

LAND TO REAR OF NO. 222, THORPE ROAD, PETERBOROUGH

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR:	TL 16886 98746
Planning application:	11/01785/FUL; APP/J0540/A/12/2169836
PCAS job no.	1387
Site code:	PTRM 15
Archive acc. no.:	TBC

Prepared for
Mandy Stibbe and Allan With

by
R. Dickinson
May 2017



PCAS Archaeology Ltd
47, Manor Road,
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX

Tel. 01522 703800
e-mail: info@pcas-archaeology.co.uk

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Description	2
3.0 Geology and Topography	2
4.0 Planning Background	2
5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
6.0 Methodology	4
7.0 Results	4
8.0 Conclusion	5
9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology	6
10.0 Acknowledgements	6
11.0 Site Archive	6
12.0 Bibliography	6

Appendix 1: Context Register

Appendix 2: Finds Report

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

Figures

Fig. 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000

Fig. 2: Proposed plan of the site at scale 1:500.

Fig. 3: Plan of monitored groundworks (services) 1:500 and sections 1:20 @ A3

Fig. 4: Plan of monitored groundworks (House/Garage) 1:200 and sections 1:20 @ A3

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the groundworks of a new dwelling and a replacement garage on land to the rear of no. 222, Thorpe Road in the city of Peterborough.

The site lies within an area of known archaeological importance; a Roman villa is believed to have lain within the grounds of Thorpe Hall, on the opposite side of Thorpe Road, and Thorpe Hall itself is a Grade I Listed Jacobean country house within a designated historic park.

Monitoring of groundworks identified no significant archaeological features or horizons. A mid 17th/early 18th century clay tobacco pipe, a Victorian glass bottle, one small fragment of early medieval pottery, and one fragment of later medieval/early post-medieval pottery were retrieved from topsoil and subsoil deposits.

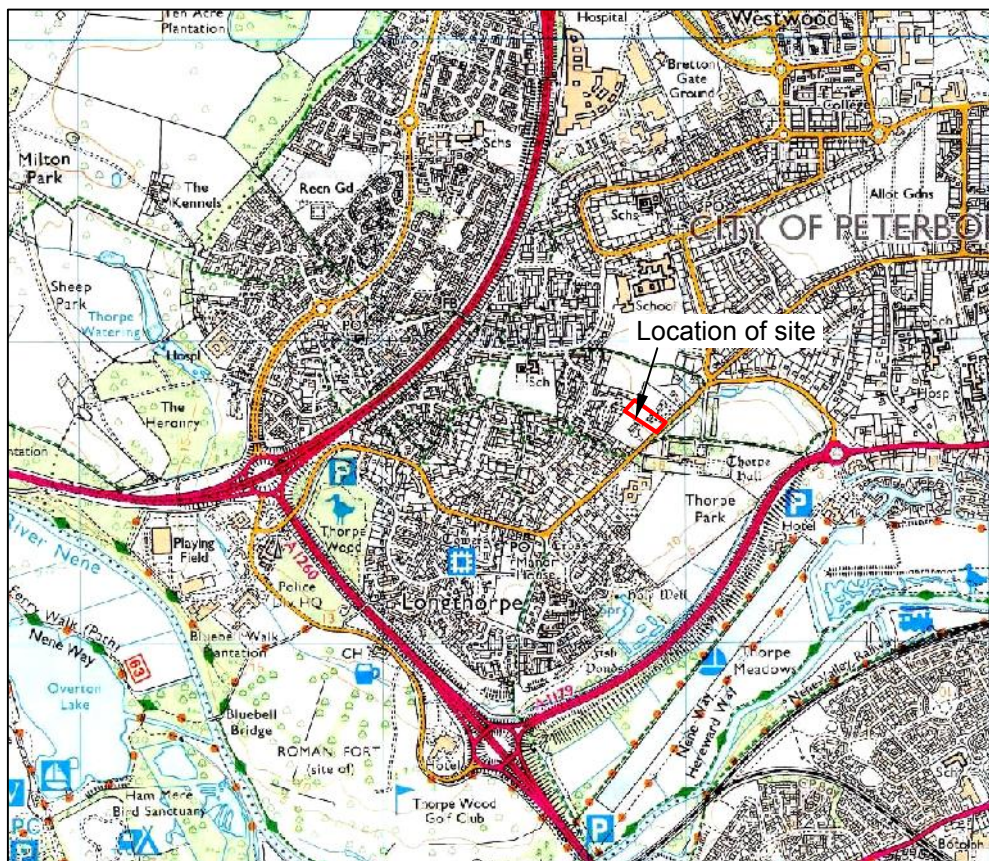


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The area of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd) was commissioned by Ms. Mandy Stibbe and Mr. Allan With to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundwork associated with the construction of a prestige dwelling and a replacement garage for no. 222 Thorpe Road, Peterborough. It was advised by Peterborough County Council that development had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits relating to Roman occupation.

