

**WILLOW HOUSE, LEGSBY ROAD, MARKET RASEN,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR:	TF 11272 88647(c)
Planning ref.:	B130209
PCAS Job No.:	1386
Site code:	WHOM 15
Archive acc. code:	202015.25

Report prepared for
Tony Crowe Group Ltd.

by

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of two new dwellings and associated garages on land to the rear of Willow House, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies in an area of archaeological interest: Roman pottery kilns have been discovered to the west of the site at Linwood Road, and further remains including evidence of metalworking have been made to the south-east. The town is a recognised centre of pottery manufacture during the Roman period.

No features of archaeological interest were observed during the construction groundworks. A small corpus of pottery retrieved from the topsoil was of modern date and has been discarded.

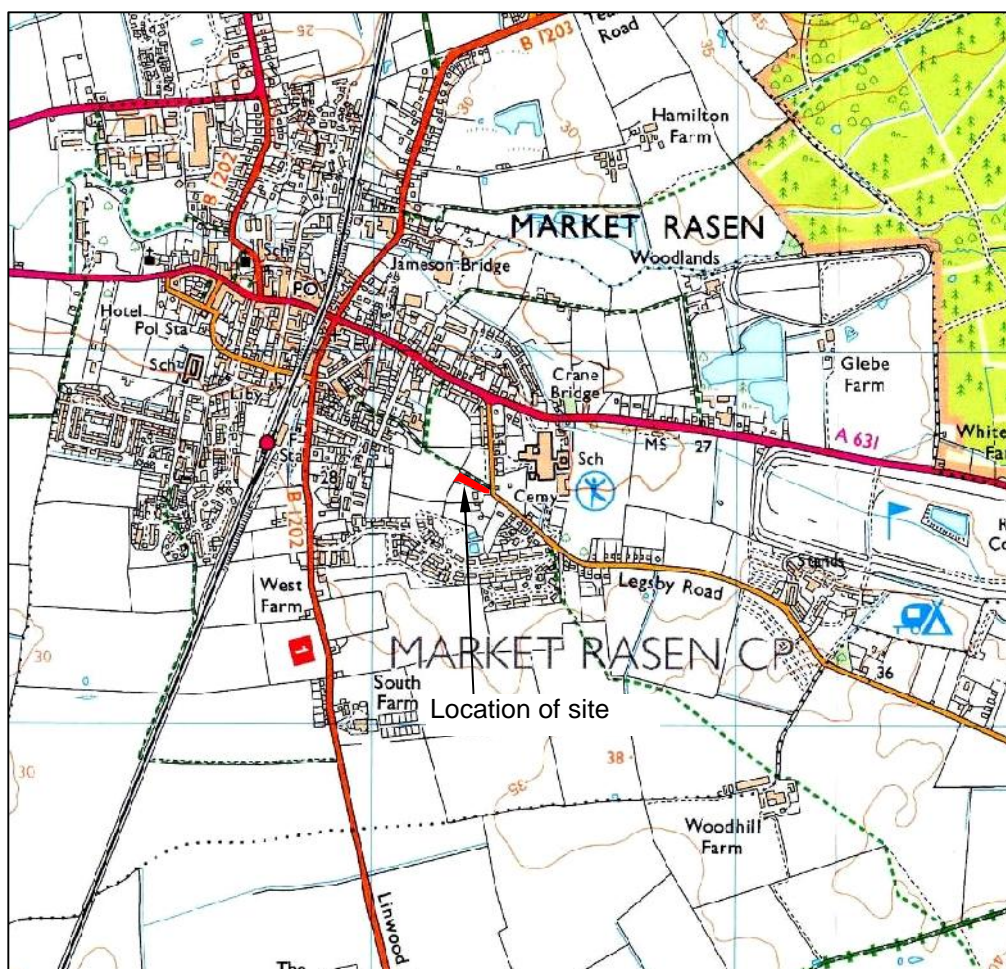


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Tony Crowe Group Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings.

The development site lies in an area of archaeological interest, close to a well documented Roman pottery production zone, and on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Market Rasen.

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

Market Rasen town and parish is in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire located c. 22km to the north of Lincoln.

The development site is on the south-east side of the town, to the west of Legsby Road adjacent to Windmill Cemetery at NGR TF 11272 88647(c) and covers c. 0.108ha in area.

