

**LAND ADJACENT TO SHEPHERD'S COTTAGE, MAIN STREET,
FLAWBOROUGH, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**REPORT ON A SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

NGR:	SK 7850 4274
Planning Ref.:	14/02727/FUL
PCAS job no.	1411
Site code:	SCFM 15
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Report prepared for
Terry Sykes Design & Build
on behalf of Mrs. W. Wood

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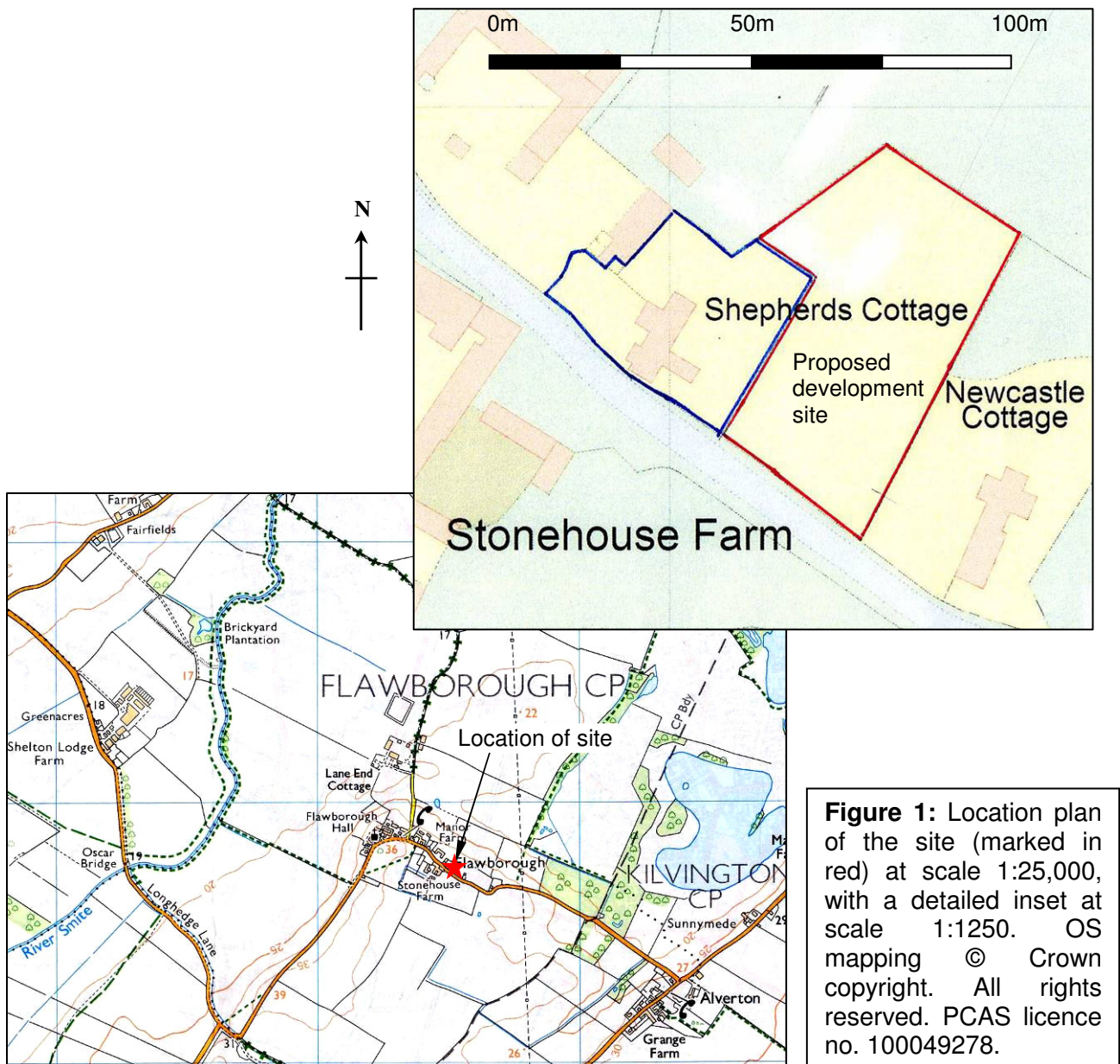
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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to Shepherd's Cottage, on the north side of Main Street in the village of Flawborough in Nottinghamshire.

