

LAND OFF WESLEY WAY, HORNCastle, LINCOLNSHIRE

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING REPORT**

NGR: TF 26830 69220
PCAS job no. 1897
Site code: HWWM 17
Archive acc. no.: 2017.87

Report prepared for

Lindum Homes

by

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Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Lindum Homes to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording DURING development on land off Wesley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.

A desk-based assessment identified no known heritage assets within the development site, but it did note that the site lies on the eastern side of the Romano-British settlement of Banovallum, and that Iron Age and Roman remains have been found nearby; notably a large Iron Age – Roman enclosure to the south, and a second enclosure of comparable date partially exposed during archaeological monitoring on the adjacent Wesley Way development. In addition, an evaluation undertaken on the site itself confirmed the presence of dispersed archaeological remains that would be impacted by the development proposals.

Much of the site proved to be archaeologically negative, with only four archaeological features being identified during the scheme of monitoring. Two of these were modern, and two remain undated.



Figure 1: Location plan of site at scale 1:25000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Lindum Himes to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the development of land situated off Wesley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.

A preceding evaluation at the site confirmed the presence of dispersed archaeological remains. Furthermore, the extent of an Iron Age – Roman enclosure identified during the construction of Wesley Way is unknown and may intrude into the present development area.

The methodology adopted during the investigation followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- IFA Code of Conduct (1994 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2008);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy is subject to the approval of the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council.

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1)

Horncastle lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 28km east of Lincoln. The town is centred on the crossroads of the A153 and A158, with the confluence of the Rivers Bain and Waring directly to the north-west.

The development site is a rectangular piece of land situated to the south of the A158 Spilsby Road and north of Mareham Road, approximately 800m ESE of Horncastle town centre. It is bordered to the north by the Thunker Drain; to the south and east by agricultural land; and to the west by residential properties fronting onto Wesley Way.

The national grid reference for the site is centred at TF 26830 69220

3.0 Topography and Geology

The solid geology of Horncastle and the development site comprises mudstone (Kimmeridge Clay Formation). The majority of the Horncastle area, with the exception of the valleys of the Rivers Bain and Waring, is covered by a drift geology of Mid Pleistocene Till - Diamicton. A band of Quaternary Period alluvium, formed along the line of a natural channel, is also recorded along the northern edge of the development site and can be seen in aerial photographs as an irregular lighter band along the north side of the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies over the 35m contour line, where ground level slopes gently down towards Thunker Drain, descending sharply at the north end of the field (beyond evaluation Trenches 2 and 3).

4.0 Planning Background

A planning application (ref. S/086/00660/14), submitted in April 2014 was approved for the 'Erection of 8no. pairs of semi-detached houses, a block of 3no. terrace houses and 2no. blocks of 2no. flats (total 23no. dwellings), erection of fencing to a maximum height of 1.95

metres, construction of a vehicular access, estate roads, associated parking and foul pumping station with compound'.

A desk based assessment (Savage and Bunn 2011), geophysical survey (Pre-construct Geophysics 2013), and archaeological evaluation (Lane 2014) were undertaken to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed development. The desk based assessment indicated the potential for archaeology on site, whilst evaluation confirmed this, with three archaeological features being identified.

The Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council advised that a scheme of monitoring and recording should take place on all groundworks associated with the development.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Horncastle lies at the southern end of the Caistor High Street, a prehistoric trackway that was probably once a major route from the Humber across the Wolds, to salt-making sites around The Wash (ELDC, 2008). A concentration of Neolithic to Bronze Age flints was recovered c. 150m south of the site (LHER ref: 43416).

Horncastle is archaeologically sensitive, with evidence of settlement dating from the early Roman period until the present day. The place-name originates from the Old English and means 'the Roman town on the horn-shaped piece of land (between the River Bain and River Waring' (Cameron 1998). Horncastle is also identified with Banavallum, a primitive Welsh or Celtic name meaning 'strong spur'. During the Roman period, Horncastle was the walled settlement (LHER 43747) referred to as Banovallum, situated in the angle formed by the confluence of the River Waring and the River Bain at TF 2610 6906 and covering a known area of c. 855m by 674m. Late Iron Age and Roman occupation spread out from this nucleus, and has been identified at multiple sites across the town. A Roman cremation cemetery near Albert Street, c.350m west of the site, possibly disturbed by later quarrying (HER ref: 41870).