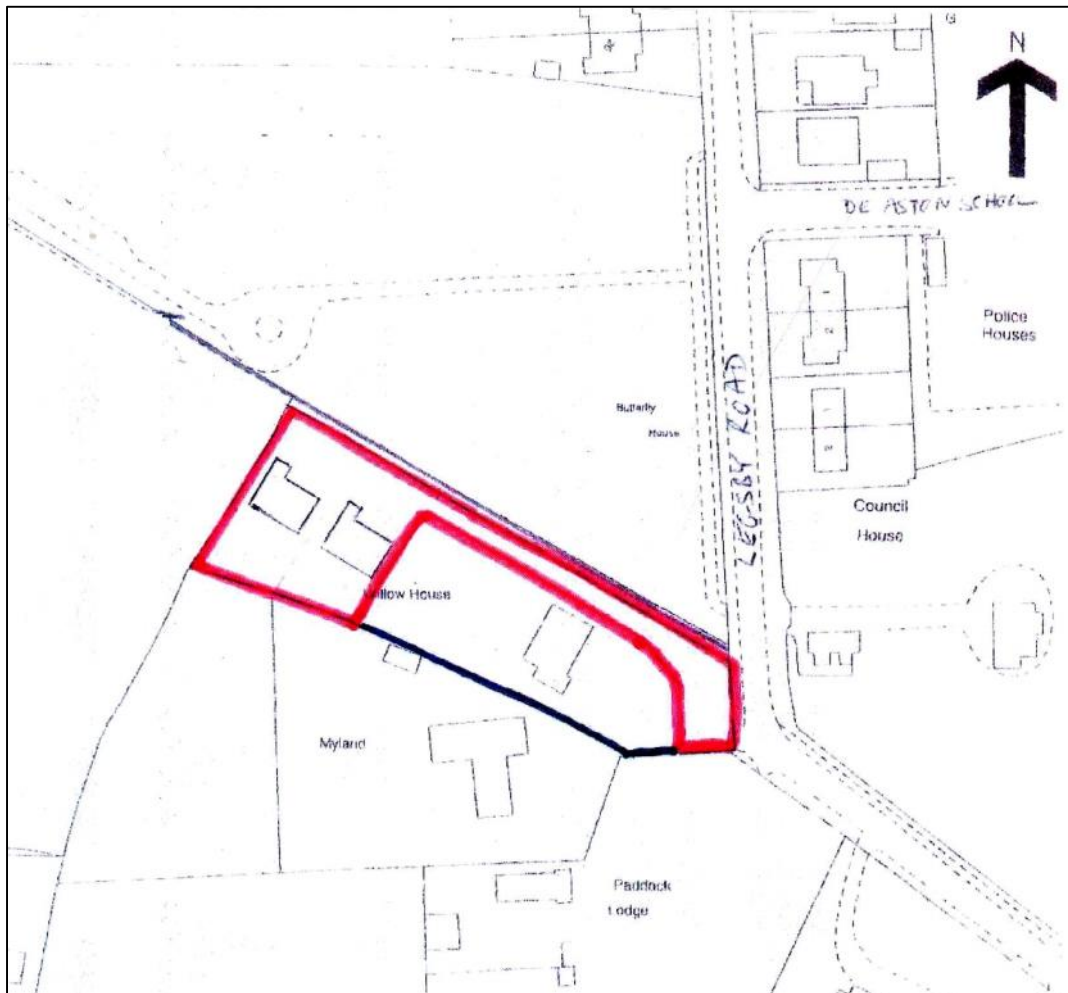


Figure 2: Location plan of the site at scale 1:1250. Plan supplied by client.

3.0 Geology and Topography

The town developed in the main on the south bank of the River Rase, running from the village of Tealby to the A15 in the east and turning north to the River Ancholme. The landscape exhibits a gentle slope from the higher ground to the east and west into the river valley. Consequently, Market Rasen lies at a slightly lower elevation than the surrounding land, between the 25m and 30m contours.

The underlying solid geology is a band of Kimmeridge Clay formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed in the shallow seas of the Jurassic period. This was later covered by a ridge of windblown sand and gravel in the Quaternary period upon which the town rests.

4.0 Planning Background

Outline planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for a residential development of two single -storey dwellings with new vehicular access on land to the rear of Willow House, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire (Planning Ref.: 130209).

