

**NO. 8, MANOR CLOSE, LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR:	SK 9795 7239
Planning ref.:	2014/0531/F
PCAS job no.	1474
Site code:	MCLM15
Archive acc. no.:	LCNCC:2015.120

Prepared for  
Kingsmead Design on behalf of Ms. Catherine Farrell

by

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June 2017



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## Contents

	Summary	1
<b>1.0</b>	Introduction	2
<b>2.0</b>	Site Location and Description	2
<b>3.0</b>	Geology and Topography	2
<b>4.0</b>	Planning Background	2
<b>5.0</b>	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
<b>6.0</b>	Methodology	7
<b>7.0</b>	Results	8
<b>8.0</b>	Conclusion	12
<b>9.0</b>	Effectiveness of Methodology	12
<b>10.0</b>	Acknowledgements	12
<b>11.0</b>	Site Archive	12
<b>12.0</b>	Bibliography	12
<b>Appendix 1:</b>	Context Register	13
<b>Appendix 2:</b>	OASIS summary	14

## Figures

<b>Fig. 1:</b>	Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000	1
<b>Fig.2:</b>	Section 4 at scale 1:20	9
<b>Fig. 3:</b>	Plan of the site at scale 1:100	10
<b>Fig. 4:</b>	Sections 2,3,6,8 and 9 at scale 1:20	11

## Plates

<b>Pl. 1:</b>	General shot of the footings for the extension to the existing house.	8
<b>Pl. 2:</b>	General shot of the footings for the extension to the existing house.	8
<b>Pl. 3:</b>	Services works, soakaway.	8
<b>Pl. 4:</b>	Boundary ditch 04.	9

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the groundworks for a series of extensions to an existing house on Manor Close in the city of Lincoln.

Manor Close lies to the north of the Roman walled city of Lindum Colonia, between two of the main Roman roads northwards out of the city, in an area likely to have been used as a cemetery during the Roman period: a skeleton that may have been of Roman or early Saxon date was recorded approximately 200m from the site.

From the early Middle Ages until the early modern period, this area lay within the city's common land, and may either have been used for agricultural purposes or was quarried for stone. The immediate neighbourhood of the site was developed for housing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with Manor Close among the last areas to be developed.

The only archaeology that was exposed during this intervention comprised a post-medieval field boundary ditch - probably a component of the enclosed fields during the Early Industrial period under an Act of Parliament of 1803, which required the enclosure of many of Lincoln's open fields, including the southern boundary of Newport Cemetery.



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

## 1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Kingsmead Design on behalf of Ms. Catherine Farrell to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for a series of extensions to an existing house on Manor Close.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description (figs. 1 & 3)

Manor Close extends south-westwards off Manor Road, directly to the south of the Newport Cemetery, between the major radial roads of Newport and Nettleham Road in the northern suburbs of the City of Lincoln. It does not fall within any of the city's Conservation Areas (CLC, 2012): No. 8 is situated at the end of Manor Close, in a large, irregular plot directly adjoining the cemetery.

Manor Close lies at the south-eastern corner of the city's 'Broadway' Character Area. The townscape assessment of the Character Area notes that it is *'an entirely residential suburb located in the north of the city between two radial roads, Newport and Nettleham Road. The majority of the Character Area consists of a single coherent residential development along Broadway and Bruce Road, but several cul-de-sacs, mainly in the south of the area, are composed of several build units of a few or single individually styled houses. The centre of the area consists of the large cemetery of St. Nicholas' Church. Elements of the area's former open agricultural character, such as field boundaries associated with the enclosure of land during the Early Industrial period, have survived in the current townscape, notably in the orientation of streets and houses... In addition there are several smaller groups of houses arranged around cul-de-sacs which are generally built individually or as part of a small build unit'* (CLC, 2009).

## 3.0 Topography and Geology

The Broadway Character Area lies on top of the Lincoln Edge limestone ridge, above the valley of the River Witham and to the north-west of the Roman and medieval walled cities. Manor Close is situated on generally level ground between the 60m and 65m contour lines.

The solid geology in the vicinity of the site is Upper Lincolnshire Limestone: no overlying drift deposits are recorded (BGS, 1973).

