

**OBAM STAIRLIFT, TILLBRIDGE ROAD, STURTON BY STOW, LINCOLNSHIRE,  
LN1 2PB**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

NGR: SK 89318 80232  
Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council  
Planning Ref.: 130005  
PCAS job no. 1265  
Site code: STRM 14  
Archive acc. code: LCNCC 2014.150  
Oasis Report ref: preconst3-286877

Prepared for Mr. T. Arthy

B. P. Hobbs

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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of three dwellings and associated garages and access on land adjacent to Obam Stairlifts, Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire.

Remnants of agricultural ridge and furrow earthworks running north to south across the site were observed during the groundworks. No other features, excluding a post-medieval or early modern field drain and ditch were observed within footing trenches and no finds of archaeological interest were recorded from the site.



**Figure 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The area of the site is marked by red square. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr. T. Arthy to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development groundworks associated with the construction of three dwellings at land adjacent to Obam Stairlifts, Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies in an area of potential archaeological importance; prehistoric archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the village is limited to scatters of finds. The adjacent Tillbridge Road is on the line of a former Roman road, and the village settlement has been in existence from the Saxon period, part of the larger Saxon village of Stow which lies approximately 2km to the north-west.

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

Sturton by Stow is a village and civil parish situated approximately 13km to the north-west of central Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey. It is centred around the crossroads of Tillbridge Road (A1500) and the B1241 road from Saxilby to Gainsborough. The development site is c.360m to the east of this junction, adjacent to the south of Tillbridge Road.

The site is a plot of former farmland bounded to the east by the showroom of Obam Stairlifts, to the south and west by agricultural land and to the north by Tillbridge Road. It covers an area of c.0.71ha and is centred on NGR SK 89319 80223.



Figure 2: General plan of excavation area. Site layout plan supplied by client. 1:500@A4