A condition of the planning permission stipulated that an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation be produced relating to the site and a relevant programme of archaeological work adhering to this WSI be carried out during development groundworks.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Evidence of early prehistoric occupation in and around Market Rasen is limited. Recorded prehistoric remains closest to the site lie some 500m to the north-east, to the north of Willingham Road, and consist of finds of worked flints, ranging in date from the late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age, with traces of Iron Age occupation, particularly associated with ironworking (HER refs. 54832-3, 54807).

Market Rasen is a known centre of pottery production in the Roman period: the north-eastern edge of the area recorded by the Lincolnshire HER as likely to be occupied by or associated with Roman kiln sites lies approximately 130m from the west end of the site. Two kilns, with associated flues, stokeholes and waste heaps and thousands of sherds of pottery and wasters, were found during archaeological work on the east side of Linwood Road in 1998 (HER ref. 52736), while another kiln, with associated deposits and residual material indicating local metal production, were found by archaeological evaluation further to the south, approximately 350m south-east of the proposed development site (Mandeville, 2014).

Most of the surviving settlements within the Landscape Character Zone were founded in the early medieval period. The survival of ridge-and-furrow earthworks throughout the zone suggests that some of the surrounding land was farmed in a typical open strip field system. These earthworks are not extensive, however, and, as the underlying clay soils are heavy and difficult to plough, it may be that livestock rearing played a more important and extensive role in the economy than in neighbouring areas.

Market Rasen was first documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although it is likely to have originated before the Norman Conquest. At the time of the Domesday Survey, the settlement that would later be known as East Rasen and eventually as Market Rasen was the least of the three Rasen villages, overshadowed by West and Middle Rasen. There was

no manor; Alfred of Lincoln had a minor estate there, with small amounts of arable and meadow land and a mill, and a smaller amount of arable land formed an outlying holding of the manor of Tealby

The proposed development site falls into the area demarcated by the HER as the south-east quarter of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Market Rasen (HER refs. 52752, 52757), but no early medieval or medieval remains have been documented within 500m of the site. It probably lay within the agricultural hinterland of the town, potentially within its open fields, although it had become private property by the post-medieval period, as the site can be identified as part of an old enclosure on the enclosure award plan of 1780 (Bunn *et al.*, 2014).

Archaeological monitoring carried out in 2000 during development at 'Sarir' off Legsby Road, approximately 200m to the south-east of the site, recorded a north to south-aligned ditch and a large pit, but retrieved no dating evidence from either (HER ref. 54534).

The plot of land under development is shown on the 1885 1" and 1888-1913 6" OS maps and designated 'Willow Cottage' (National Library of Scotland online georeferenced maps).

6.0 Methodology

A vegetation strip, using a 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket to an average depth of 0.15m, was carried out prior to the groundworks; initial works also included the removal of several trees from the site, the roots of which were most evident in the later groundworks. Some topsoil was retained on site for later re-instatement. Footing trenches were excavated by 360° tracked machine with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket attachment to an average depth of 0.80m: All groundworks were monitored by the attending archaeologist on site.

All features and deposits seen 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.

The footings trenches for house plot 1 were completed in two days. A service trench for water was excavated from Legsby Road to the house plots with a width of 0.30m and consistent depth of 0.80m. Return visits to the site monitored the excavation of footing trenches for the second house plot, an additional internal trench for house plot 1, a garage plot in the north-west corner of the site and a soakaway near the south edge. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken at various times by James Coles, Rebecca Dickinson and the author.



