

LINCOLN CITY HALL (NEW RAMP)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND RECORDING REPORT

NGR: SK 97309 71420
Planning ref.: 2016/0874/RG3
PCAS job no. 1754
Site code: LCHM16
Archive acc. no.: LCNCC:2016.150

Prepared for

Robert Woodhead Ltd
on behalf of City of Lincoln Council

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Summary

A scheme of archaeological supervision and recording took place during the construction of an external access ramp and steps on the site of Lincoln City Hall, Orchard Street, Lincoln. This was carried out in recognition that the groundworks were within the boundary of Lincoln Roman wall, under The Park Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1004986) and to the west of the Lincoln Roman Colonia Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1003569).

Post-medieval and modern building rubble and debris within a matrix of lime mortar were observed beneath the removed modern hardstanding representing a hardcore deposit. Loose construction and demolition debris were also observed including 19th or early 20th century bricks, slate tile and metal strips, likely deriving from site clearance prior to the construction of the present City Hall. No features of archaeological interest or significance were observed during the groundworks. Excluding a single sherd of late post-medieval pottery, no artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

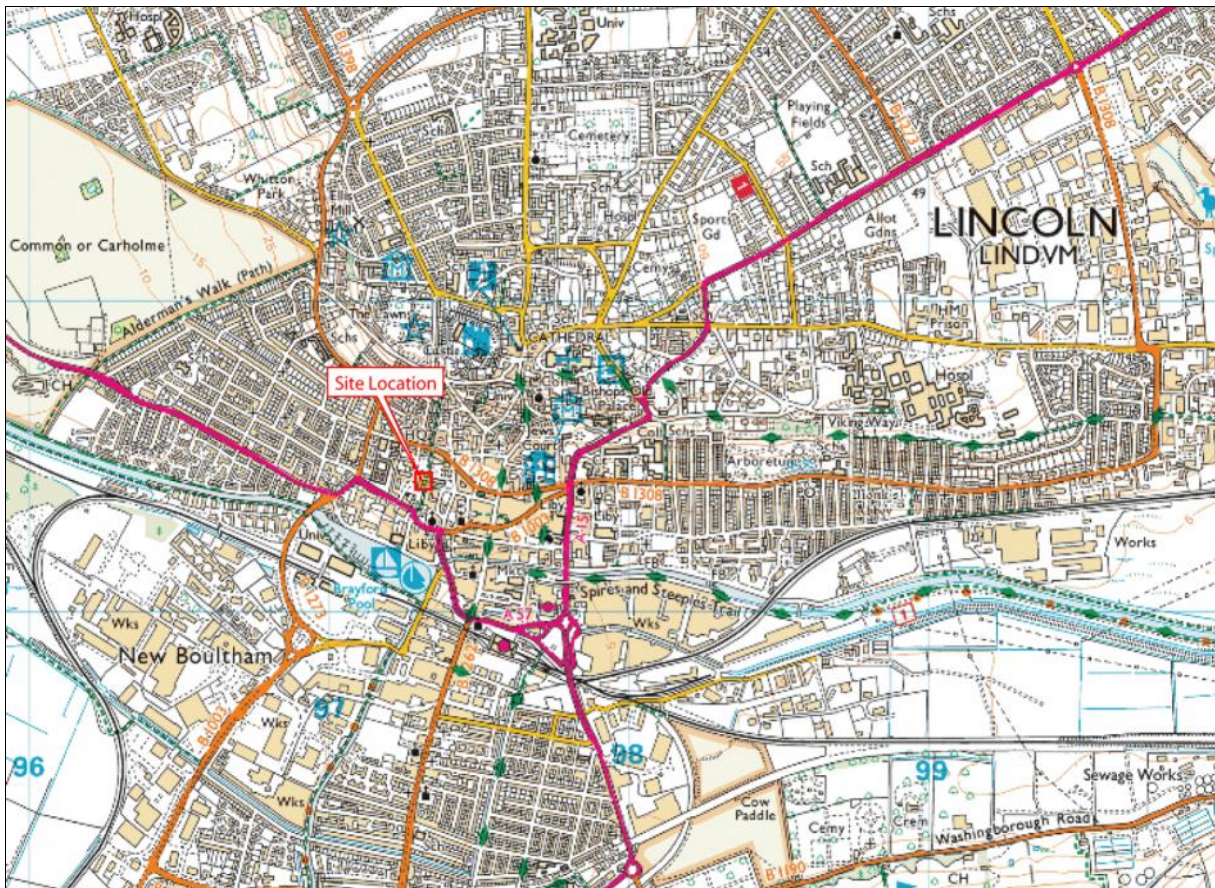


Figure 1: Site location plan with development area shown in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Robert Woodhead Ltd on behalf of City of Lincoln Council to prepare a specification for a scheme of archaeological supervision and recording during the construction of a new external access

ramp and steps into Lincoln City Hall, Orchard Street, Lincoln (NGR: SK 97309 71420, Fig. 1).

