

**BECKSIDE FARM LAKES, CAISTOR ROAD, OSGODBY, LINCOLNSHIRE, LN8 3SY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP & RECORD**

NGR: TF 10092 92926  
Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council  
Planning App. No.: 133765  
PCAS Job No.: 1713  
PCAS Site Code: OBFX 16  
Accession no.: LCNCC 2016.80

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For  
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### **Appendix 1:** Context Summary

## Summary

*Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Mr. J. Marks to undertake a scheme of archaeological excavation on land at Beckside Farm, off Caistor Road in Osgodby. Conditional planning permission for the construction of new leisure facilities including four new wildlife lakes has been granted by West Lindsey District Council, application ref: 133765.*

*Geophysical survey of the site identified a number of zones of anomalies which were tentatively interpreted as having archaeological origins. Archaeological strip, map and record excavation was undertaken to ensure that any archaeological remains in the footprint of the new lakes would be identified and preserved by record, prior to any construction impacts.*

*During the strip, map and record excavations seven cut features were identified, three in the area of Lake 1 and four in the area of Lake 3; Lake 2 revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits.*

*The cut features contained no datable material and were all very shallow with fills very similar to the overlying topsoil. This suggests that they are likely to be either natural features, such as filled hollows, and/or to be of modern date, truncated by modern ploughing.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Mr. J. Marks to undertake a scheme of archaeological excavation on land at Beckside Farm, off Caistor Road in Osgodby. Conditional planning permission for the construction of new leisure facilities including four new wildlife lakes has been granted by West Lindsey District Council, application ref: 133765.

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This report details the finding of thee excavations.

## **2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1 & 2)**

Osgodby is a village and civil parish in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. it lies c.4.5km to the northwest of Market Rasen, north of the A1103.

Beckside Farm lies towards the eastern end of the parish, some 2.5km east of the village of Osgodby. It lies on the eastern side of the A46 approaching Market Rasen from the north, south of Park Road which extends east across the railway line towards Normanby le Wold.

The existing farm and outbuildings lie around a yard directly opposite the junction for Low Road towards Osgodby. They lie in the southwest corner of the redline site boundary, with the majority of the western half of the site occupied by established woodland. Three of the new lakes are sited in the large field (Lakeside) in the northeast corner of the redline boundary; immediately north lies Park Road, and there is a track along the eastern boundary giving access to more farm outbuildings. The remaining lake lies in the southern Meadow field, to the northeast of the existing far buildings.

The lake in the northeast corner of Lakeside field is the largest at c. 4100m<sup>2</sup> and is “kidney-bean” shaped. The lake in the south west corner of this field is also this shape but is smaller at c.1700m<sup>2</sup>. A third lake towards the southeast corner of the field is roughly oval in plan and has an area of c.1260m<sup>2</sup>. The single lake in Meadow field has a footprint of c.1340m<sup>2</sup> and is also “bean” shaped. These footprints form the excavation areas.

The approximate central National Grid Reference of the lakes site is TF 10092 92926.

## **3.0 Topography and geology**

Beckside Farm lies on Usselby Moor in the rolling landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds, a little above 30mOD. There are no recorded benchmarks within 1km of the site.

The bedrock geology of the site is Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed in a shallow sea environment in the Jurassic period. This is overlain by windblown Sutton Sand, described as fine silty sand. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