## 4.0 Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by the City of Lincoln Council in September 2014 for the construction of a two-storey extension to the south elevation, a single-storey extension to the north elevation and a single-storey extension to the rear elevation of the existing house at no. 8, Manor Close. Condition 4 of the planning permission requires 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 Local Planning Authority.

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an approved WSI. Following completion of the site works, a report on the project (this document) is to be deposited with the City Council's Heritage Team within the LPA and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the archaeological works, and the archive is to be deposited with The Collection (Lincolnshire Museums) within twelve months of the completion of site works (planning application no. 2014/0531/F).

## 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Upper parts of the northern scarp have had a defensive role since Lincoln was developed as a military fortress early in the Roman occupation of Britain. Between 60 and 78 AD, at the summit of the escarpment overlooking the river, a fort was constructed overlooking the Witham Valley. Access to the fort was via one of several identified gates. Ermine Street connected the fort to the north and south; the south gate lay close to Steep Hill, which probably follows the route of the Roman street leading to Ermine Street. The north gate has been identified as Newport Arch, giving access to the continuation of Ermine Street north towards the River Humber (Lane, 2013). Manor Close lies outside the Roman city to the north, but the Newport road follows the line of Ermine Street, a major Roman highway approaching Lincoln from the south and merging with the Fosse Way close to St Marys Guildhall, continuing north along modern approximations of High Street, which was also constructed during the Roman Military Era (LHD ref. 8). This road forms part of the western boundary of the Broadway Character Area, passing approximately 300m to the west of the proposed redevelopment site. Nettleham Road, which also follows the line of a Roman radial route out of the city and runs along the buried Roman aqueduct pipe for part of its course, passes some 150m to the east of the site; however, the site does not lie within the Research Agenda Zone for these roads (R.D. Savage, 2015).

The Roman *colonia* was, typically, ringed with cemeteries. They appear to have been most extensive along the five main roads leading east, north-east and north from the upper city. The cemeteries alongside Greetwell Road, Wragby Road, Nettleham Road and Newport might have joined up to form a single area, beyond the extramural settlements, through which the roads passed (LARA RAZ 7.24). The Lincoln Heritage Database records the find of a skeleton during archaeological work on the residential street of Middleton's Field, approximately 200m to the south-west of Manor Close. The skeleton was in a crouched position, and finger bones had been removed from its hand and placed under its chin, possibly indicating that it had been exhumed and reburied. No grave goods were present, but Roman and Saxo-Norman pottery was also recorded on the site (LHD ref. 3339); as there is no known church in the vicinity and Christian burials are typically extended rather than crouched, the burial seems more likely to be Roman or pagan Saxon rather than early medieval.

Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John, approximately 300m to the west-north-west of Manor Close, found evidence of Roman occupation deeply buried beneath later occupation layers. The site is adjacent to the Roman road Newport, where Roman occupation is known to have developed in the *colonia* phase of the settlement. The survival of these remains at a depth of nearly 2m may indicate the survival of other Roman remains in the area, undisturbed by later activity (Lane, 2013).

Early medieval Lincolnshire was the centre of the thriving English wool trade. The land surrounding Lincoln was prized as sheep pasture, and Lincolnshire wool was traded across the country and into Europe. This boom in the economy was matched by an increasing population; the higher status and wealth of Lincoln was recognised and the site of the former Roman fort was reused as the location for Lincoln Castle and Cathedral (Lane, 2013). It is likely that, during the High Medieval and Early Modern periods, much of the land in the Character Area remained open either as agricultural fields or grazed heath. Much of the area was probably part of the City's North Field, and may have been farmed in common by residents of Lincoln. Land within the Character Area was probably enclosed during the Early Industrial period under an Act of Parliament of 1803, which stipulated the enclosure of many

of Lincoln's open fields. Field boundaries associated with the enclosure of land survive in the current townscape, including the southern boundary of Newport Cemetery (CLC, 2009).