There are two recorded Iron Age – Roman sites in the area immediately surrounding the development site. A pre-Roman ditched enclosure to the northwest (HER ref: 43307) is recorded at the Banovallum Gardens development, of which Wesley Way and Winceby Gardens is a part. This area was subject to a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation prior to development, and a scheme of targeted archaeological monitoring during the groundworks. The geophysics results indicated an area void of archaeology, however during the subsequent evaluation and watching brief three ditches and evidence of an internal up-cast bank was identified, associated with a small collection of pottery indicating Roman occupation.

The second Roman site was initially identified as a cropmark, a sub rectangular enclosure with associated linear anomalies (HER ref: 41865) c. 150m southwest of the site. Geophysical survey and trial trenching investigated the site, confirming a large enclosure defined by V-shaped ditches and with occupation spanning the late Iron Age to the late 3rd century AD. (Savage and Bunn, 2011; Keal, 2013);

Horncastle's position as a large, wealthy Roman town continued into the Saxon period: during the 10th century it was one of five towns in the Kingdom of Lindsey with a Royal Mint (Sawyer 1998); and the Domesday Survey of 1086, records Horncastle as a royal manor. Horncastle was granted the right to hold a market by Henry III in 1230; and continued to prosper throughout the Middle Ages (Pevsner and Harris, 1989). Medieval ridge and furrow was identified during the watching brief at Banovallum Gardens, suggesting this site was on

the periphery of the medieval town and the focus of occupation and activity. There are no post-medieval or modern monuments listed within 250m of the site.

In 2013, a fluxgate gradiometer (geophysical) survey was undertaken on the development site by Pre-Construct Geophysics. The results indicated the presence of isolated modern ferrous-rich objects, probably related to modern agriculture and disturbance due to the development of Banovallum Gardens, however the overall magnetic variation across the site was not suggestive of archaeological remains and it was concluded that there was a low potential for significant archaeology to lie within the proposed development area (PCG, 2013). The geophysical survey completed on adjacent Banovallum Gardens had also been negative, although further investigation identified archaeological remains; therefore the negative results of the survey on the present development site could not be considered conclusive. An archaeological evaluation (Lane 2014) consisting of five trenches across the development area was undertaken. This identified three linear features, two of which dated to the post-medieval period whilst the third remained undated. This did however, prove that archaeology did survive within the site and that development would have an impact on the identified remains, and any other features not revealed by trenching.

6.0 Methodology

The potential for surviving archaeological remains within the development area was confirmed by evaluation. Therefore, the Historic Environment Officer advised that a scheme of monitoring and recording should take place on all groundworks associated with development.

The excavation areas were to be machine stripped to construction depth under archaeological supervision. Adequate time and resources would then be allowed to ensure any encountered archaeological remains, if identified, would be investigated and recorded by an appropriately qualified team of archaeologists.

The purpose of the monitoring was to create a permanent record of the archaeological resource that would otherwise be destroyed by the development proposals.

Excavated features were to be recorded by measured plan and tied into the National Grid using GPS. Section drawings of the features were drawn at appropriate scales (normally 1:10 or 1:20).

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. These were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The archaeologist paid due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscape – which may have required a basic assessment to be made of neighbouring conditions (e.g. visible earthworks in adjacent areas, surface observation, standing buildings, vegetation cover etc).

A digital photographic record was maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention.

7.0 Results (Figs. 2-5)

A total of 18 days of monitoring took place during development groundworks at the site.