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

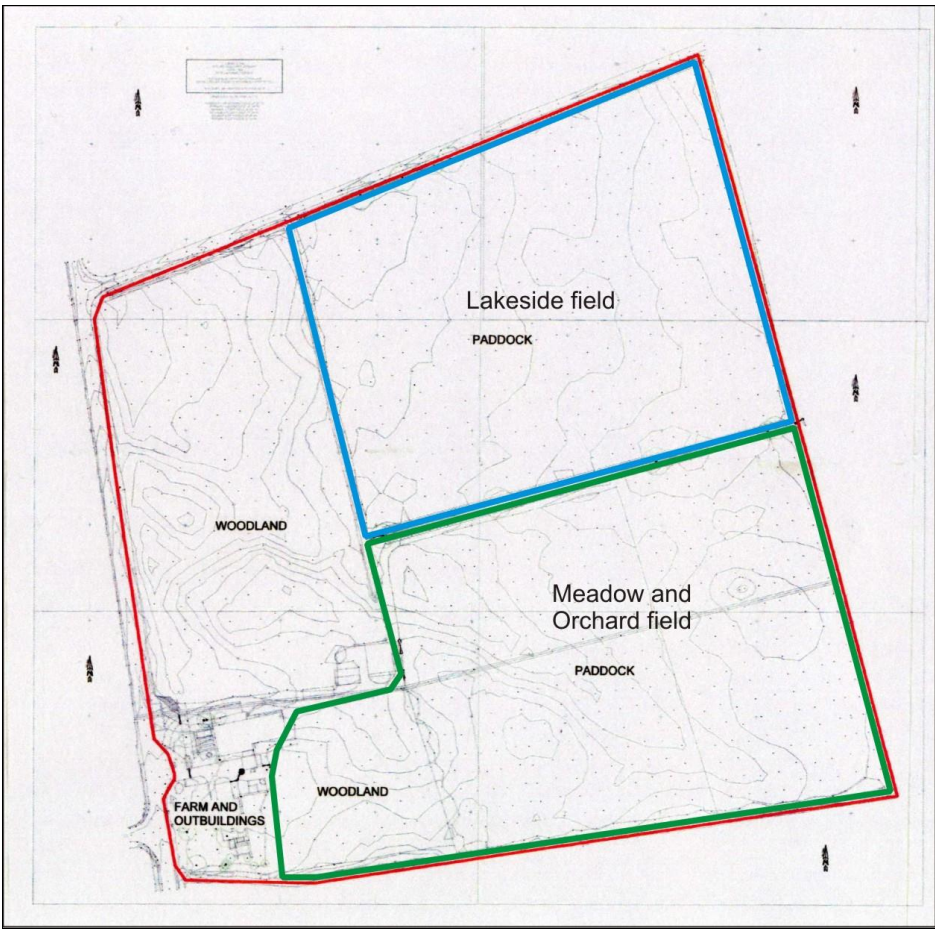


Figure 2: Redline site boundary showing Lakeside (blue outline) and Meadow Field (Green outline)

#### **4.0 Planning Background (Fig. 2 & 3)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, s141). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

A planning application for the construction of leisure facilities comprising of four wildlife lakes, wild flower meadow, 16 log cabins, 7 shepherd huts and reception and shop building was submitted to West Lindsey District Council in November 2015, application ref: 133765.

The application was supported by an archaeological geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics, which identified zones of irregular readings which are tentatively interpreted as of possible archaeological origin.

The Historic Environment Officer for West Lindsey has advised that as a large proportion of the development will have little impact on any underlying remains the archaeological mitigation associated with the project could be limited to the new wildlife ponds.

Conditional planning permission was granted in May 2016, with the following attached archaeological condition:

*2.No development shall take place within the area indicated on the attached plan until, the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that no development shall take place which may adversely affect any items of archaeological interest without adequate prior investigation.*

A methodology for archaeological strip, map and record excavation (Lane 2016) was written and approved by the Historic Environment Officer for West Lindsey District Council. The archaeological works was undertaken by PCAS in August 2016 and March – April 2017.

#### **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

There are few known prehistoric archaeological monuments or findspots around the site. Approximately 800m to the east on the opposite side of the railway line there are a number of Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) monuments for findspots of Mesolithic flint scatters, including one scatter that is possibly associated with a rectangular double ditched enclosure, containing another smaller enclosure thought to be evidence of occupation (LHER ref: 51826, 51827). Cropmarks of a potential smaller, discrete enclosure lie c.550m to the southeast of the site (LHER ref: 51934), but this feature has not been investigated.

The closest Roman dated monument is a Roman road recorded from Osgodby to Claxby, projected to lie c.230m north of the site boundary at Park Road. An archaeological watching brief undertaken where the Roman road is projected to cross the A46 did not positively identify the road, but the remains of a surface containing brick fragments, lying slightly to the north of, and predating, the modern tarmac road was recorded here (LAS, 1997). Roman artefacts have been recovered from the area around Osgodby and neighbouring Kingerby, and from around Claxby, but the projected line of the road may continue further to the northeast towards the Iron Age and Roman site at Nettleton Top (LHER ref: 50481). A Roman pottery industry dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century thrived in Market Rasen to the south (LHER ref: 54269).