North of Wragby Road and Langworthgate and extending north and west around the north-east corner of the upper city as far as the buildings of the Newport suburb, the land was used for stone-digging, reflected in the field-name 'Stonefield' which survives as Stonefield House and Stonefield Close, both directly to the west of the site, and Stonefield Avenue further to the west. Here the stone was probably not worked from a quarry face but in pits, which may have been relatively shallow. These pits are frequently mentioned in the documentary sources. The earliest such reference is probably that of 1240 to a quarry on land north of Langworthgate, south of the arable fields, and east of land behind the properties fronting on to Newport. Like the quarries along the cliffs in the west and South Common fields, there is no indication of the ownership of these stonepits and this might mean that these diggings were also worked by citizens as part of their common rights (RAZ 9.41.3). Quarrying in individual pits probably continued into the post-medieval period (RAZ 10.41.3), but does not appear to have carried on after the enclosure of the common fields, indicating that common stone-digging rights also ceased at this time; some quarries continued to operate as larger commercial concerns into the 19<sup>th</sup> century (RAZ 11.41.4).

The city's arable fields were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1803 and lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city. The practical effect of the Act was to turn a small number of citizens who had previously been farmers, probably living in Newport, into tenants of the City Council in newly established farms set amongst a patch-work of new fields where the open fields had been. It is possible that Stonefield House, built shortly before 1868, was integrated into the farming economy, as it seems to have an associated kennels and dairy (RAZ 11.17).

During the Early Industrial Era, as well as subsequent periods, Lincoln's population increased dramatically, requiring the provision of services and public buildings, as well as residential housing. Southern parts of the Character Area, closest to the city centre, were initially a focus for development. Two rows of terraced houses were located on the site of the Modern Williamson Street apartment development. St. Nicholas's Church was also built in 1839, replacing the earlier High Medieval church at the corner of Church Lane and Newport, to serve the growing population in the north of the city. The initial cemetery, which was shared with the church of St. John, is marked by a higher concentration of mature trees in the western end of the modern cemetery. During the Inter-war period the cemetery was extended to its current size (CLC, 2009). The Newport Cemetery replaced the St. Nicholas Church Cemetery on the corner of Newport and Church Lane, and was consecrated in 1855. Initially one acre immediately to the east of the church, it expanded into the large plot to the east around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (LHD).

During the Late Victorian/Edwardian period and early on in the Inter-war period, residential development began to occur along small cul-de-sacs off Newport and Nettleham Road (e.g. Manor Road and Haffenden Road). The cul-de-sacs allowed access to open land to the rear of radial road development along Newport and Nettleham Road (CLC, 2009). Manor Road, a residential street running west from Nettleham Road, was first proposed in 1907 with the intention of taking it westwards to Newport to the south of St. Nicholas' Church. The road as constructed did not cross into the Newport Cemetery, leaving space for the later construction of Manor Close (LHD).

The majority of housing in the area was planned towards the end of the Inter-war period. Although many houses towards the eastern edge of the area were constructed during the Inter-war period, the majority were built soon after the end of the Second World War. The plainly decorated character of properties, and the use of concrete materials, illustrate the austerity of the Postwar period. Construction slowed towards the end of the Post-war period, as less land became available for development. Middleton's Field and Manor Close made

use of remaining open areas of land, and during the Modern period apartment blocks along Williamson Street replaced the rows of Late Victorian/Edwardian terraced houses (CLC, 2009).

### **Lincoln City Research Agenda Zones**

**Prehistoric Era (10,000 BC-AD 60): RAZ 5.9.1, Limestone Uplands.** Areas of limestone heath north of the river crossing will have presented dry land and relatively easily worked soils: if there were organised Iron Age field systems of the type commonly seen in air photographs on the Lincoln Edge further north, this is where they will have been. Archaeological work in these areas might expect to find occasional field ditches, which are the principal source of information about this agricultural economy

**Roman Military Era (AD 60-90): RAZ 6.18, Legionary *prata* and *territorium*.** Roman fortresses area likely to have been surrounded by large areas of land – the *territorium* – whose agricultural products and services, probably including timber and stone as well as grain, fruit, vegetables, cattle, sheep and pigs, were dedicated to the maintenance of the legion. The boundaries of Lincoln's *territorium* are likely to have lain well outside the modern city, but sites within the *territorium* may have the opportunity to study the impact of Roman military agricultural techniques, both when compared with any pre-existing Late Pre-Roman Iron-Age techniques and with contemporary Romano-British techniques outside areas of military occupation. The hill-top lands offer the lightest soils, and we need to explore the possibility that these areas were used for arable. Any evidence for quarrying of the limestone, ironstone or clay along the cliff edge dating from the military era will be of very great interest, but we should note that most of the earliest buildings of the fortress were of timber, and consequently, work both within and outside the RAZ should explore the possibility either that there was extensive clearance of indigenous woodland as a result of the invasion, or even that some deliberate plantations were established.