The results of this project fulfil the requirements of the planning condition attached to the planning application response.

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

The city of Peterborough lies on the River Nene at the northern edge of the county of Cambridgeshire, near its border with Lincolnshire. The development site is situated some 2km to the west of the city centre and 1km to the north of the River Nene, within the former settlement of Longthorpe (now a suburb of Peterborough) on the north side of Thorpe Road. It is presently part of the residential curtilage of no. 222 Thorpe Road; a large, detached house. The entire plot has a total area of approximately 0.6ha, and the footprint of the new house occupies approximately 0.24ha within this. The site currently comprises mature garden land, which incorporates a number of substantial trees set close to the side and rear boundaries (BSM, 2009).

National Grid Reference: TL 16886 98746.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The site lies on the north side of the valley of the River Nene, on land falling away to the south, south-east and south-west above a bend in the river. It slopes down south-eastwards towards Thorpe Road, from an approximate Ordnance Datum height of 10m at the rear edge of the site to approximately 9m OD at the roadside edge (fig. 3).

The drift geology of the area is recorded as Third River Terrace Deposits, over a solid geology of Blisworth Clay (BGS, 1984).

4.0 Planning Background

Full planning permission was granted after appeal for the construction of a prestige five-bedroomed dwelling and a replacement garage (application number 11/01785/FUL; appeal no. APP/J0540/A/12/2169836).

In accordance with paragraphs 128 and 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Policy CS17 of the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD and Policy PP17 of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD, condition C11 of the planning permission required a programme of archaeological work to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before site works commenced, and to be implemented thereafter as approved.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Peterborough area is a known centre of Roman occupation. The Car Dyke canal, a Roman civil engineering project constructed around AD 125, connects Peterborough with

Lincoln (LHER ref. 60706), while a Roman vexillation fortress (a military base mid-way in size between a fort and a full legionary fortress), constructed of earth and timber, was excavated in the 1960s on land above the bend in the River Nene to the south-west of Longthorpe, now occupied by a golf course (Wilson, 1980, pp.24-7). The remains of a Roman villa have been recorded on the present site of Thorpe Hall: a mosaic pavement was recorded by Stukeley in 1720, and Roman coins were also found (PHER ref. 01410e). A bronze coin of Faustina, found in 1953 in Thorpe Park is also recorded (PHER ref. 01421).

The first settlement on the site of the city of Peterborough was a Saxon village called *Medehamstede*. An abbey was built here in c. AD 655, but in AD 870 was plundered by Danish raiders and abandoned. A new abbey was built in AD 972, and the walled settlement that grew up around it was known as 'St. Peter's burgh' (a 'burgh' being a fortified town). The early medieval town lay to the west of the abbey, but following a disastrous fire in AD 1116, the abbey was completely rebuilt and the abbot laid out a new planned town to the west of it. Weaving wool was the main industry (Lambert, n.d.).

The presence of cropmark ridge-and-furrow, identified on aerial photographs of Thorpe Park, indicates that the proposed development site lay within an open field, probably belonging to Longthorpe village, during the medieval period (PHER ref. 08283).

Peterborough Abbey was closed in 1539 as part of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries; the majority of the buildings were demolished, but the abbey church was converted into a cathedral for the city (Lambert, n.d.).

Thorpe Hall, on the south side of Thorpe Road broadly opposite no. 222, is a Grade I Listed Building, built in 1653-56 with extensive 18th-century alterations (PHER ref. 01410). According to local tradition, Thorpe Hall was built of stone taken from the cathedral cloister: a programme of archaeological recording during the rebuilding of a large part of the kitchen garden walls recorded 205 re-used architectural stones, ranging in date from the 12th to the 15th centuries and including many from the late medieval cloister and a distinctive group of late 13th to 14th-century mouldings; the wide variety of architectural styles observed indicated that stones from other parts of the cathedral had also been utilised (PHER ref. 53761). Its Grade II Listed late 19th-century lodge fronts on to Thorpe Road (PHER ref. 01410d). The park and gardens surrounding Thorpe Hall are designated Historic Parks and Gardens (PHER ref. 01410f). The Hall is presently in use as a residential hospital.