Initial excavations commenced 13th November 2017. These involved stripping areas around the house plots and access roads. These were done to a depth of approximately 0.3m below original ground level (a vegetation strip had already taken place prior to monitoring), which

exposed the natural substrate beneath. Excavations near house plot 1 exposed a N-S orientated ditch, [123], which had been identified during the evaluation as a modern feature. This ditch was also seen during excavation of house plot 19 in the NW corner. Only the east side and part of the base were exposed in the west side of house plot 1. This was moderately steep with a concave base.

A further two features were identified in the NE corner of the development area. These were in the area of the pumping station and the road strip. The first was an E-W orientated linear, [104]. This contained a single fill, which yielded no finds. To the south of this was a large, partially exposed, pit. [106]. This was quite shallow at 0.76m, but it was 4.9m wide. It contained a total of five fills, none of which produced any finds.

Once the initial stripping of the house and road footprints had been excavated, monitoring of the house plot footings and associated groundwork took place. For the most part these proved archaeologically negative, although excavations on house plot 22 revealed a small modern pit, which contained fragments of plastic and other modern material.



Plate 1: Ditch in plot 1 (looking N).



Plate 2: Linear [104] (looking NE).



Plate 3: Quarry pit [106] (looking SE).



Plate 4: Working shot of site strip (looking N).



Plate 5: Further working shot of site strip (looking E).



Plate 6: Representative section of House Plot 5/6 (looking N).



Plate 7: Representative section of House Plot 20/21 (looking N).



Plate 8: Complete excavation of Plot 20/21 (looking NE).



Plate 9: Representative section of House Plot 14/15 (looking SE).



Plate 10: Representative section of House Plot 9/10 (looking NE).

8.0 Conclusion

The programme of monitoring and recording identified a very low level of archaeology across the development site.

Much of the site proved to be archaeologically sterile, with only four archaeological features being identified during the scheme of monitoring. Two of these proved modern in date, whilst two remain undated.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed during this archaeological monitoring and recording 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 Lindum Homes 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, the project archive will be deposited with The Collection, Lincoln within 12 months of the completion of site works.

12.0 Bibliography

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Keal, L. L., 2013, Land off Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Evaluation. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services.

LCC, 2016, Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Dept.

PCG: Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2013, Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land off Wesley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. NGR 526830 369220.

Savage, R. D. and Bunn, D., 2011, Land off Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services.

Sawyer P., 1998, Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire III. History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln.

Websites:

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Planning documents accessed online at:

<https://publicaccess.e-lindsey.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Off Wesley Way, Horncas
 Site Area = 1.811 A
 1U%HG+ODW#P0
 1U%HG+RXVH#P0
 1U%HG+RXVH#P0
 Total Nr of Dwellings

Fencing Key (fencing types & sizes to be confirmed)
 Timber close boarded fencing or Timber panelled (site inspection required - minimum 1800mm High ground on sit)
 600mm High Knee rail fen
 Fencing above to be used, or similar approved

External Hard Finishes/Landscap

Bituminous Tarmacada	[Pattern]
Concrete Paving Sla	[Pattern]
Block Paving (colour T)	[Pattern]
Block Paving (colour T)	[Pattern]
Concrete Sla	[Pattern]
Grass/Tur	[Pattern]
Swale Zon	[Pattern]
Existing Tree	[Symbol]
Proposed Tree	[Symbol]