The origins of the settlements of Osgodby, Claxby and Usselby are all thought to be Saxon. The place names all derive from Old English or Anglo-Scandinavian personal names and the Danish suffix *by* (Cameron, 1998). Osgodby and Claxby both appear in multiple entries in the Domesday Book of 1086, recording both as substantial, well established settlements. Usselby does not appear in the Domesday Book, and was perhaps included as one of the manors associated with the larger settlements; the first documentary mention of Usselby dates from 1115 and the Lindsey Survey, when the Abbot of Yrk is recorded as holding 4 bovates of land in *Osoluabi*, and Ralph Paynel held half a bovate in *Osoluebi* “beyond the beck” (Foster, 1924).

Usselby was the closest medieval settlement to the site, probably concentrated around the chapel of St. Margaret which dates from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century (List entry ID 1166119) but the site has been enclosed as the parkland of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Usselby Hall (List entry ID 1063436), and no remains of the medieval settlement are known. The earthwork remains of a late medieval / post-medieval mill race, mill pond and tail race have been identified from aerial mapping c.650m north of the new lakes (LHER ref 51930), and ridge and furrow earthwork features, as well as stone and earthwork enclosures have also been identified in this area to the north of Becksid Farm (LHER ref: 51936; 51999).

Historic mapping indicates the site has remained unoccupied and field boundaries have been unchanged throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in March 2015 to inform the planning application (Bunn, 2015). The survey identified a number of NW-SE aligned parallel anomalies that are interpreted as modern land drains, and strong readings relating to modern disturbance and surfaces. There were also a number of indistinct areas of anomalies that may indicate archaeological activity, possibly relating to two deposits of slag that were noted during the survey.

## **6.0 Methodology**

The scheme of archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken in association with the landscaping and excavation of the new ponds at Becksid Farm. It comprised the monitoring of the strip followed by the manual cleaning and excavation of any archaeological features exposed, the recovery of artefactual or ecofactual remains, and detailed recording.

The areas of the excavation were set out prior to the start of machining. The excavations areas correspond with the footprints of the new lakes as shown on Figure 3. The total excavation area was c.8400m<sup>2</sup>, divided between the four pond footprints.

All observed features and deposits 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. A digital photographic and colour slide record was maintained.

## **7.0 Results (Fig 4)**

### **Lake 1**

Natural fine mottled yellow orange sand (1003) was revealed across the site following the removal of 0.4 – 0.44m of topsoil (1001). Three cut features ([1004], [1006], and [1008]) were revealed cut into the natural substrate.

Sub-oval cut [1004] was revealed at the eastern end of Lake 1. It measured 0.52m long, was 0.58m wide and 0.32m deep. It had steep sides, a flatish base, and contained a single fill of dark grey clay mottled with yellow/orange sand towards the base. There was a lot of evidence for root activity and this feature has been interpreted as a likely tree throw.

Cut [1006] was located on the northern side of the excavation area. It was rectangular in plan, 1.33m long, 0.74m wide, and 0.2m deep with gradually sloping edges and a concave base. It contained a single fill of dark brown to mid grey silty clay which was very similar to the overlying topsoil; suggesting this feature may be of modern date. No dateable material was retrieved from the fill of this pit.

Cut [1008] was revealed at the north-eastern edge of the excavation area. It was oval in plan measuring 1.24m long, 0.66m wide, and 0.2m deep. It had gently sloping edges, a curved base and contained two fills. The primary fill consisted of mottled dark brown and light grey silty clay which was very similar to the secondary fill (1010) and may be the same fill. No dateable material was retrieved from the fills of this feature.

## **Lake 2**

Following removal of the topsoil (2001) the natural sand (2002) was encountered c. 0.3m below the present ground surface. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed in this excavation area.

