse pits or natural solution hollows. Two ditches and two post holes were examined but nothing of archaeological interest was found.

The exposed geology was constant throughout the stripped area (Plate 1). The topsoil (101) was clayey silty sand incorporating small flint pebbles; typically 0.25m thick. Beneath this was natural greyish orange sand (102).

Many of the exposed features appeared to be pits, dug for the deposition of materials such as modern demolition rubble, chicken wire and broken glass. These features were for the most part not investigated, but their locations were included on the site plan (Fig. 3).

Two of the smaller refuse pits were investigated: pits [109] and [117] were of irregular plan, and contained early 20th century refuse (Plate 7). Two Further features, [105] and [109], were examined, proving to be shallow natural depressions containing silty deposits (Plate 3).

A ditch-like feature [103], located towards the west end of the site (Plate 2) yielded a single piece of 20th century pottery. Two small post holes [111] and [112], were also investigated (Plates 5-6). Post hole [111] was 0.14m in diameter and 0.05cm deep, with steep sides, and contained a black sandy silt fill (114) with the occasional charcoal fragment. Post hole [112] was 0.30m in diameter by 0.20m deep, and contained a brown silty sand fill (115) with flint inclusions. The east edge of feature [107] was within the stripped area (Plate 4) - it was unclear whether this was a ditch or an elongated pit. In addition, along the southern edge of the site, feature [119] revealed a land drain in the excavated section.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

Despite the known close proximity of the site to a Roman cemetery, the investigated area revealed nothing in terms of significant archaeology. Clearly, the site was used partly for the deposition of refuse during the 20th century. No features of earlier origin were encountered anywhere during the course of the investigation.

Despite this, the absence of archaeology has assisted in determining the north-eastern extent of the Roman cemetery (LHER ref: 41870), which can be defined to an area situated between Horncastle Workhouse, c. 20m to the south-west and the edge of the present site, marked by a brick wall along the southern edge of the site.

9 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed was effective in demonstrating that the site was devoid of Roman funerary and related remains.

10 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. would like to thank Bell and Shinn for this commission.

11 Site Archive

The documentary and digital archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months of completion of this report under the Lincolnshire Museums archive accession code LCNCC 2014.234. An online record of the project data was initiated with the Archaeological Data Service, and the final report will be available for viewing online on the OASIS web site at www.oasis.ac.uk under the OASIS ID preconst3-225266.

12 Bibliography

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<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