**Roman *Colonia* Era (AD 90-410): RAZ 7.24, Cemeteries.** As the record of the people of *Lindum Colonia*, the cemetery archaeology represents one of the most important sectors of Lincoln's archaeological resource. Whenever work is undertaken within RAZ 7.24 palaeo-osteology will be necessary, with the aim of eventually building up a detailed picture of the physical characteristics of the population. A particular research priority is to ascertain whether the large populations of the *colonia* burial grounds represent a large internal population within the *colonia* itself, or whether it was more the case that the population of the surrounding countryside was brought to the urban cemeteries for burial. Given that it is thought that Lindum was the seat of one of the early British bishoprics, it would be a matter of very great interest to identify specific Christian burials. Was the Christian community of Lindum buried in separate enclaves within the larger cemeteries or did it open up its own exclusive burial grounds?

**Early Medieval Era (410-850): RAZ 8.3.1, Central Elements of Former Roman City and Roman Network.** The RAZ includes the areas of the Roman burial grounds as these extensive remains must have posed problems for the Anglo-Saxons. Evidence that monuments were left untouched, and that the land which they occupied went uncultivated, will be almost as valuable as evidence that monuments were deliberately removed or that the graveyards were re-used.

**High Medieval Era (850-1350): RAZ 9.41.3, Stone pits north-east of the Upper City.** Stone in this area was probably not worked from a quarry face, but in pits. There is no indication of the ownership of these stone pits and this might mean that these diggings were also worked by citizens as part of their common rights: it may be possible to assess whether



working in these stone pits was undertaken on a small scale by individual citizens, or by a more commercial operation. Some of the stone from such pits might have fed limekilns, but no evidence for limekilns in this area has yet been forthcoming. Indeed, as yet, there is no evidence that the stone was processed in any way in or near the pits. Even so, such processing might be expected and the remains of lime-burning installations should be searched for.

**High Medieval Era (850-1350): RAZ 9.9.1, Lincoln Common Fields.** The city's common fields lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city. The archaeology of the fields is likely to be rather coarse and uninformative on a small scale, but soil analyses from widely scattered sites in the fields may provide useful information about relative fertility and, over time, the distribution patterns of pottery may give some indication about manuring at different periods. It is likely that many boundary stones were placed in the Lincoln fields, as they were in all such systems, but it is equally likely that these would have been simple rough boulders and thus not easily spotted in the modern urban environment. The fields will have contained a variety of other structures, besides soil platforms. All open field systems contained ephemeral sheds for shelter and the storage of tools, as well as earthwork and timber structures to support stands for peas and beans etc. The locations of a number of windmills in the fields of Lincoln are known, but there are several others which are mentioned and whose locations may come to light during development work within this RAZ.

**Early Modern Era (1350-1750): RAZ 10.41.3, Stone pits north-east of the Upper City.** Stone in this area was probably not worked from a quarry face, but in pits. There is no indication of the ownership of these stone pits and this might mean that these diggings were also worked by citizens as part of their common rights: it may be possible to assess whether working in these stone pits was undertaken on a small scale by individual citizens, or by a more commercial operation. Some of the stone from such pits might have fed limekilns, but no evidence for limekilns in this area has yet been forthcoming. Indeed, as yet, there is no evidence that the stone was processed in any way in or near the pits. Even so, such processing might be expected and the remains of lime-burning installations should be searched for.