## **Lake 3**

Natural fine mottled yellow orange sand (3002) was revealed across the site following the removal of 0.25 – 0.3m of topsoil (3001). Four cut features ([3003], [3005], [3007]), and [3009] were revealed cut into the natural substrate. A series of modern plough marks were also noted in the north-west corner of the excavation area.

Cut [3003] was located at the north-eastern end of the excavation area. It was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.3m and was 0.22m deep. It had steep edges, a concave base and a single fill of dark silty clay from which no dateable material was retrieved.

Cut [3005] was located in the north-western corner of the excavation area. It was oblong in plan measuring 1.5m long, 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. It had gently sloping edges, a concave base and contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay from which no dateable material was retrieved.

Cut [3007] was located to the south-east of [3003] in the north-east corner of the excavation area. It was oblong in plan measuring 1.5m long, 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. It had steep edges, a flat base and contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay from which no dateable material was retrieved.

Cut [3009] was located to the south of [3007] on the western side of the excavation area. It was oval in plan measuring 3m long, 2m wide and 0.15m deep. It had sharp to gradually sloping edges, an uneven base and contained a single fill of dark grey silty clay from which no dateable material was retrieved.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

During the strip, map and record excavations seven cut features were identified, three in the area of Lake 1 and four in the area of Lake 3; Lake 2 revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits.

The cut features contained no dateable material and were all very shallow with fills very similar to the overlying topsoil. This suggests that they are likely to be either natural features, such as filled hollows, and/or to be of modern date, truncated by modern ploughing.



## 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr J Marks for this commission.

## 11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Archaeology in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection').

## 12.0 References

Foster, & Longley, 1924, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, Lincoln Record Society, Lincoln (Republished 2005)

LAS, 1997, *Waddingham to Hamilton Hills: Mains Replacement Scheme. Archaeological Monitoring in Osgodby*. Grey Literature report by Lindsey Archaeological Services.

Margary, I.D, 1977, *Roman Roads in Britain*, John Baker, London

OS Explorer Map, 2012, *Sheet 281: Ancholme Valley*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

OS Explorer Map, 2012, *Sheet 282: Lincolnshire Wolds North*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Websites:

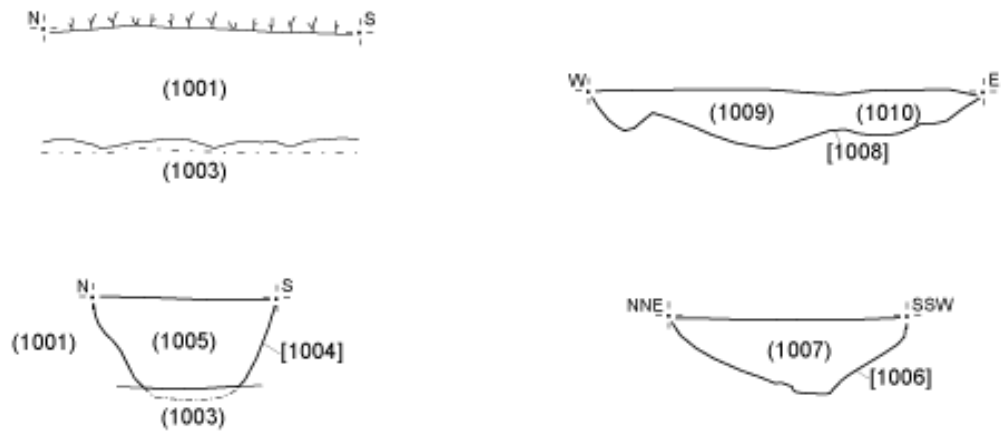
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Planning details accessed 23/6/16 at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/view-applications-decisions-and-appeals/search-our-planning-application-database/>

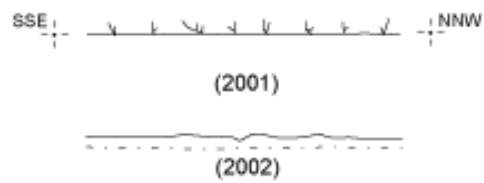
**Figure 3:** Plan of excavated lakes, showing locations of recorded features.  
 Based on interpretive geophysics plan (Bunn, 2015)  
 1:1250 @ A3