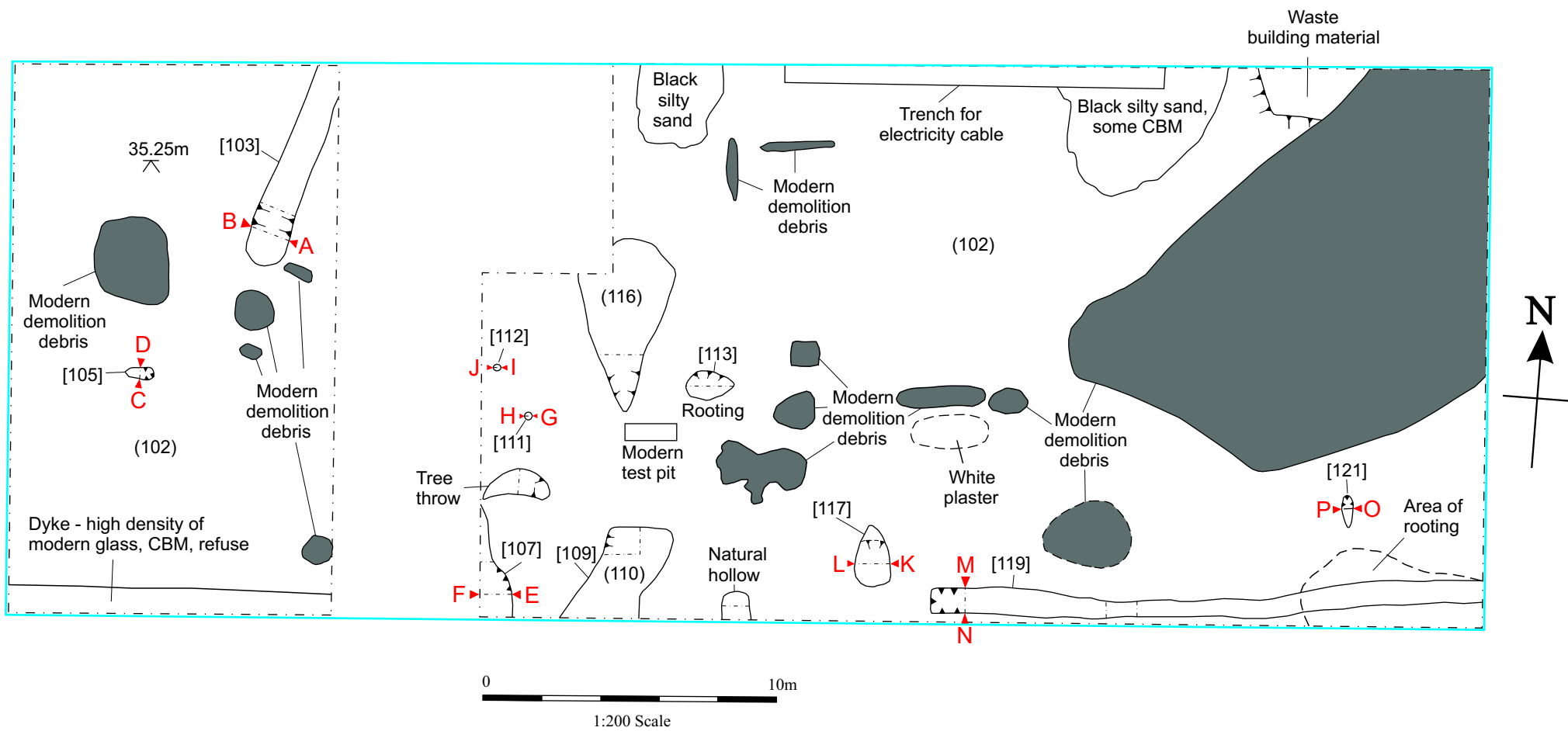
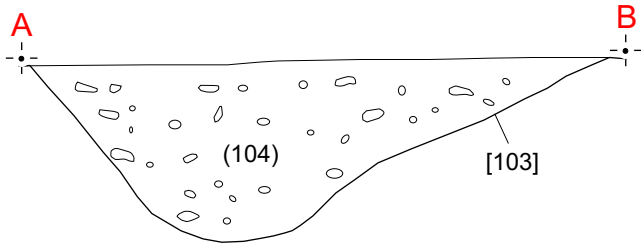
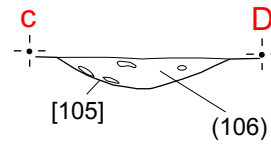


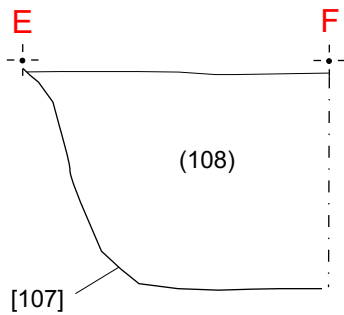
Fig. 3: Plan of area stripped and recorded. The blue area is the site limit shown in Figure 2.



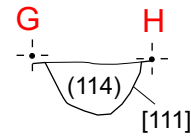
a) N facing section of ditch [103]



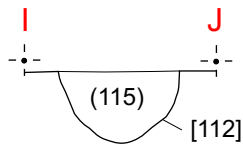
b) E facing section of feature [105]



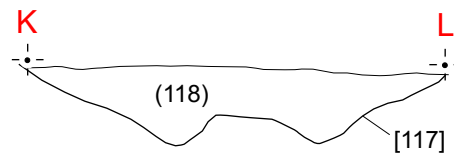
c) N facing section of pit [107]



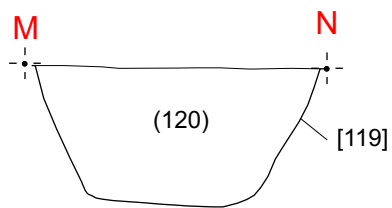
d) N facing section of pit [111]



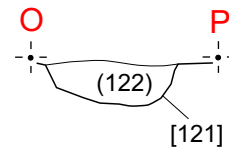
e) N facing section of pit [112]



f) N facing section of pit [117]

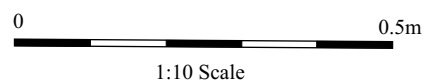
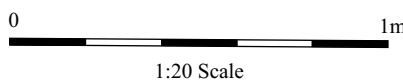


g) W facing section of ditch [119]



h) N facing section of pit [121]

Fig. 4: Selection of excavated sections @ scale 1:20. G-H @ scale 1:10



Colour Plates



Plate 1: The natural sand in the western end of the site, with ditch [103] in the background. The dark areas are modern debris pits and were found across the site

Plate 2: Section of ditch [103] viewed from the south



Plate 3: An example of a silt filled natural depression



Plate 4: Located at the edge of the site, it was not clear whether feature [107] was a pit or a ditch. Looking south