The area of the new ramp and steps lies within the boundary of the Roman wall, ditch and gate adjoining and under The Park Scheduled Ancient Monument (1004986, Fig. 2), to the immediate west of the Lincoln Roman Colonia Scheduled Ancient Monument (1003569, Fig. 2). In accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; Section 2 control of works, an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made by the City of Lincoln Council, for works to be undertaken within SAM 1004986), on the 10 August 2016. Consent was granted subject to number of conditions (S00145057, Appendix 1). A planning application (ref: 2016/0874/RG3) was also submitted to Lincoln City Council and approved 14 September 2016.

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

Lincoln City Hall lies within the Orchard Street Character Area directly to the west of the city centre, on the lower slope of the north escarpment. It is dominated by civic and public buildings such as the City Council, County Council, Police Station and Job Centre, and more recently student accommodation. Services are based within large-scale buildings that were constructed during the Modern Period. Despite the comprehensive redevelopment of the area during the latter part of the 20th century, the townscape retains much of its earlier structure, including standing remains of the walls and gate of the lower Roman city, and a High Medieval pattern of streets. Later elements include the city's first recreation area, as well as remnants of industrial expansion. The Character Area straddles the western defensive wall and rampart of the lower Roman city, which was originally laid out during the Roman Colonial era. The course of the defences follows the current line of Motherby Hill and The Park, including the footpath connecting City Hall with Newland. In addition to standing remains of the Roman walls to the north and south, the lower Roman west gate to the city also survives beneath City Hall (<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com>).