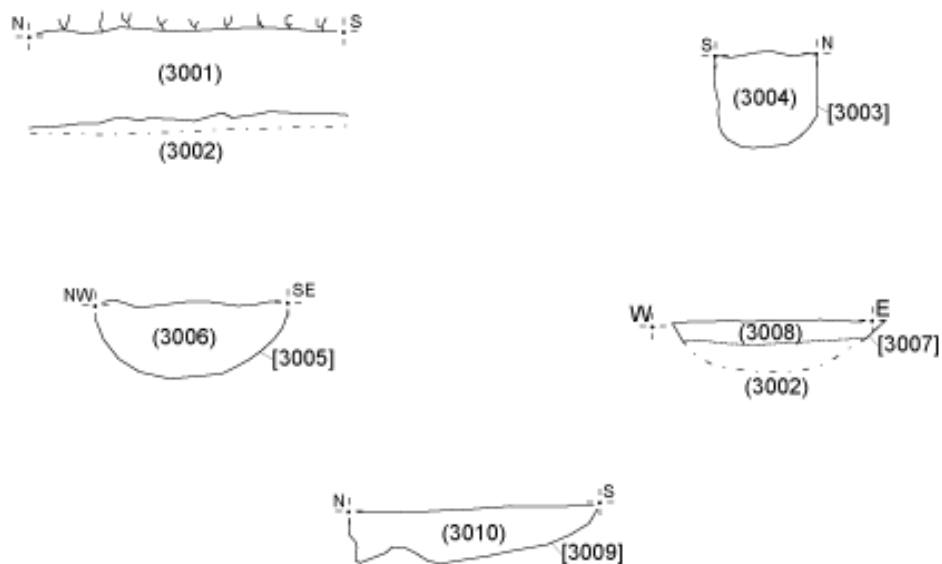
**Figure 4: Lake 1 sections (1:20)**



**Figure 5: Lake 2 representative section (1:20)**



**Figure 6: Lake 3 sections (1:20)**



0 0.5m  
1:20 Scale

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description
1001	Layer	Compact mottled light brown – mid grey silty clay . Topsoil.
1003	Layer	Fine mottled yellow / orange sand with frequent medium mudstones. Natural
1004	Cut	Sub-oval steep sides with a flat base. Tree throw. 0.58m wide, 0.52m long, 0.32m deep.
1005	Fill	Mid grey clay with occasional stone fragments . Fill to (1004).
1006	Cut	Rectangular pit, slightly sloping sides curved base. Possible modern feature cutting (1003). 0.74m wide, 1.33m long, 0.20m deep.
1007	Fill	Friable dark brown – mid grey silty clay with small lenses of sand. Fill to [1006].
1008	Cut	oval pit, 0.66m wide, 1.24m long, 0.16-0.20m deep.
1009	Fill	Mottled dark brown – light grey silty clay. Fill to pit [1008].
1010	Fill	Mottled dark brown – light grey silty clay, Fill to pit [1008] to the east side.
2001	Layer	Compact mottled light brown – mid grey silty clay . Topsoil.
2002	Layer	Fine mottled yellow / orange sand with frequent medium mudstones. Natural
3001	Layer	Loose, light to medium brown grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. 0.25-30m thick. Topsoil
3002	Layer	Loose, Soft yellow – orange mottled sand , occasional patches of ironstone
3003	Cut	Small pit / tree throw? With steep sides and concaved base. 0.3m x 0.3m x 0.22m deep. Evidence of burning.
3004	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt with occasional stones. Burnt soil fill to [3003].
3005	Cut	Rectangular pit aligned east to west. with gradual concaved sides and concaved base. 0.6m x 1.5m x 0.22m deep.
3006	Fill	Moderate dark grey silty clay with occasional small stones and flint. Fill to [3005].
3007	Cut	Small rectangular pit. 0.7m x 1.5m x 0.15m deep.
3008	Fill	Fill to [3007]. Dark grey silty clay
3009	Cut	Rectangular pit. 3m x 2m x 0.15m deep.
3010	Fill	Dark grey silty clay fill of [3009].