Archaeological monitoring carried out during the excavation of a water main trench at Thorpe Hall in 1980 encountered no deposits of archaeological significance, but retrieved medieval and post-medieval finds including architectural fragments and bottle glass (PHER ref. 50629). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2013 prior to development on land on the east side of Thorpe Park: nine trenches were excavated, but only post-medieval building remains were observed (PHER ref. 53618).

A number of undated cropmark features have been observed in Thorpe Park from aerial photography. These include a ring ditch 15-20m in diameter, a path or trackway running to the south gate of the walled garden, a circular mark 15m in diameter which may be a barrow, a possible park boundary ditch and/or park pale, and a scatter of features that may represent pits or stone rubble: if the latter, these features could be associated with the villa site recorded in the 18th century (PHER refs. 50392-7).

6.0 Methodology



Plate 1: Vegetation strip

A vegetation strip (Plate 1), from the driveway to the tennis court, was carried out using a 360° 8 tonne machine with a flat-bladed bucket as the first part of the groundworks. Initial works also included the felling of three trees at the NE side of the drive and the removal of an existing garage base, a paved path and a short modern wall NE of the site.



Plate 2: Service trench

The same machine with a 450mm bucket was then used to excavate service trenches (Plate 2) and footings trenches for the new dwelling.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Simon Savage, Mike Rowe, Julian Sleep and James Coles and was completed intermittently throughout January and February 2016.

All observed features and deposits 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 digital photographic record was maintained.

7.0 Results



Plate 3: Section 8

Natural weathered limestone (004) was exposed along the north-western-north eastern service trench. This was sealed by a mid-brown natural corn brash (003), observed in variable thickness throughout the site up to 0.44m (Plate 3). Topsoil and subsoil deposits were observed throughout the site, with the exception of the driveway and tennis court areas.

Although no *in situ* indications of archaeological activity were observed, a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from topsoil (001/010) and subsoil deposits (002): an intact clay pipe, a Victorian glass bottle, one small fragment of early medieval pottery, and one small fragment of medieval pottery.

8.0 Conclusion

No archaeological features or horizons were exposed during the monitoring programme, although a small mixed artefactual assemblage was recovered. Of the later finds, one can perhaps presume a direct association with the occupation of Thorpe Hall, which was built in the mid-17th century and altered in the 18th century and would thus offer a reasonably secure context for the clay pipe and Victorian glass vessel. Of the earlier finds (one early medieval pottery sherd and another of later medieval/early post-medieval date), such artefacts reflect background occupation of the area at these times.

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 Archaeology would like to thank Ms. Mandy Stibbe and Mr. Allan With for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording and a small number of finds, will be deposited with printed copies of this report at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. Following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under a PETMG accession number which will be assigned at the start of the archiving process; liaison with the receiving museum is in progress. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

12.0 Bibliography

Barker Storey Matthews, 2009, Design and Access Statement: Proposed Erection of a Prestige Home and Replacement Garage:*Land to the Rear of 222 Thorpe Road, Peterborough, PE3 6LW*. Unpublished report on behalf of Mrs. Amanda Stibbe, consulted online 18/02/2015 at <http://planpa.peterborough.gov.uk/online-applications>

British Geological Survey, 1984, *Peterborough: England and Wales 1:50,000 Series sheet 158, Solid and Drift Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) consulted online 19-02-2015 at <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

Lambert, T., n.d., *A Brief History of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire*. Consulted 18/02/2015 at <http://www.localhistories.org/peterborough.html>

Ordnance Survey, 1999, *Wisbech & Peterborough North, Market Deeping and Crowland: Explorer series no. 235, 1:25,000 edition*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Peterborough Historic Environment Record (PHER) consulted online 19-02-015 at <http://hawkeye.peterborough.gov.uk/hawkeye/default.aspx>