**Early Modern Era (1350-1750): RAZ 10.9.1, The City's Arable Fields.** The city's arable land lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city. The archaeology of the fields is likely to be rather coarse and uninformative on a small scale, but soil analyses from widely scattered sites in the fields may provide useful information about relative fertility and, over time, the distribution patterns of pottery may give some indication about manuring at different periods. It is likely that many boundary stones were placed in the Lincoln fields, as they were in all such systems, but it is equally likely that these would have been simple rough boulders and thus not easily spotted in the modern urban environment. The fields will have contained a variety of other structures, besides soil platforms. All open field systems contained ephemeral sheds for shelter and the storage of tools, as well as earthwork and timber structures to support stands for peas and beans etc. The locations of a number of windmills in the fields of Lincoln are known, but there are several others which are mentioned and whose locations may come to light during development work within this RAZ.

**Industrial Era (1750-1350): RAZ 11.17, City's Arable Fields.** The city's common fields, which lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city, were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1803. The practical effect of the Act was to turn a small number of citizens who had previously been farmers, probably living in Newport, into tenants of the City Council in newly established farms set amongst a patch-work of new fields where the open fields had been. It is possible that Stonefield House was integrated into the farming economy, as it seems to have an associated kennels and dairy. We need to know where the rural working class stood relative to their urban cousins in comparative living conditions. The archaeology of the post-enclosure fields themselves is likely to be rather coarse and uninformative on a



small scale. Excavation may be a less effective technique of exploration here, but even so, soil analyses from widely scattered sites in the fields may provide useful information about relative fertility and, over time, the distribution patterns of pottery may give some indication about manuring.

**Industrial Era (1750-1945): RAZ 11.41.4, Stone pits north and north-east of the Upper City.** Quarrying in individual pits on common land appears to have ceased with the Parliamentary Enclosures, but some quarries continued to operate, or were newly opened, as commercial concerns on private land. Apart from the interest of the workers' housing associated with these quarries, we should be interested in the level of technology and mechanisation used to exploit the stone. Being relatively restricted 'pits' it is likely that they were only exploiting building stone, and future work on such sites should investigate whether the stone was being prepared on the site before being exported for use. There is no indication in the mapped evidence that these quarries were being exploited to feed limekilns, but future research work should accommodate this possibility.

## 6.0 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring was required on all groundworks associated with the development. These extension groundworks involved the excavation of foundation and service trenches (pipeline and soakaway). All the works were carried out using a 360° excavator, fitted with a toothed bucket.

The archaeological monitoring began on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and was completed on 8<sup>th</sup> August; monitoring was carried out by Leigh Brocklehurst and Rebecca Dickinson. Weather conditions were generally favourable throughout.

All features/deposits observed were recorded using standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on standard PCAS site diary sheets. Significant features were drawn in plan and section at scale 1:20; in other areas, sample sections were prepared at intervals along the excavated trenches. All drawn sections were plotted on a base plan, and a digital photographic record was maintained.

## 7.0 Results (figs.2-4)

The general stratigraphy recorded consisted of two geological deposits, of clay and abundant limestone inclusions (07, 08) sealed by a sterile sandy silt (03) and the topsoil (02). The absence of any finds suggests that the primary use of this area focused on agriculture prior to construction of the existing house.



**Plates 1 and 2: General views showing footing trenches for the extension to the existing house.**



**Plate 3: Services works, soakaway, looking north.**

A single east-west oriented ditch [04] was exposed towards the north end of the site. The full dimensions of this feature were not recorded as it extended beyond the limits of the excavation areas. It was at least 2.5m wide and 0.60m deep, but the base of the feature was not identified. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the two deposits that filled this feature (05, 06), which was interpreted as a likely post-medieval field boundary ditch - probably part of the zone that was enclosed during the Early Industrial period under an Act of

Parliament of 1803, which stipulated the enclosure of many of Lincoln's open fields, including the southern boundary of Newport Cemetery.



Plate 4: Boundary ditch 04.