**Figure 2: General plan of excavation areas. 1:500@A4**

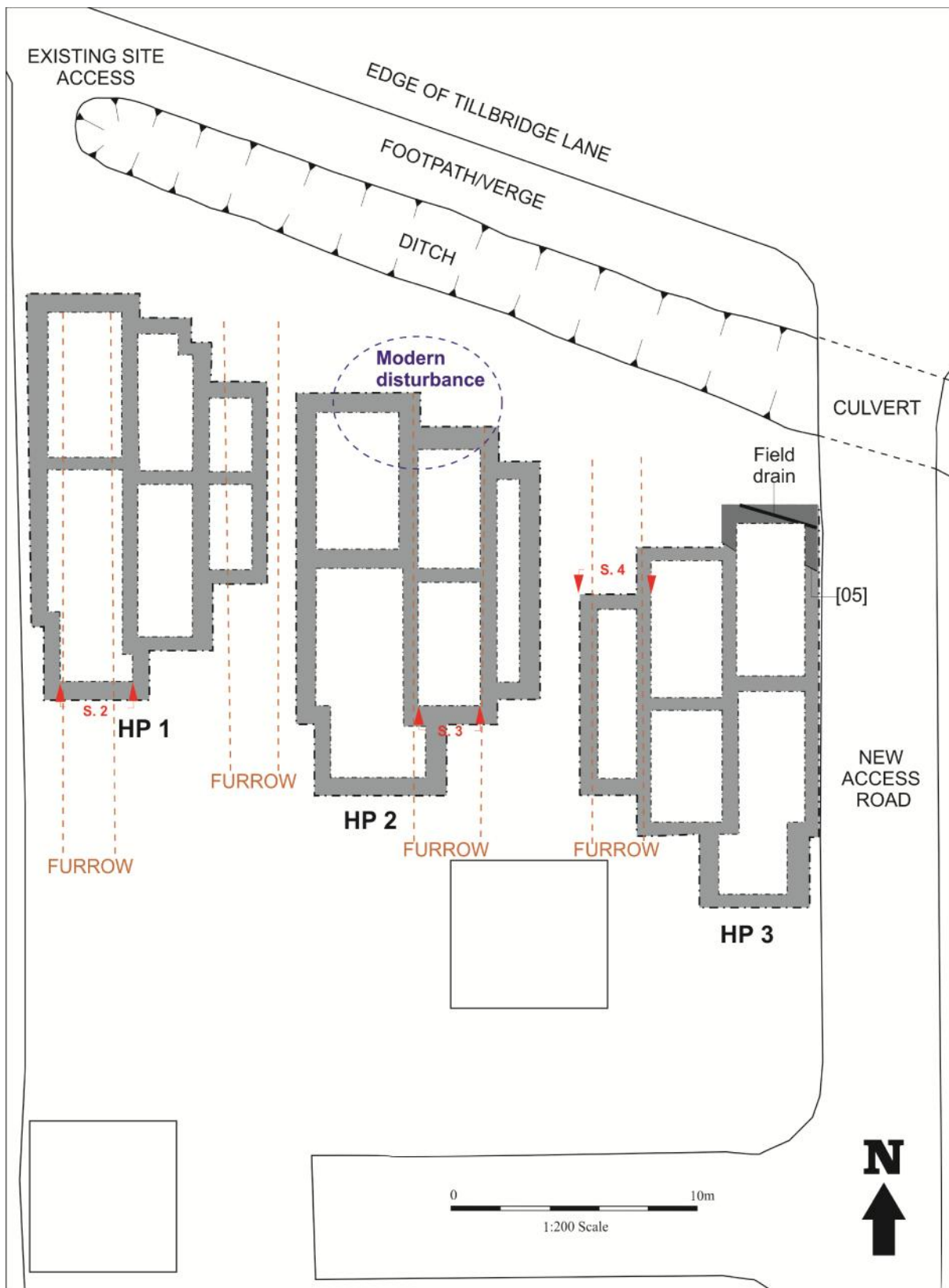


Fig. 3. General plan showing monitored excavated area at scale 1:200.

### 3.0 Topography and Geology

The land in and around the development site is largely level and lies approximately 12.5m OD. The geology of the area is Scunthorpe Mudstone formation consisting of interbedded mudstone and limestone, sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic and Triassic periods c. 190 to 204 million years ago in fluctuating shallow seas mixing mud and carbonate deposits.

Prior to stripping the topsoil, the topography of the site was uneven and slightly undulating representing the remnants of agricultural ridge and furrow earthworks running north to south with what appeared to be a low headland and east-west ridges at the south end of the site.



**Plate1:** Site topography prior to topsoil strip, facing north

### 4.0 Planning Background

Full planning permission subject to conditions was granted by West Lindsey District Council in 2014 for a residential development of three detached dwellings with garages and new vehicular access on land adjacent to Obam Stairlifts Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire (Planning Ref.: 130005).

Conditions associated with the granting of the planning application included an archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) to be prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. The approved WSI specified the requirement for monitoring all groundworks associated with the development to record any archaeological features and finds from an area of unknown archaeological potential.

### 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric finds including a Neolithic stone axe and a Bronze Age looped palstave have been recovered from gardens in Sturton by Stow (LHER ref:52502/52511) although there

has been little evidence of settlement. In the 1920's evidence of a tessellated floor was observed during ploughing near the village with associated Roman building material, pottery and coins indicating a possible villa site near the Roman road. The road itself linked Lincoln to Doncaster and to York crossing the Trent at Littleborough.

Saxon occupation of the area was centred around the Benedictine Abbey and ecclesiastical college at Stow under the Bishopricks of Dorchester and later York. This replaced an original early Saxon church mentioned in Domesday built around 1050, partly rebuilt in 1090 and incorporated into the minster (LHER ref: 52434). Evidence of burials found beneath the foundations of the pre-conquest church indicate a cemetery possibly utilised prior to the Danish conquests in the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Sawyer; 1998). The later church was the focus for a large settlement, with evidence for a market place to the south of the church and recorded in Domesday: The size and importance of the settlement contracted in the post medieval period.

The village of Sturton is recorded in Domesday, having 16 households with land for 8 ploughs, 30 acres of meadow and 80 acres of woodland. The village name can be interpreted as 'the farm or village by the Roman road', whereas Stow is 'the place of meeting' (Cameron, 1998). The early medieval village extended towards Stow to the north-west and is recorded merely as in proximity to the larger settlement. Due to the paucity of modern development in the village there is little in the nature of recorded archaeology. Late medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and evidence of early post medieval agriculture has been recorded to the west and south-west of the village.

Cartographic evidence from late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps indicate that the development site has previously been undisturbed farmland.

## **6.0 Methodology**

The archaeological requirement for the site was to monitor all groundworks associated with development to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered would be preserved by record.

The site was stripped of topsoil by tracked excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless bucket. Partial compaction of the exposed underlying soil was followed by laying out of the house plots. Footing trenches were 0.70m wide with an average depth of 0.80m and were excavated within 2 days. All spoil was retained on site during the archaeological monitoring and no artefactual remains were recovered from this.

All features and deposits of archaeological interest were manually cleaned and recorded, subject to health and safety constraints. They were recorded using standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn as appropriate at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken over three days by R. D. Savage.



**Plate 2:** Site after topsoil strip and during excavation of footing trenches, facing north-east

## 7.0 Results

The hedge-line along the north edge of the site was removed and the ground levelled and covered with Terram and type 1 stone for vehicle parking. Natural sandy clay **02** containing occasional small stones was exposed after stripping of the topsoil **01**.