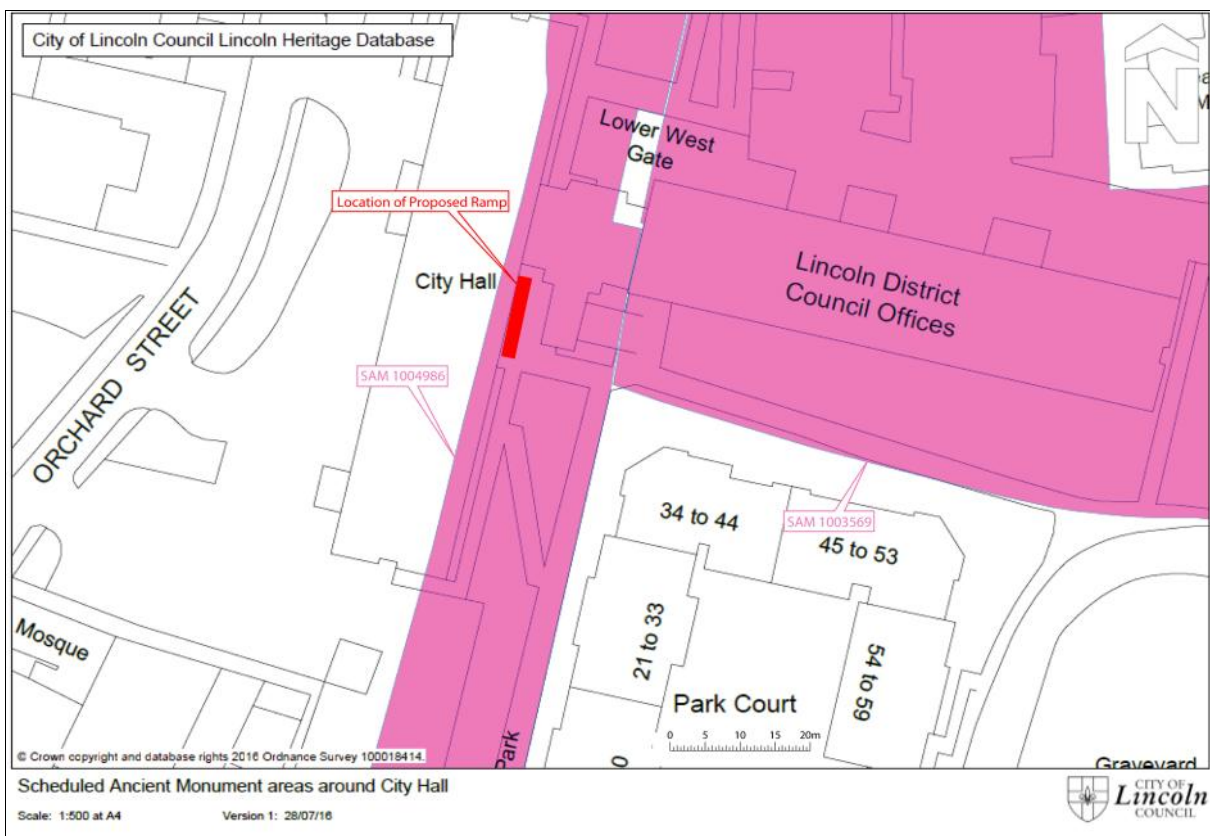


Figure 2: Site location plan detailing area of scheduled monuments in relation to the proposed works (© Lincoln Heritage Database).

3.0 Topography and Geology

The land at and around the development site is largely level and lies approximately 65m 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.

The predominant soil type identified in the vicinity of the proposed development comprises of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clay soils. The ground cover in the vicinity of the construction works is a tarmacked path with hardcore base adjacent to the City Hall building and landscaped garden.

The immediate topography of the working area was of a walkway sloping slightly down from north to south, a bank on the east side of works area rising steeply to the east. The north half of the ramp area was paved with square concrete slabs, the south half divided into an asphalt footpath and a strip of ornamental cobbles set in concrete running along the wall of the building.



Plate 1: View of location topography, including remains of Roman gatehouse, facing south



Plate 2: Existing path prior to groundworks, facing north

4.0 Planning Background

Pre-planning advice and discussions were held between Alastair Macintosh (City Archaeologist) and Paul Thompson (City Council) on the 28 July 2016. A site meeting and discussions were also held with Dr Helen Woodhouse (Historic England) on 4 August 2016.

Planning permission was granted by the City of Lincoln Council on 14th September 2016 for the construction of a new entrance incorporating ramped and stepped access into City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln (Planning application ref: 2016/0874/RG3). This permission was granted subject to the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the City of Lincoln Council as the Local Planning Authority.

In addition, an application for scheduled monument consent was made and permission granted on the 10 August 2016 (Ref: S00145057).

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Upper parts of the northern scarp have had a defensive role since the founding of Lincoln during the Roman Military Era, when a Roman legionary fortress was constructed. The area of the new ramp lies within the boundary of the scheduled Roman wall, ditch and gate adjoining and under The Park (SAM 1004986). Compulsory powers were invoked by the city of Lincoln to demolish the terraced houses along the west side of the park (in the south-west corner of the lower Roman town) which prompted an excavation by the City and County Museum under Mr B. Whitwell in April/May 1968. Parts of the wall and towers of a gate were revealed and the city decided to leave this area and requested the Ministry of Works to

schedule the site. A portion of the wall and gate is now laid out in the car park of Lincoln City Council offices, and comprises a length of wall of the west line of the Roman defences to the north and south of the gateway. Although there is potential for encountering archaeological features relating to this monument it should be noted that works undertaken for the construction of a disabled ramp, c. 20m to the east of the proposed ramp only revealed post 1972 levels relating to the construction of City Hall.

The wall of the Roman colonia runs at a slight angle to Motherby Hill, and was found well preserved. It compares to the remains found to the south at The Park. Evidence for a possible building that may have been associated with the construction was also revealed. Above this was a series of rampart layers. It is suggested that there was a time lapse of uncertain length between the construction of the wall and the rampart. The pottery from these contexts suggests a construction date for the rampart not much before c.200AD or later. Therefore, the construction of the colonia wall would have been c.175-200AD, which corresponds with evidence from The Park.

There is a small amount of evidence for Roman burials in the immediate vicinity of the site, in the form of a tombstone of Volusia Faustina and Claudia Catiola (Lincoln CC HER 3929) found built into foundation of wall of lower city, somewhere in The Park and two cremation burials (1359), of a youth and an infant, on the site of the later rampart (LCCHER 1334).