Figure 2: Proposed site plan (from client)
 Scale: 1:500

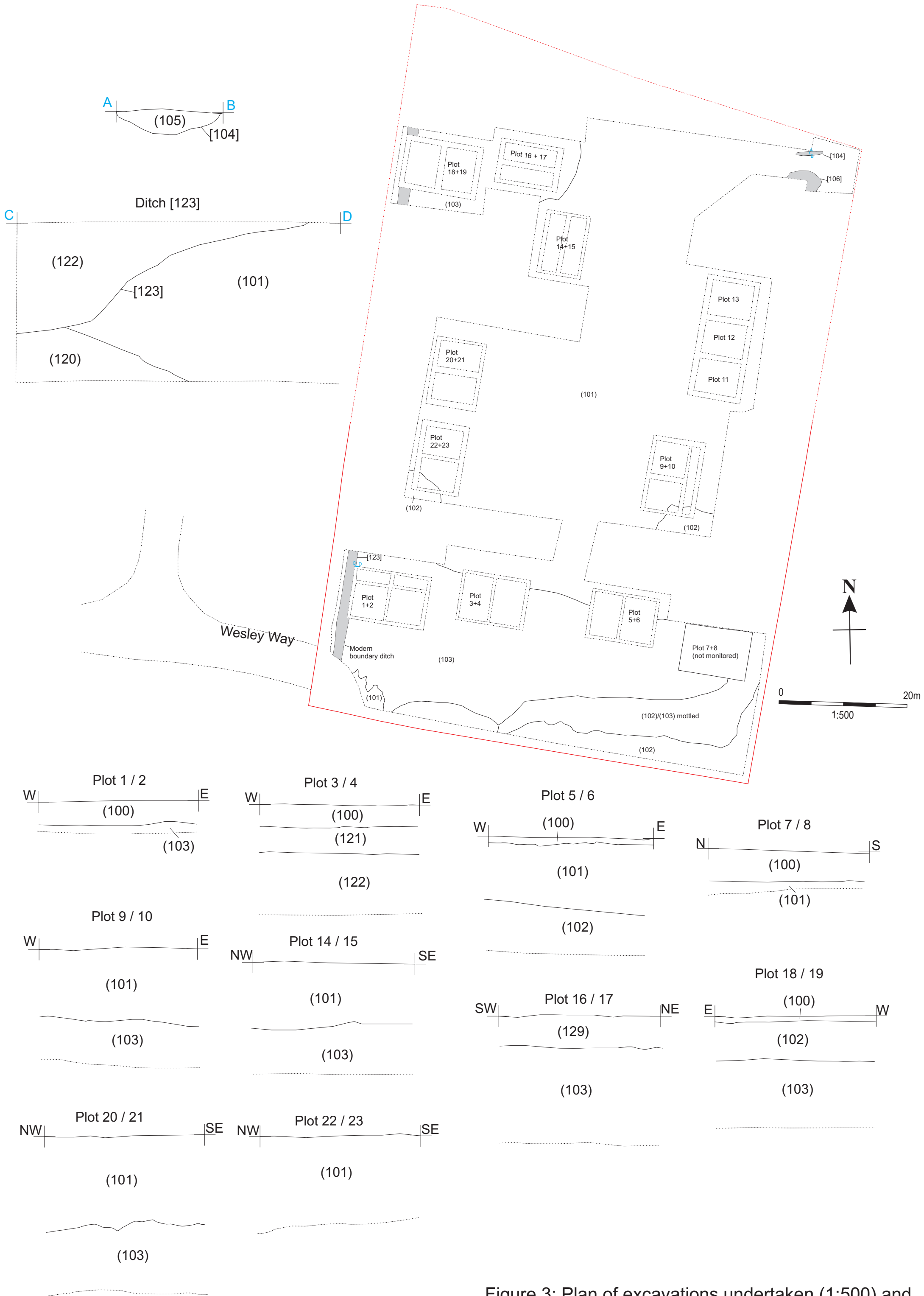


Figure 3: Plan of excavations undertaken (1:500) and sections (1:20) of house plots and archaeology.