Plate 1: Excavation of service trenches



Plate 2: Exposed layers within footing trenches

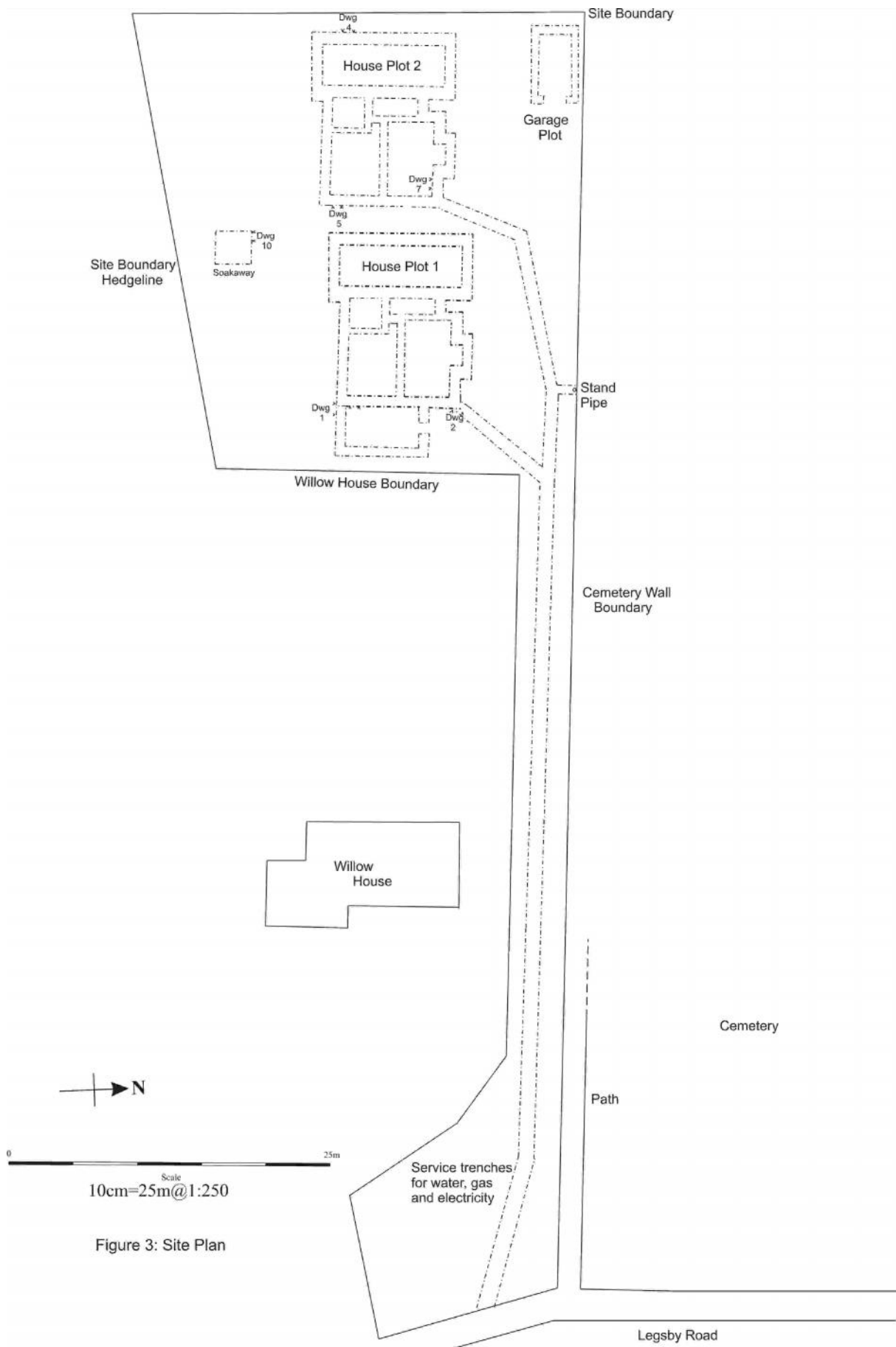


Figure 3: Site Plan

7.0 Results

During the excavation of footing trenches, two layers were observed; topsoil, **001**, was a dark brown organic sandy loam with an average depth of 0.40m overlaying a fine pale cream sand with occasional patches and lenses of orange sand, **002**. Root traces were evident into this natural wind-blown sand and discoloured the layer due to mineral leaching. During the excavations of the footings several small sherds of early modern ceramic material were observed in the topsoil, these were not retained.

The same deposits were observed in the footings of house plot 2 and the garage plot to the north-west. The excavation of the main service trench following the north boundary of the site revealed the same deposit sequence. At the base of this, at 0.80m below existing, damp sand was observed possibly indicating the water table. A second service trench for gas and electricity was excavated along the same line to a similar depth.

A soakaway pit was excavated to the south of house plot 1; 3m² and 1.5m deep. Topsoil in this area was up to 0.60m in thickness and the underlying sand was the same as observed in the other groundworks.

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the monitoring of the groundworks for this site.