There is evidence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Flawborough, including the remains of a possible settlement exposed during works at the Kilvington gypsum quarry, about 250m to the north-east of the site. The site appears to have lain among or adjacent to the parish open fields of the medieval settlement of Flawborough.

The monitoring of groundworks on this site identified two features: a pit containing early medieval and medieval pottery and the shallow base of an undated but possibly recent ditch. It seems most likely that the site lay within a privately enclosed plot on the periphery of the village, and that the artefacts retrieved were brought in from elsewhere as part of the deposition of midden material for manuring or ground raising.



1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS)) was commissioned by Terry Sykes Design & Build, on behalf of Mrs. W. Wood, to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of a new house on land adjacent to Shepherd's Cottage in the village of Flawborough, in the Rushcliffe borough of Nottinghamshire.

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to preserve by record any archaeological remains discovered on the site, which were impacted by development. The results of this project fulfil the requirements of the planning condition attached to the planning application response.

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

The village of Flawborough is within the Rushcliffe district of Nottinghamshire, approximately 2km to the west of the county boundary with Lincolnshire and 8km east-north-east of the town of Bingham. The village is situated on the east side of the valley of the River Smite, and is organised around a single road (Main Street) whose alignment follows the line of the hilltop, turning from north-east to south-east within the village.

The proposed development site lies on the north side of Main Street, at the south-east end of the village at a central National Grid Reference of SK 7850 4274. At the commencement of site works, it was a roughly rectangular plot of open land between Shepherd's Cottage and Newcastle Cottage, approximately 2300 square metres in area, chiefly under mown turf, with a hard-surfaced tennis court at the north side (plate 1).



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking SW from the far side of the tennis court.

3.0 Topography and Geology

Flawborough is sited on a west- and north-facing slope above the River Smite. The proposed development site lies at the top of the slope, at about 30m above Ordnance Datum sea level (plate 2).

No drift geology is recorded in the vicinity of the development site. As it lies on a valley side, several strata of solid geology are exposed in narrow bands: the site appears to overlie Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation of the Barnby Member or Barnstone Member, described as grey mudstone with subordinate limestone beds and sideritic or phosphatic nodules (BGS, 1996), and this is corroborated by the appearance of the natural substrate exposed during the groundworks, which contained quantities of platy limestone fragments.