Appendix 1 – Wesley Way, Horncastle Context Register

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
100	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown silty sand. Fairly loose with occasional stone inclusions.	
101	Layer	Natural substrate. Orange yellow sand with patches of lighter grey sand within.	
102	Layer	Further natural substrate. White to pale grey sand with yellow patches of sand throughout.	
103	Layer	Natural band of pale brown silty sand. Loose with occasional stones within the deposit.	
104	Cut	Linear feature located in the NE of the site. Orientated NNE-SSW. Gradually sloped sides and a concave base. 0.75m wide, 0.21m deep and 1.15m long.	
105	Fill	Single fill of linear [104]. Mid brown silty sand with clay. Fairly compact. Occasional stone inclusions throughout.	
106	Cut	Large circular pit. Shallow sides and a broadly flat base. 4.9m in diameter and 0.76m deep.	
107	Fill	Upper fill of pit [106]. Light brown sandy silt. Fairly compact with frequent stone inclusions.	
108	Fill	Thin lens of re-deposited natural orange sand within pit [106]. Loose and fine.	
109	Fill	Further lens of re-deposited natural within pit [106]. White silty marl. Loose and clear of inclusions.	
110	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [106]. Light brown grey sandy silt. Fairly compact. Occasional small stones throughout deposit.	
111	Fill	Primary fill of pit [106]. Mid grey sandy silt. Fairly compacted. Occasional small stones throughout.	
112	Layer	Natural deposit. Mottled grey, white, orange and yellow sand. Fine and loose. Gravels throughout deposit.	
113	Layer	Natural deposit. Yellow white mottled with parches of brown sand. Fine and loose.	
114	Layer	Patches of grey orange fine sand appears within (113) on the southern aspect of the site. Fine and loose.	
115	Cut	Modern disturbance. Very shallow, with irregular edges.	
116	Fill	Re-deposited natural sands within modern pit [115]. Very loose and fine.	
117	Fill	Secondary fill within modern pit [115]. Further re-deposited natural sands. Grey with yellow patches.	
118	Cut	Modern machine cut. Done prior to arrival on site. Seen in south of monitoring area.	
119	Cut	Further machined cut. Modern. Straight sides. Also in south of site.	
120	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (102).	
121	Layer	Natural substrate. Similar to (102) but has more silt within it.	
122	Fill	Single of ditch [123]. Similar to topsoil (100), but containing lenses of dark grey to black burnt looking material. These contain occasional small CBM fragments.	
123	Cut	Former field boundary that appears on OS maps. Aligned NNW-SSE along W edge of site. Only eastern edge of feature is	

		exposed. Moderately steep with a convex curve, turning to a gradual convex break to a probable shallow concave base. Upper break of slope is widely flared.	
124	Cut	Small modern pit seen in plot 22. Contained plastic and other modern debris.	
125	Fill	Single fill of pit [124]. Mid brown silty sand. Frequent fragments of plastic throughout deposit.	
126	Layer	Natural deposit. Mid orange silty sands. Loose and friable with a large amount of flint within it.	
127	Layer	Natural deposit. Clear orange yellow sands.	
128	Layer	Natural deposit. Similar to (127) but contained more flint and large fragments of limestone.	
129	Layer	Modern deposit of dark brown silty sands. Contained plastic, CBM, and modern pottery.	
130	Cut	Further modern pit seen at plot 20/21. Similar to [124]. Contained modern plastics etc.	
131	Fill	Single fill of pit [130]. Similar to (125).	

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OASIS ID: preconst3-318302

Project details

Project name	Land off Wesley Way, Horncastle
Short description of the project	PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Lindum Homes to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development on land off Wesley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. A desk based assessment identified no known archaeological monuments lying within the development site, but did highlight that the site lies on the eastern side of the Romano-British settlement of Banovallum, and that Iron Age and Roman remains have been found nearby, notably a large Iron Age - Roman enclosure to the south, and a second enclosure of comparable date partially exposed during archaeological monitoring on the adjacent Wesley Way development. In addition, an archaeological evaluation undertaken on site confirmed the presence of dispersed archaeological remains that would be impacted by the development proposals. Much of the site proved to be archaeologically negative with only four archaeological features having been identified during the scheme of monitoring. Two of these proved to be modern in date, whilst two remain undated
Project dates	Start: 13-11-2017 End: 24-04-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HWWM 17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HORNCastle Land off Wesley Way, Horncastle
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 26830 69220 53.204599444652 -0.100857392604 53 12 16 N 000 06 03 W Point

Project

creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	Various
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Entered by	Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh.brocklehurst@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	30 May 2018

OASIS:

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

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