At the north end of house plot 2 was an area of modern disturbance containing building material and refuse.

A series of probable ridge and furrow earthworks was observed running north to south across the site prior to the commencement of construction trenching. The greater depth of these appeared to be removed in the topsoil strip and there was little indication of the features in trench sections (drawings 2, 3 and 4; fig.4). An extra depth of topsoil was observed in one of the north-south footing trenches in house plot 2 and this was interpreted as the line of a furrow. A corresponding layer of topsoil was seen in the eastern-most baulk of house plot 1, indicating a recognised spacing between furrows. No dating evidence came from the furrow deposits.

At the south end of the site there appeared to be a low headland with possible ridges adjacent running east-west. This area was not excavated during the archaeological monitoring.





**Plate 3:** Section no. 3



**Plate 4:** Section no. 4

A post-medieval or early modern field drain, **05**, was observed in one of the footings of house plot 1, running parallel in the direction of the furrows. The line of a post medieval or modern ditch or drain cut through the north-east corner of house plot 3, running parallel to Tillbridge Road it may have been an earlier roadside ditch: This contained a field drain pipe running north-west to south-east at the base of the trench.



**Plate 5:** Ditch feature 05 with land drain, facing west

## **8.0 Conclusion**

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The ridge and furrow features could not be dated from artefactual evidence. They would likely date from the late medieval to post-medieval period, the utilisation of the agricultural system possibly lasting until the enclosures of the village land in 1803.

## **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 Mr. T. Arthy for commissioning the archaeological monitoring and report.

Construction site work was undertaken by John Kinch Group.

## 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 2012.

## 12.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), Geology of Britain Viewer: *Visible Geology 1:625 000 Scale*.  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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

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Sawyer, p. 1998 *Anglo ~ Saxon Lincolnshire: A History of Lincolnshire Vol 3*.p. 246. The History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln.