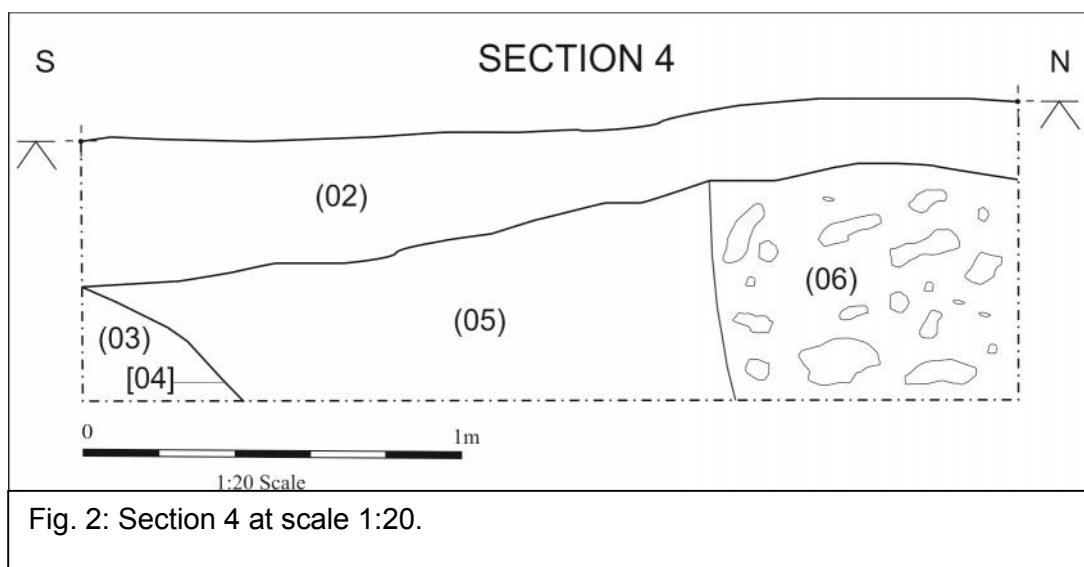


Fig. 2: Section 4 at scale 1:20.