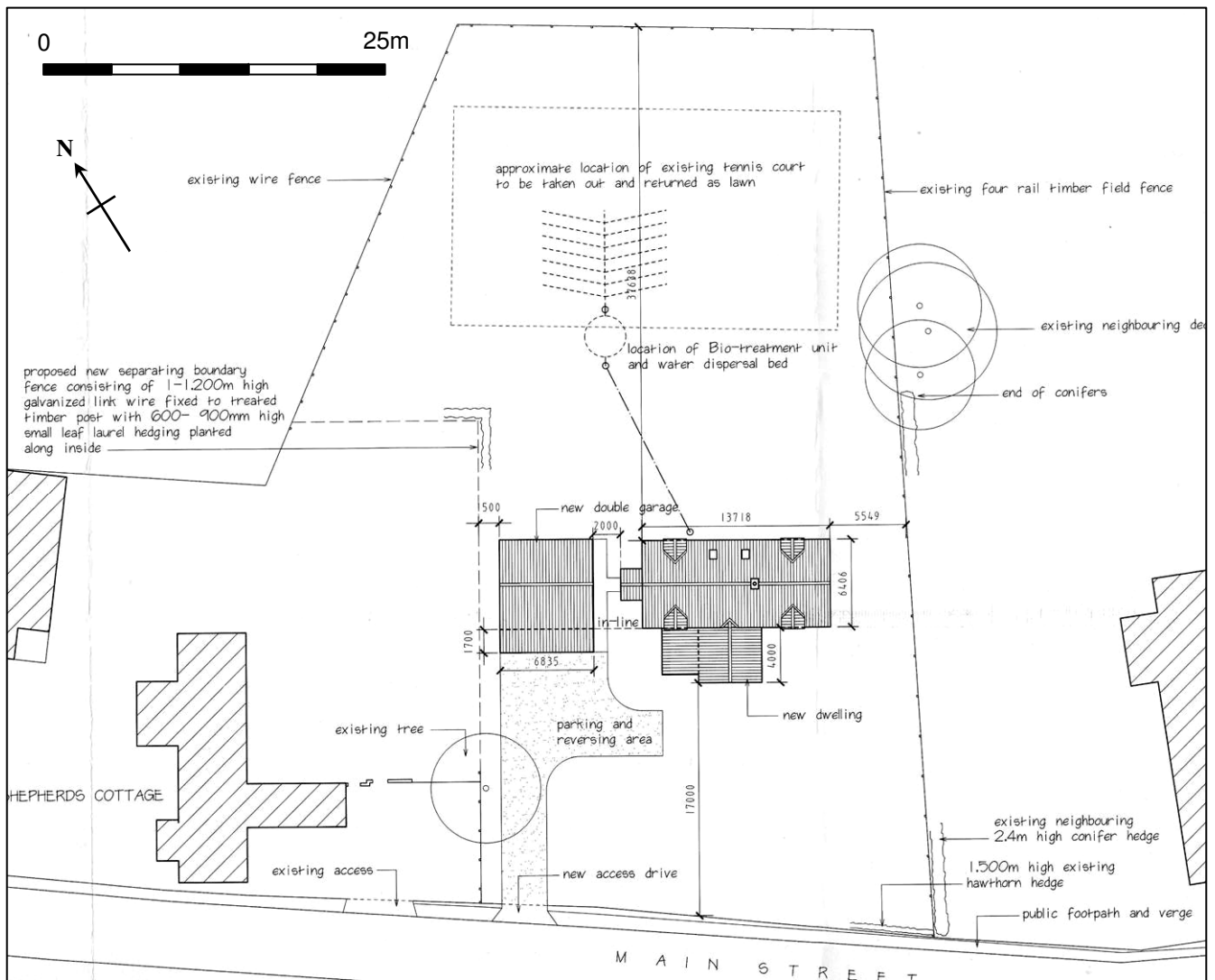


Figure 2: As-proposed site plan at scale 1:500.
 Plan supplied by client.

4.0 Planning Background

Full planning permission was granted by Rushcliffe Borough Council on 3rd March 2015 for the construction of a two-storey dwelling with a detached double garage and new access drive (planning ref. 14/02727/FUL).

In order to safeguard any potential archaeological remains at the site, in accordance with the aims of chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework, condition 6 of the planning permission required a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of construction works, and the scheme to be implemented in full accordance with the approved details.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological monitoring during the extension of the Kilvington open-cast gypsum quarry in 1999 and 2000 (in the area now shown as flooded on Fig. 1, approximately 800m to the east of Shepherd's Cottage) exposed a field system that appeared to have been in use from the Iron Age to the later 3rd century AD: it was considered possible that the settlement associated

with this field system would have lain on the southern edge of the eastern half of the site (*i.e.* further away from Flawborough). The field system appeared to have been abandoned after flooding (Rylatt, 2001).

Limited archaeological excavation around the findspot of a late Romano-British decorated lead tank, found at the north-western edge of the village, ascertained that it had been placed in a pit dug into a ditch intersection dating in its latest phase to the 4th century AD (NMR ref. 1315613). A small number of Romano-British greyware sherds were found during fieldwalking c. 600m to the north of the present development site; the finds were all at the northern edge of the field (EH PastScape ref. 894620). Approximately 250m to the north-east of the site, archaeological work during an extension to the Kilvington quarry recorded features and finds indicating the presence of a Romano-British settlement, although only a relatively small area was exposed; fieldwalking in the vicinity of a cropmark enclosure, some 250m to the south of the church at the western end of the village, also retrieved a quantity of Roman pottery (Rylatt, 2001).

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records a manor at Shelton and Flawborough, in the ownership of Roger de Bully; as well as arable and meadow land, the estate had a church and 'the site of 1 mill', presumably indicating that the mill was not in use, but that the site remained as a potentially taxable asset. The population was recorded at nine households, including that of Roger's overseer. However, as the manor spanned two settlements, it is uncertain which, if any, of the occupants or assets recorded were actually within Flawborough. Another manorial estate of Flawborough is recorded, in the ownership of Walter d'Aincourt: this manor was much smaller, possessing only 2 bovates of arable land and a population of 4 households, although it had oversight of further arable and pasture land in Flawborough, Alverton and the lost village of Dallington, while other agricultural land in Flawborough, occupied by five households, was administered by Walter's manor of Cotham (Williams and Martin, 2003, pp. 764, 772). The cropmark of two rectangular enclosures observed at the north-western edge of the village has been provisionally interpreted as the remains of a levelled medieval moated site (EH PastScape ref. 321872). The existing parish church of St. Peter, a Grade II Listed Building, was rebuilt in brick in 1840, although it contains some re-used medieval masonry and fittings, including a Norman doorway and a 12th-century font; Pevsner notes that some of the windows also appear to have been re-used (National Heritage List for England ref. 1272725; Pevsner, 1951, p.70). Possible earthwork ridge-and-furrow, remnants of medieval Flawborough's open fields, can be seen in the field directly opposite the site on the south side of Main Street and in a field directly to the north-east of the site, on aerial photographs taken between 1999 and 2011 (Google Earth).