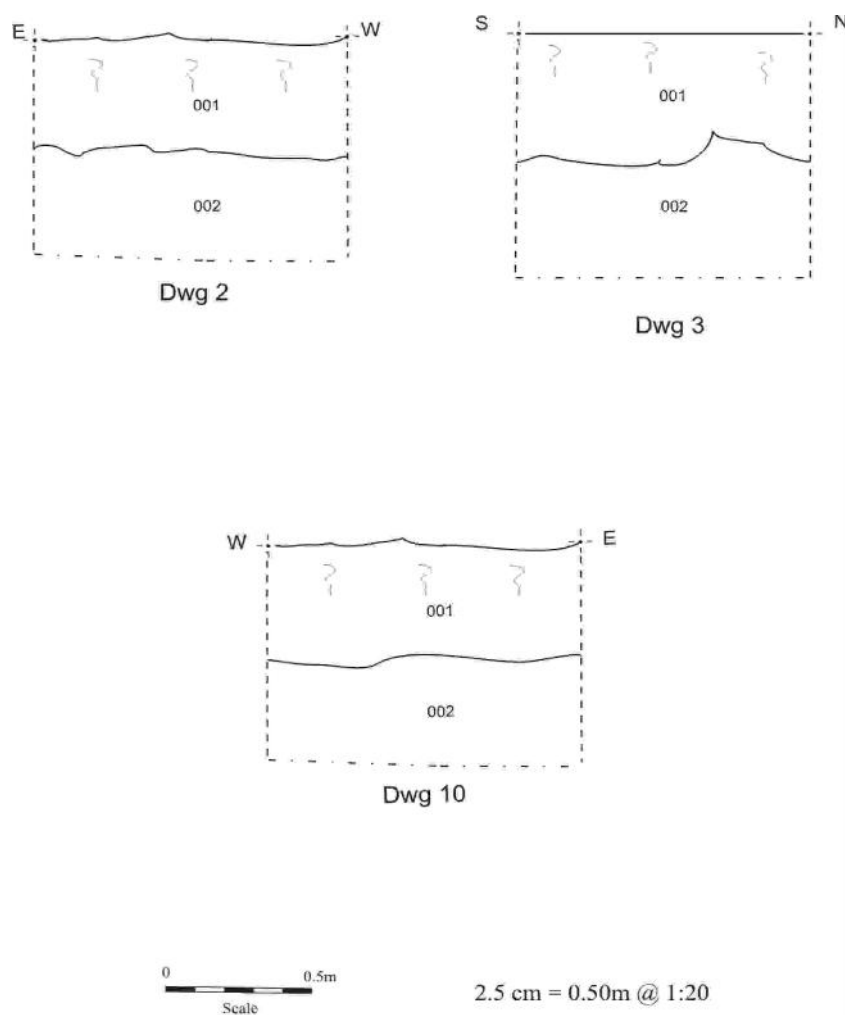


Figure 4: Section drawings.

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 outside the main settlement of the town and may have been marginal land for agricultural use.

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 Tony Crowe Group Ltd. 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') by December 2016.

12.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Bunn, D., Lane, A. and Savage, R. D., 2014, *Land South of Market Rasen, off Linwood Road, Market Rasen, West Lindsey, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.

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Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*. Bulletin 13, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Harpenden.

Mandeville, R. 2014, *Land off Linwood Road, South of Market Rasen, West Lindsey, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.

National Library of Scotland Georeferenced Maps <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Lincolnshire Wolds North, Louth & Market Rasen*: Explorer series no. 282, 1:25,000 edition. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.60m deep; former garden soil associated with orchard	Modern ceramic and glass fragments (discarded)
002	Layer	Pale cream sand with orange lenses	None

Appendix 2: Oasis Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst3-289592

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Willow House, Market Rasen
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of footing and service trenches at land adjacent to Willow House, Legsby Road, Market Rasen found no features or finds of archaeological interest.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2015 End: 10-07-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	130209 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2015.25 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 10 - Orchard
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY MARKET RASEN Wilow House, Legsby Road, Market Rasen
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 11272 88647 53.382660188448 -0.32689684376 53 22 57 N 000 19 36 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist) PCAS Archaeology Ltd.

Project design originator	
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	B. Hobbs
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Tony Crowe Group Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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 July 2017