Plate 5: [111] was the smaller of two post holes 2m apart, and contained the occasional charcoal fragment



Plate 6: Post hole [112] contained a lighter fill and flint pebbles



Plate 7: Pit [117] is typical of many 20th century debris filled features located on the site

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
101	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey clay silt with some sand content with occasional flint pebbles. Depth 0.25m.	
102	Layer	Natural. Light/mid greyish orange sand with frequent gravel inclusions.	Natural
103	Cut	Cut of ditch aligned N-S. South end V shaped, more U shaped north end. Fairly steep, slight step on west side. Width 1.56m, depth 0.52m, length >3m.	Modern
104	Fill	Fill of ditch [103]. Mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint to 2.5cm. Loose. 1 modern piece of pot half way down.	Modern
105	Cut	Shallow oval pit probably a natural depression. Concave sides and base. Width 0.42m, depth 0.09m, length 1.20m.	Natural
106	Fill	Fill of gully [105]. Very dark greyish brown sandy silt with uncommon flint to 1.5cm. Loose.	Natural
107	Cut	One edge of either a ditch or elongated pit, almost vertical edge with a flat base. Width >0.80m, depth 0.60m.	Modern artefacts – discarded on site
108	Fill	Fill of [107]. Black compact silt with some sand. Heavy rooting. Finds included 1 piece of clay pipe.	Modern (19 th cent) Discarded on site
109	Cut	Slightly irregular wide but shallow linear feature aligned N-S. Width 2.20m, depth 0.20m.	Natural
110	Fill	Fill of probable solution hollow [109], mid brown compact sand with some silt, flint pebbles and some CBM.	Modern (19 th cent) Discarded on site
111	Cut	Circular post hole with vertical sides and concave base. Width 0.14m, depth 0.08m.	
112	Cut	Circular post hole with near-vertical sides and concave base. Width 0.30m, depth 0.20m.	
113	Deposit	Highly irregular deposit of mid brown compact silty sand with common flint and pebbles. Width 1.30m, depth 0.28m. Extends under the natural sand. Finds include pieces of clay pipe.	Tree throw Clay pipe & pottery discarded on site
114	Fill	Fill of post hole [111]. Black compact sandy silt with occasional charcoal fragments but no inclusions. Width 0.14m, depth 0.08m.	
115	Fill	Fill of post hole [112]. Mid brown compact silty sand with flint and pebbles. Width 0.30m, depth 0.20m.	
116	Deposit	Spread of mid brown compact sandy silt with flint, pebbles and some CBM. Width 3m, depth <0.08m.	

117	Cut	Irregular oval pit with fairly shallow sides and irregular base. Width 1.05m, depth 0.20m.	Modern
118	Fill	Fill of pit [117]. Very dark brown compact silty sand with CBM, flint and pebbles. Width 0.30m, depth 0.20m.	Modern Clay pipe & pottery discarded on site
119	Cut	Land drain aligned E-W with near vertical sides and concave base. Width 0.80m, depth 0.30m.	Modern
120	Fill	Fill of land drain [117]. Width 0.30m, depth 0.20m.	Modern. Pottery discarded on site
121	Cut	Oblong pit aligned N-S with sloped eastern side, concave western side and base. Width 0.44m, depth 0.15m.	Modern
122	Fill	Fill of pit [122]. Black compact silty sand with charcoal fragments and flint. Width 0.44m, depth 0.15m.	Modern

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OASIS ID: preconst3-225266

Project details

Project name	Land off Banovallum Gardens, Cowling Close, Horncastle, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	The site lies on the western edge of a larger development at Banovallum Gardens, the archaeological potential of which was investigated in phases during the 1990s. The disperse range of features indicated activity on the outer edge of the Roman and medieval town. Roman Horncastle was a thriving town with occupation probably beginning in the late Iron Age and continuing throughout the Roman period. The early Roman town appears to have been concentrated to the south, with a walled enclosure being constructed in the 3rd century AD. The development site lies within the extra mural zone surrounding the walled settlement. Prior research suggested that the site was part of a cremation cemetery which lay outside the town walls, since more than 20 cremation burials were encountered during the excavations for Horncastle Workhouse less than 20m southwest of the site. However, no burials were uncovered, and the few features which were encountered were 20th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 02-06-2015 End: 31-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HCCX14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HORNCastle Land off Banovallum Gardens, Cowling Close
Study area	988 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 26507 69357 53.205907509788 -0.105636773348 53 12 21 N 000 06 20 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	B. Wheeliker, R. Mandeville

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"

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

**Project
bibliography 1**

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