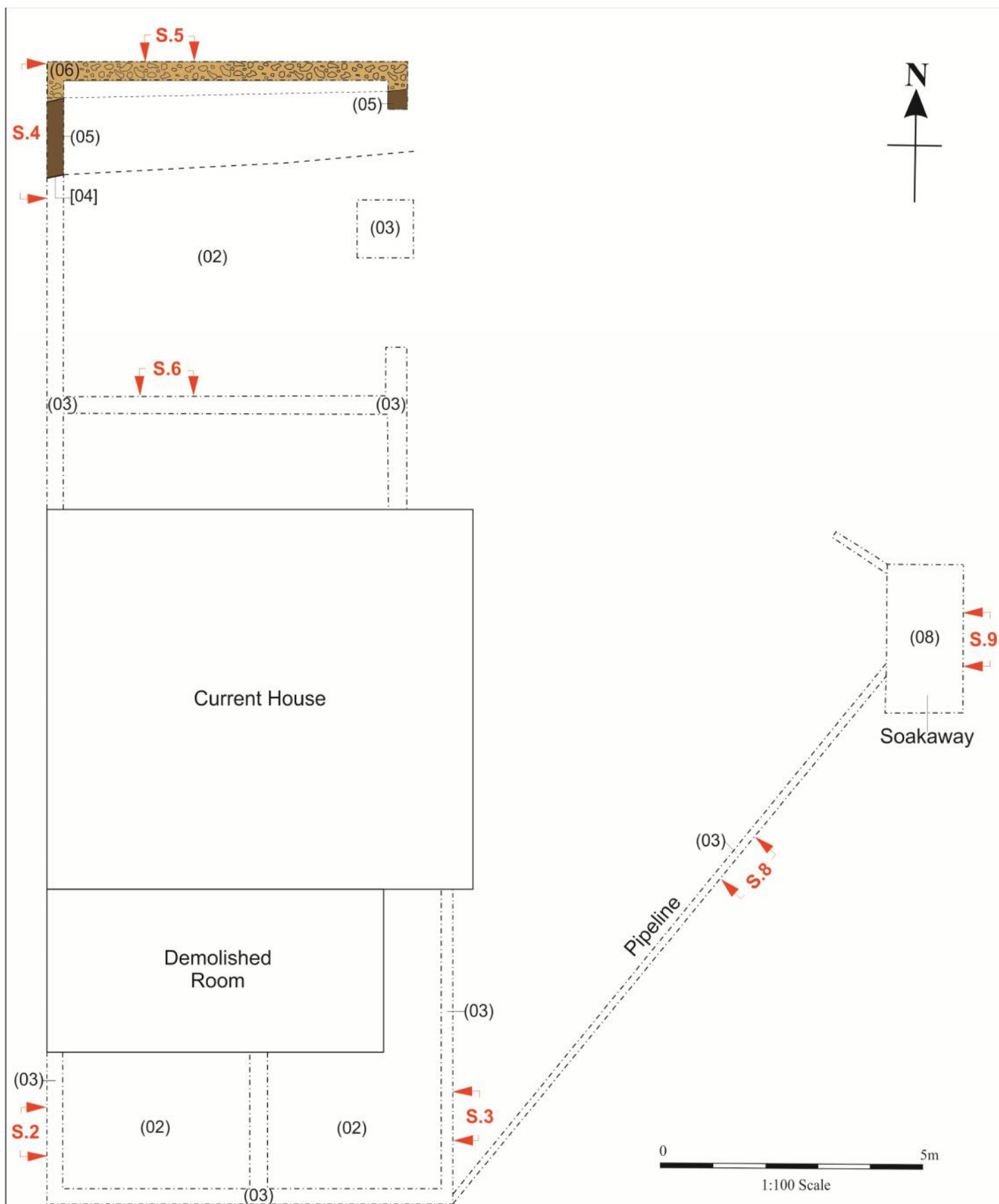


Fig.3: Plan of site at scale 1:100.