Stonehouse Farmhouse, a Grade II Listed Building, was built around 1700 with mid- and late 19th-century additions; it is built of brick with gabled and hipped plain and pantiled roofs (NHLfE ref. 1243875). Late 19th and early 20th-century OS mapping shows buildings on the site of the present Shepherd's Cottage, but the site of the current development was then part of a small field: no structures appear on it and no boundaries are shown as running through it (www.oldmapsonline.org).

6.0 Methodology

Initial work consisted of the demolition of the tennis court, which was carried out using with a 360° JCB JS130 excavator with a 0.65m tooth bucket. This was followed by the stripping of vegetation to depth of 0.35m from the public pavement toward and including the house and garage plot, using the same machine but with a toothless bucket. The same machine with a 0.65m tooth bucket was then used to excavate the footings trenches for the new house and garage (plates 2-4).



Plate 2: Working shot during the removal of the tennis court, looking NE: the position of the site at the top of a north-facing slope, looking out over the river valley, can be seen.



Plate 3: Working shot at the start of construction works, looking NE from the far side of Main Street during groundworks for the new drive.



Plate 4: The completed foundation trenching, looking ESE with the garage in the foreground and the house in the background.



Plate 5: The drainage works, completed after the construction of the house and garage, looking S from the location of the bio-treatment unit pit.

At a later date the excavation of the drain trenches was carried out using a Volvo BL71 excavator with a 0.65m tooth bucket. This commenced from the north side of the newly constructed house running north west to south east 10m, then headed north for a further 18m toward the former tennis court. A pit, measuring 1m x 2.2m x 1.3m, was then excavated at the end of the northern side of the drain trench in order to house a bio-treatment unit (plate 5).

The monitoring took place intermittently between 13.07.15 and 09.11.17 and consisted of three site visits. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Richard Mandeville and Mike Garrett.

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 (fig. 3). A digital photographic and a black and white slide record was maintained: a selection from the digital images is reproduced in this report.

7.0 Results

The basic sequence of horizons was common across the site, with the exception of the tennis court which would have been disturbed during its construction: 0.20m depth of topsoil (00) sealing 0.16m depth of subsoil (01), which in turn covered natural deposits of mid brownish-grey, slightly yellowish loamy clay (02), which contained frequent platy limestone fragments and appeared to be the weathered surface of the exposed solid geology (plate 5).



Plate 5: The house footprint stripped to the surface of the natural, looking NW.

As can be seen in figure 3, two archaeological features were exposed after the initial stripping of topsoil (01) and subsoil (02). In the driveway strip, shallow linear NE-SW ditch [03] was unearthed running parallel to the road, near to the entrance of the site. As this feature ran perpendicular to the new drive, only 3m of its length was exposed: it measured 0.52m wide and 0.09m deep in section (fig. 3a), and produced no dating evidence, although its mid-dark greyish brown silty loam fill suggested that it was a modern feature.



Plate 6: Pit [05] partially exposed in the house footings, looking NW.

An oval pit [05], measuring 0.92m (only partially exposed) x 0.87m and 0.34m deep was unearthed at the most south western aspect of the house plot (fig. 3b; plate 6). Its fill consisted of loose mid greyish brown silty loam, from which 14 sherds of pottery and 4 fragments of animal bone were retrieved. The pottery assemblage included sherds from six ware types, ranging in date from late Saxon and Saxo-Norman through early medieval to high medieval; the most recent sherds are probably of 13th-century date, while the earliest dates to the 10th or 11th century (Appendix 2). The animal bone was too fragmentary to provide much information: a single tooth could be identified as deriving from a sheep or goat, but the other fragments could not be classified more accurately than 'large mammal', indicating that they derived from an animal of the size of a cow or horse (Appendix 3).