Wilson, R., 1980, *Roman Forts: An Illustrated Introduction to the Garrison Posts of Roman Britain*. Bergström & Boyle Books Ltd.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Dark, greyish brown topsoil with occasional small rounded pebbles, up to 0.20m thick. Situated along the fence line, north of the site.	Bone, glass bottle
002	Layer	Mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil with some charcoal flecks, up to 0.22m thick. Exposed throughout the site.	Pot
003	Layer	Loose mid brown natural corn brash, coarse clay and limestone rounded pebbles, up to 0.10m in diameter. Variable thickness throughout the site up to 0.44m at its east side.	None
004	Layer	Compacted natural weathered limestone. Exposed at the limit of excavation throughout the site.	None
005	Layer	Modern loose orange gravel, situated in the driveway area, up to 0.10m thick.	None
006	Layer	Modern frequent coarse sandstone approximately 0.25m in diameter, loose makeup of driveway. Up to 0.30m thick.	None
007	Layer	Mid brown, coarse sandy clay, frequent limestone pebbles, solution at the surface of the corn brash. Variation in thickness 0.20-0.30m. Found spread across the north side of the site.	None
008	Layer	Loose limestone gravel (Type 1), makeup of the driveway area. Up to 0.18m thick.	None
009	Layer	Redeposited topsoil situated in the tennis court area. Up to 0.38m thick.	None
010	Layer	Disturbed topsoil situated in the tennis court area. Up to 0.28m thick.	Pot, pipe
011	Layer	Subsoil, same as 002.	None
012	Layer	Loose mid - pale orange brown clay silt, river terrace deposits. Up to 0.3m thick.	None
013	Layer	Brown silt clay, river terrace deposits. Up to 0.19m thick.	None
014	Layer	Same as 003	None
015	Layer	Natural silts, dark brown, found between corn brash layers. Up to 0.08m thick.	None
016	Layer	Same as 004	None

Appendix 2: Finds Report

Sue Anderson, May 2017.

Pottery (Table 1)

Two sherds of pottery weighing 7g were collected from two contexts during the fieldwork.

A body sherd of early medieval ware was recovered from subsoil (002). It is in a medium sandy fabric with sparse large sub-angular fragments of quartz/flint and ironstone, grey with a brownish orange surface and probably handmade. Examples of early medieval ware were recovered from The Still, Peterborough (Spoerry and Hinman 1998), although it is not a common fabric in Peterborough, where shelly wares are more typical (Spoerry 2016, 47).

A small fragment of rim (160mm diameter) was recovered from topsoil (010). This is in a fine-medium sandy fabric with sparse very fine calcareous inclusions and occasional ironstone. The sherd had a sandwich-effect dark red and grey core with dark grey surfaces. The rim is a thickened-everted type with a slightly collared edge, but the form is uncertain. The sherd is probably of late medieval to early post-medieval transitional date, but given the context, the possibility that it is a fragment of locally-made plantpot cannot be ruled out.

Clay tobacco pipes (Table 2)

Two joining fragments (16g) of a clay tobacco pipe were recovered from topsoil (010). The plain bowl and spur, together with the bore diameter of 2.5mm, suggest a date of c.1650-1700. There was no maker's mark.

Glass (Table 3)

A complete glass bottle (33g) was recovered from topsoil (001). The bottle is made from uncoloured glass and is cylindrical in shape, with a base diameter of 23mm, a rim diameter of 18mm and is 81mm long. It is machine-made (vertical side seams visible) with a slightly concave base and a beaded rim. It is of a type known as a 'homeopathic vial' and probably dates to the later 19th or early 20th century.

Flint (Table 4)

A flint chunk (8g) was recovered from topsoil (001). The chunk is a primary flake in dark grey flint with a high proportion of thick white cortex. Although there is a small bulb of percussion and some edge damage, the chunk appears more typical of naturally shattered material than of deliberate manufacture.

References

Spoerry, P., 2016, *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire*, E. Anglian Archaeol. 159 (OA East).

Spoerry, P. and Hinman, M., 1998, *The Still, Peterborough: medieval remains between Cumbergate and Westgate*, Archaeol. Field Unit Monogr. No. 1 (Cambs CC).

Table 1: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	MNV	Notes	Spotdate
002	EMW			1	2	1	sooted body sherd, medium sandy with sparse coarse inclusions (rounded flint/quartz, ironstone), oxid ext. Possibly handmade.	11-13
010	LM/PMRW	un	thickened everted	1	5	1	diam 160mm, 5% complete; sandy redware with sparse fine calcareous inclusions, partially reduced (sandwich) core with reduced dark grey surfaces.	15-17?