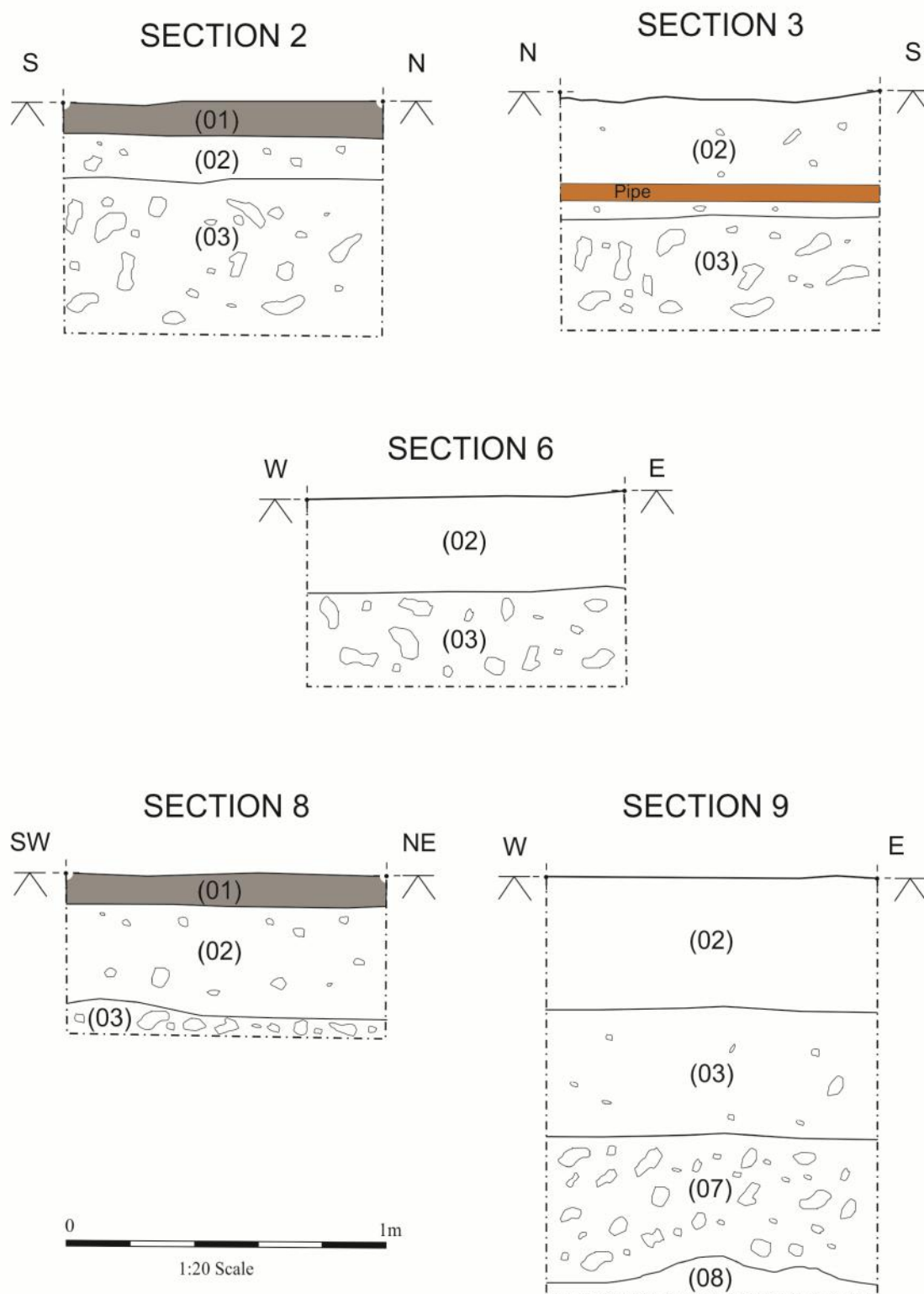


Fig.4: Sections 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 at scale 1:20.

## 8.0 Conclusion

The only archaeological feature recorded comprised a likely post-medieval field boundary ditch - probably a component of the enclosed fields that followed an Act of Parliament of 1803, which stipulated the enclosure of many of Lincoln's open fields, including the southern boundary of Newport Cemetery.

No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during this programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## 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 Kingsmead Design and of Ms. Catherine Farrell 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') within 3 months of the completion of this report. Following deposition, the archive will be available for public consultation under the LCNCC accession number 2015.120.

An online record of the project data was initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commences, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report.

## 12.0 Bibliography

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### Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
01	Layer	Modern concrete yard surface.	Modern
02	Layer	Modern topsoil. Dark grey/black, loose/friable sandy silt with some small stone inclusions.	Modern
03	Layer	Light/mid yellow brown, loose/friable sandy silt with frequent small limestone fragment inclusions.	Modern/ Post-medieval
04	Cut	Boundary field ditch. East/ West oriented.	Post-medieval
05	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 04. Dark greyish brown loose/friable sandy silt with some small stone inclusions.	Post-medieval
06	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 04. Light yellow loose sand with some limestone fragment inclusions.	Post-medieval
07	Layer	Natural. Light grey/yellow compact clay with frequent large limestone chunk inclusions.	Natural
08	Layer	Natural. Light grey/slight yellow compact clay.	Natural



## Appendix 2: OASIS summary

# 13.0 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## 14.0 Printable version

## 15.0 OASIS ID: preconst3-287898

## Project details

Project name	No. 8, Manor Close, Lincoln
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the groundworks for a series of extensions to an existing house on Manor Close in the city of Lincoln. Manor Close lies to the north of the Roman walled city of Lindum Colonia, between two of the main Roman roads northwards out of the city, in an area likely to have been used as a cemetery during the Roman period: a skeleton that may have been Roman or early Saxon was found during archaeological intervention approximately 200m from the site. From the beginning of the Middle Ages until the early modern period, this area lay within the city's common land, and may either have been used for agricultural purposes or quarried for stone. The immediate neighbourhood of the site was developed for housing in the late 19th and early to mid-20th centuries, with Manor Close among the last areas to be developed. The only archaeological evidence identified during this intervention consisted in a Post-medieval field boundary ditch. Probably part of the enclosed fields during the Early Industrial period under an Act of Parliament of 1803, which stipulate the enclosure of many of Lincoln's open fields, including the southern boundary of Newport Cemetery.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2016 End: 08-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	DITCH Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE LINCOLN LINCOLN No. 8, Manor Close
Postcode	LN2 1RL
Study area	150 Square metres
Lat/Long Datum (other)	SK 9795 7239
Height OD / Depth	Min: 60m Max: 65m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project design originator	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	L. Brocklehurst and R. Dickinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Kingsmead Design on Behalf of Ms. Catherine Farrell

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Entered by	Rachel Savage (rachel.savage@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	20 June 2017

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## 16.0 OASIS:

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

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