8.0 Conclusion

Only one of the two features encountered during development groundworks can be dated, and the variety of pottery types retrieved from pit [05] suggests that, while the fill was probably deposited in the 13th century, not all the artefactual material within it could have been deposited at the same time. It seems most likely that fill (06) represents midden material carried on to the land from elsewhere, either as part of a manuring process or as infill for ground raising.

Although the earthwork ridge-and-furrow associated with the strip cultivation of medieval open fields has been recorded in two areas close to the site, no furrows were exposed during the groundworks, although the relatively large areas stripped to the surface of the natural should have made such features readily identifiable, had they been present. As the site lies on the side of the main road through the village, close to its historic core, it seems likely that open-field cultivation never extended across it: the inhabited core of a medieval village would normally be surrounded by a cluster of small, privately owned fields, gardens and paddocks, situated behind the houses and extending for a short distance along the roadsides, with the open fields lying outside them, and the common grazing land beyond that again. The site probably lay within one of these private plots during the medieval period.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that the low level of archaeological remains that proved to be present on the site were preserved by record, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank SGA Architects for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

Following acceptance of the report, a project archive (documentary and material) will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). The entire archive will be prepared at the offices of PCAS prior to deposition with an appointed receiving museum; discussions with Rushcliffe Borough Council are in progress concerning archive deposition procedures.

12.0 Bibliography

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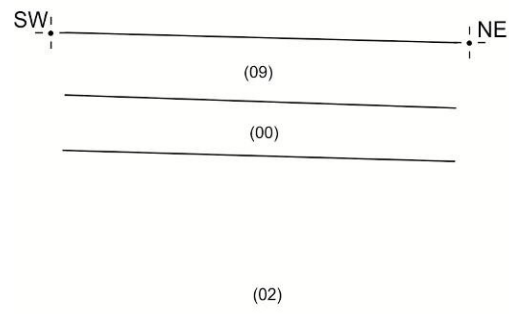


Figure 3g

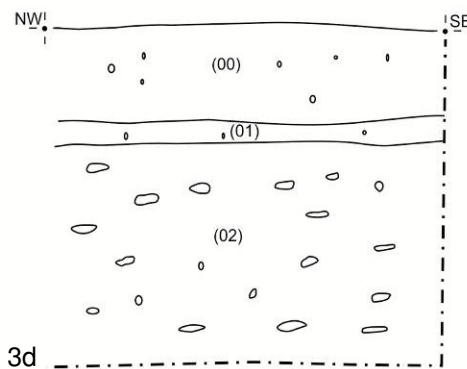


Figure 3d

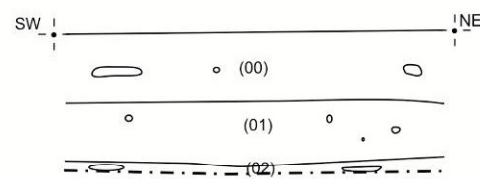
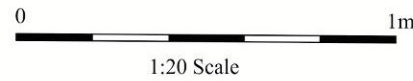


Figure 3c



Figure 3a

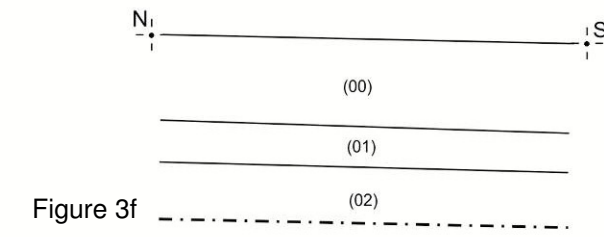
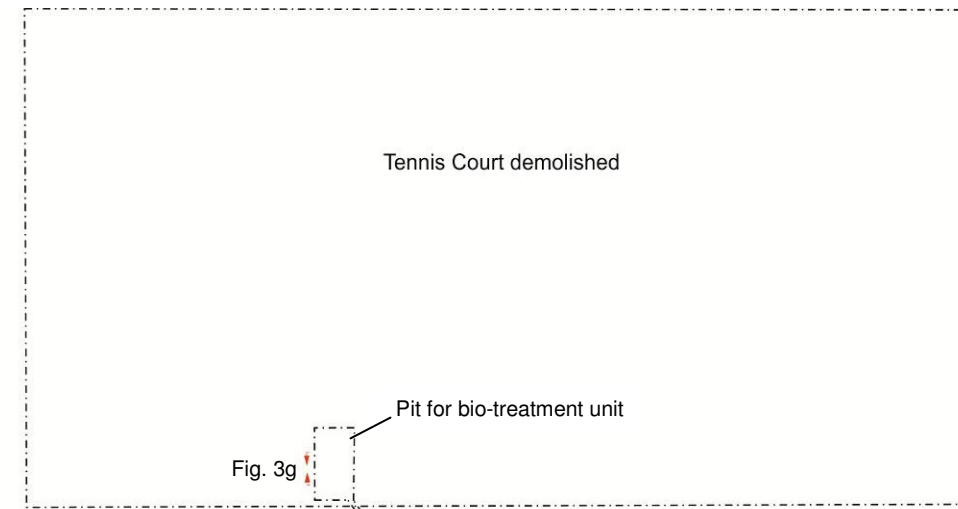