Table 2: Clay tobacco pipes

Context	Frag	No	Wt (g)	Bore diam	Abr	Notes	Date
010	stem/bowl	2	16	2.47mm	+	plain bowl with slight milling of lip, small spur, no marks	c.1650-1700

Table 3: Glass

Context	Type	Colour	No	Wt/g	L	D	Notes	Date
001	bottle	uncol	1	33	81	R 18, B 23	complete homeopathic vial, beaded rim, slight concavity to base, narrow/shallow vertical side seams	L.19-E.20

Table 4: Flint

Context	Type	No	Wt (g)	Notes	Date
001	primary flake/chunk	1	8	dk grey flint, 50%+ cortex, small bulb of percussion, some edge damage, probably accidental (machine/plough) shatter	recent?



Figure 2: As-proposed plan of the site at scale 1:500. Plan supplied by client.

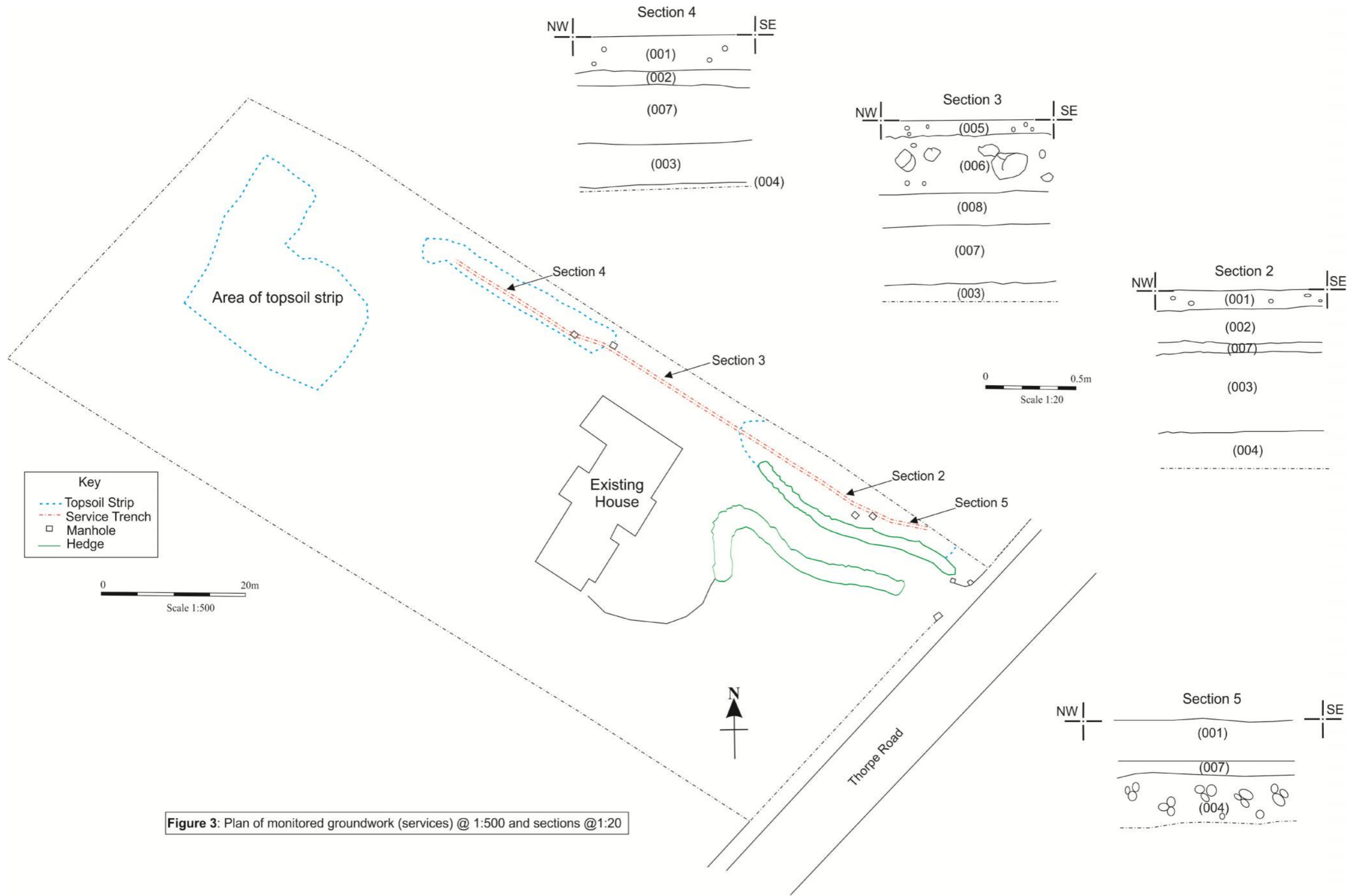


Figure 3: Plan of monitored groundwork (services) @ 1:500 and sections @1:20

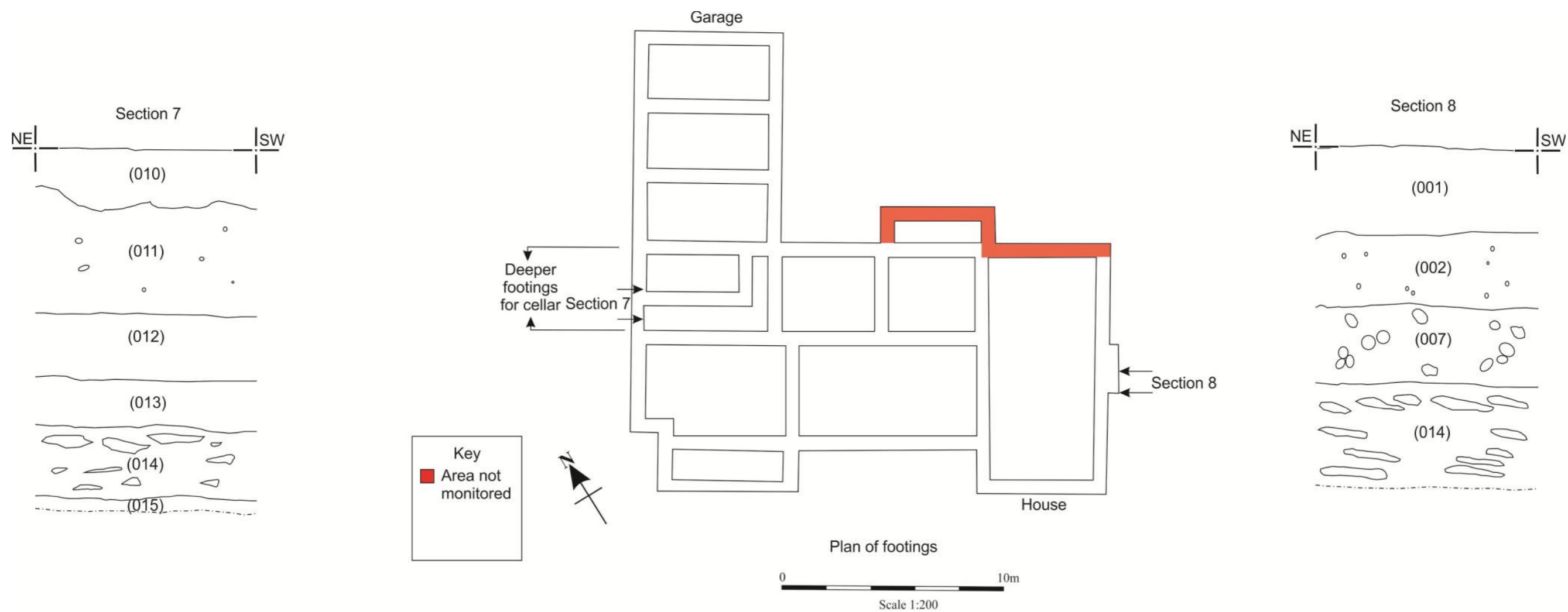


Figure 4: Plan of monitored groundwork (House/garage) @ 1:200 and sections @1:20

Appendix 3:

8.0 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

9.0 Printable version

10.0 OASIS ID: preconst3-284457

Project details

Project name	Thorpe Road, Peterborough
Short description of the project	PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd) was commissioned to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundwork associated with the construction of a prestige dwelling and a replacement garage for no. 222 Thorpe Road, Peterborough. It was advised by Peterborough County Council that development had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits relating to Roman occupation. The results of this project fulfil the requirements of the planning condition attached to the planning application response.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2016 End: 08-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PTRM15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1387 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH 222 Thorpe Road
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 16886 98746 52.573587420916 -0.275011568176 52 34 24 N 000 16 30 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	Simon Savage, Mike Rowe, Julian Sleaf, James Coles
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to rear of No. 222 Thorpe Road, Peterborough

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dickinson, R
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	PCAS Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Saxilby, Lincolnshire
Description	A4 thermal bound report with transparent cover and white spine, containing A3 foldout illustrations.
Entered by	Rebecca Dickinson (rebecca-dickinson@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	10 May 2017

11.0 OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page