Subsequent to the decline of the city during the Early Medieval Era, it is likely that much of land still within the earlier Roman city defences remained occupied. The loose grid pattern of streets in this part of the city is likely to date from a period of re-organisation of the city infrastructure during the High Medieval Era, as the city experienced a period of relative prosperity. Orchard Street, West Parade, Beaumont Fee, Park Street, and Newland all appear to date from the High Medieval Era. East/west routes such as West Parade and Newland would have connected Lincoln with its rural hinterland to the west, and would have been important in establishing the city as a market centre. Newland itself, which forms part of the southern boundary of the Character Area, was the location of a large market during the High Medieval Era.

During the Early Modern Era land was probably divided up through a series of piecemeal agreements, for use as market gardens, paddocks and orchards. Some of these early field boundaries survive in the alignment of modern buildings and their plot boundaries, such as the eastern of 51 Newland, the eastern facade of the building immediately north west of Orchard House, and the southern boundary of the car park to the rear of the former St. Martin Vicarage. A surviving farmhouse, now incorporated into the northern facade of Lincolnshire County Council offices, survives as a testament to the earlier rural character of the area.

As Lincoln began to expand during the Early Industrial Period, the area surrounding the site began to be redeveloped, mainly with small terraced properties built to house the growing industrial workforce. Few of the buildings from this period of expansion, which continued during the Post-Railway Expansion and Late Victorian/Edwardian Periods, a row of which faced on to The Park, survive in the modern townscape.

The area of the new ramp lies partially and/or wholly within the Lincoln City Research Agenda Zone. Details of the various zones have been listed in the Written Scheme of Investigation for this project (Evans, 2016).

6.0 Methodology

The archaeological requirement for the site was to supervise all groundworks associated with the development to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered during work (not required to be preserved *in situ*) were preserved by record.

The attending archaeologist would ensure that all construction excavation would cease if undisturbed archaeological horizons were encountered, and the archaeologist had enhanced authority to stop all construction/groundwork activity as and when required.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS context recording forms, supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. A digital photographic record (supplemented by monochrome and colour slide where appropriate) was maintained during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

All features / deposits observed 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 as appropriate at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan.

Construction methods by groundworker operatives were restricted to hand tools, including saw and breaker to remove existing tarmac surface and shovels and picks to reduce underlying hardcore by a maximum of 400mm at the ends of the proposed ramp and 150mm in the centre, depending on engineering requirements. The landscaped area adjacent to the ramp was to be reduced by a maximum of 200mm.

The archaeological supervision took place over three days by R. D. Savage.



Plate 3: Working shot; lowering ramp area facing south.



Plate 4: Excavated ramp footing trench, facing north

7.0 Results

Initial site work involved lifting paving slabs and an underlying bedding layer of sand and cement using pickaxes, and the tarmac path with hammer and chisel. Two modern decimal coins (discarded) were located beneath the tarmac, marked 2001, and appearing to have been placed deliberately to date the surface sealing them. Footings 0.50m wide were marked out in the area beneath the concrete slabs and excavated using hand tools (plates 3 and 4). The cobbles were removed by a breaker tool, in accordance with the provisions of the archaeological specification. A doorway was cut into the east-facing building wall during the path excavations.

The exposed maximum depth of excavation comprised existing utilitarian and ornamental surfaces, **001**, hardcore and lime mortar/cement, **002**, and a final layer, **003**, partially exposed in places but not excavated. This consisted of demolition debris of brick and tile fragments, gravel and a matrix of dark red-brown clay sand. One sherd of black glazed early modern pottery was recovered from this layer (discarded). This layer likely derives from site clearance prior to the construction of City Hall in the late 20th century (plate 5).



Plate 5: North facing section 1 of path and cobble setting (maximum depth of excavation)

The final phase of excavation supervised by the attending archaeologist was the stripping of topsoil from the foot of the bank of the landscaped area to the east of the pathway (plate 6). An area approximately 6m long and 0.60m wide was reduced by hand to a maximum depth of 0.15m. The modern topsoil, **004**, was a dark grey organic sandy silt, friable to loose, containing moderate pebbles and occasional fragments of ceramic building material (plate 7).



Plate 6: Excavation of bank topsoil, looking north



Plate 7: Completed topsoil strip, looking north

8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the archaeological supervision and recording programme. The earliest deposit exposed, albeit partially, was a layer of probable demolition soil and debris, **003**, likely dating to the period prior to the construction of the City Hall in the early 1970's.

No deposits were disturbed nor finds recovered of archaeological interest during the excavation of the proposed new ramp area. The shallow depth of the groundworks precluded the disturbance of underlying deposits of archaeological significance.

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. Robert Woodhead Ltd on behalf of City of Lincoln Council for commissioning the archaeological monitoring and report.