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

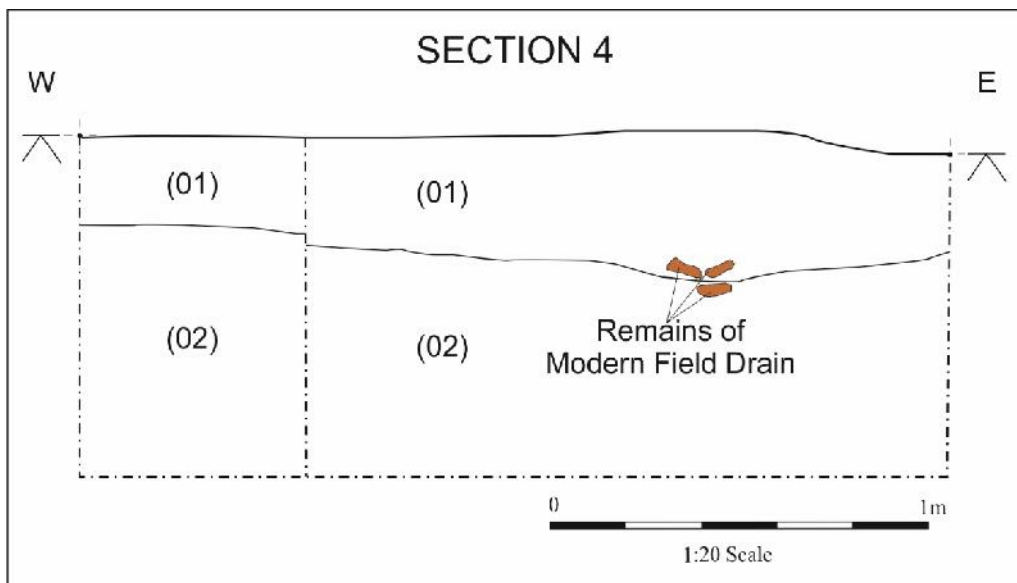
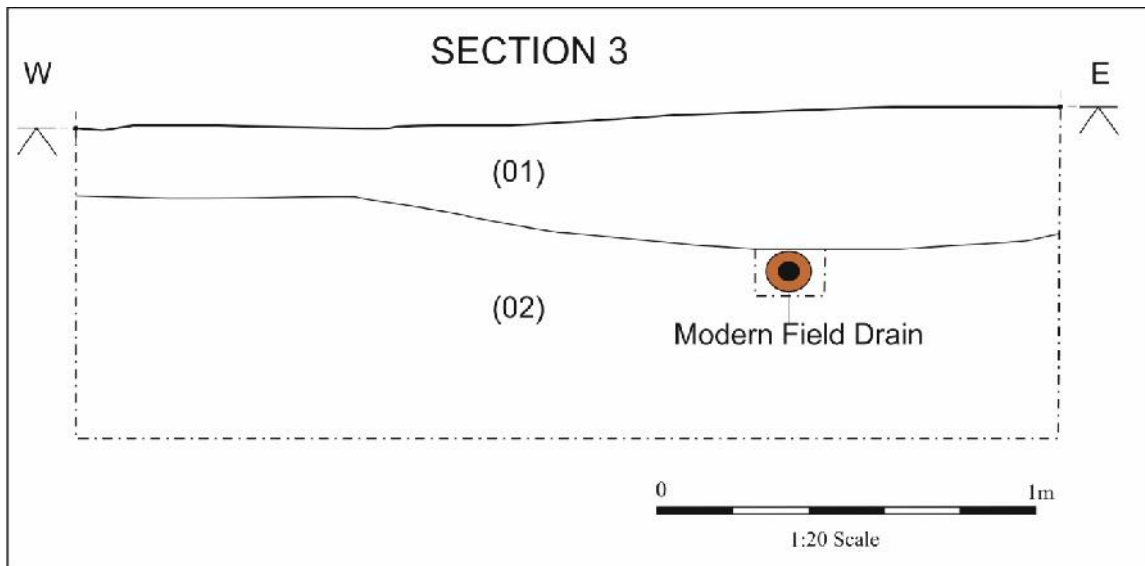
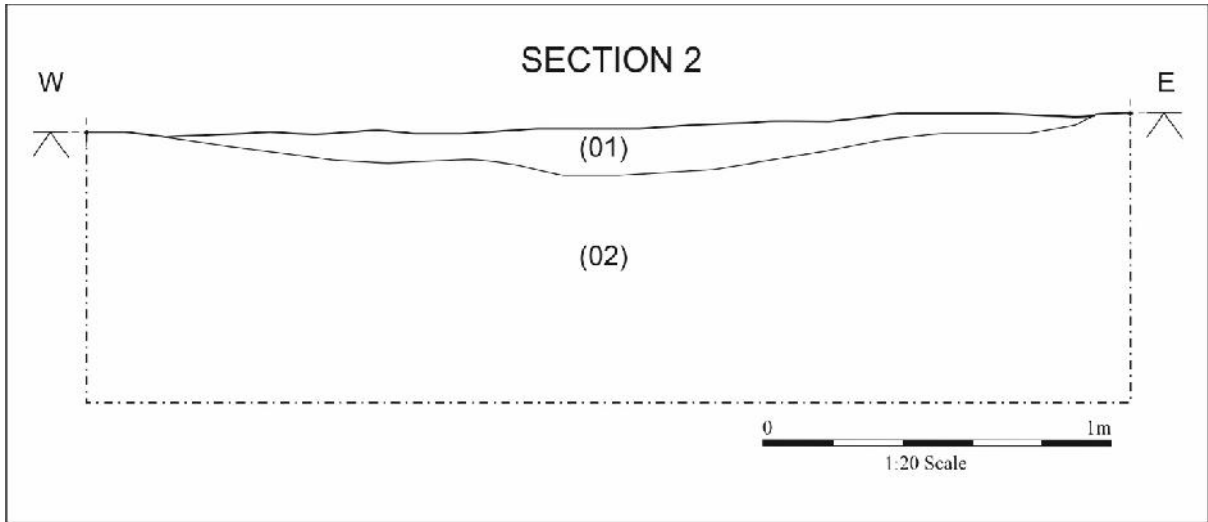


Figure 4: Section drawings

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
01	Deposit	Dark brown-grey friable to plastic sandy clay topsoil, up to 0.30m deep; former agricultural soil with abundant roots along north edge of site,	Modern ceramic building material
02	Layer	Light grey-brown compact fine sandy clay subsoil, over 0.50m deep (visible)	Geological
03	Deposit	Mid-grey-yellow compact fine sandy clay, sealing probable linear feature 05. Redeposited natural 02.	None
04	Layer	Dark grey fine wet sandy silt in base of feature 05. Below redeposited natural 03.	None
05	Cut	Probable linear feature running NW-SE across NE corner of hose plot 3. Estimated width of 3-4m. Filled by 04 and 03. Contains field drain. Possible earlier roadside ditch to Tillbridge Road.	Modern ceramic building material

## Appendix 2: Oasis report summary

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-286877**

### Project details

Project name	Land adjacent Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring at land adjacent to Obam Stairlifts, Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire. Remnants of undated ridge and furrow with headland observed. All other features post-medieval or early modern. No dating evidence recovered.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2015 End: 26-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	130005 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2014.150 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY STURTON BY STOW Land adjacent to Obam Stairlifts, Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow
Study area	0.71 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 89318 80232 53.311207543825 -0.659264372681 53 18 40 N 000 39 33 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	R. D. Savage
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Ben Philip Hobbs (ben.hobbs@PCAS-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	7 June 2017