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>

Evans, P., 2016 *Lincoln City Hall (New Ramp) Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Supervision and Recording*. PCAS Archaeology Report (unpublished).

Heritage Gateway: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

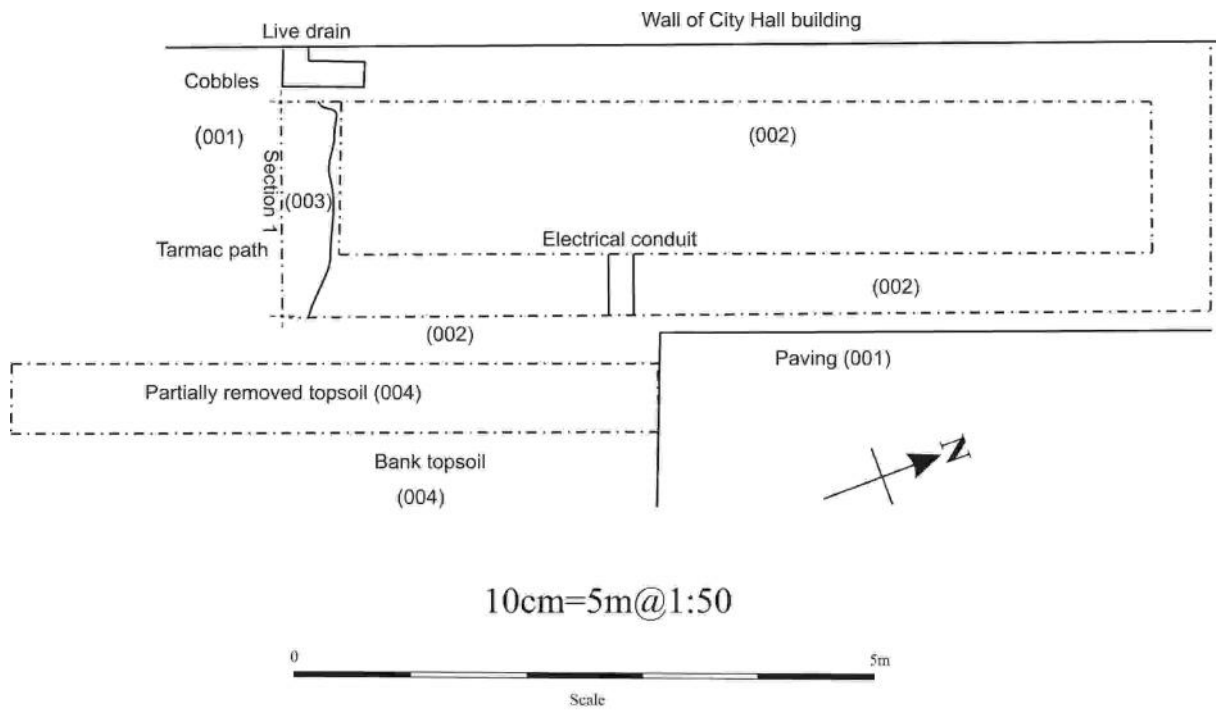


Figure 3: Plan of excavated areas

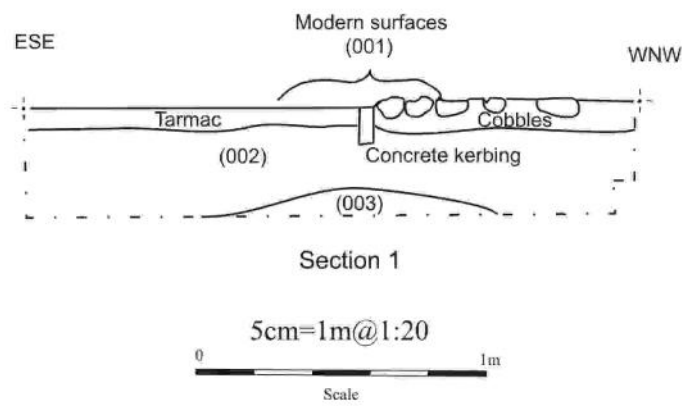


Figure 4: Section of excavated pathway

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Modern utilitarian and ornamental surfaces	Modern
002	Layer	Hardcore and lime mortar/cement bedding below 001	Modern
003	Deposit	Early modern/post-medieval demolition debris layer beneath 002	Post-medieval pottery
004	Layer	Modern topsoil of landscaping bank	Modern

Appendix 2: Oasis report summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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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