Figure 3f

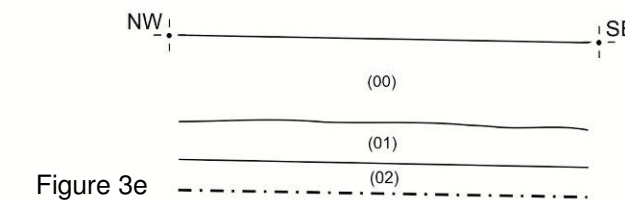
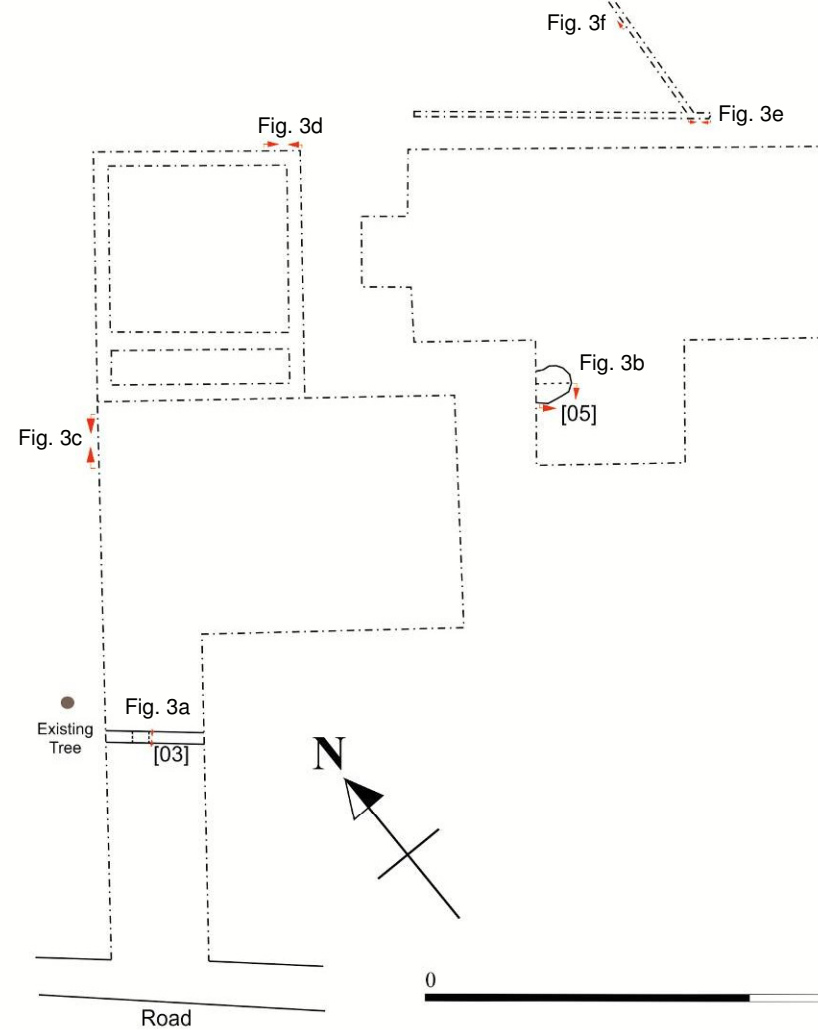
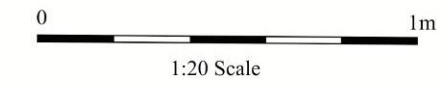


Figure 3e

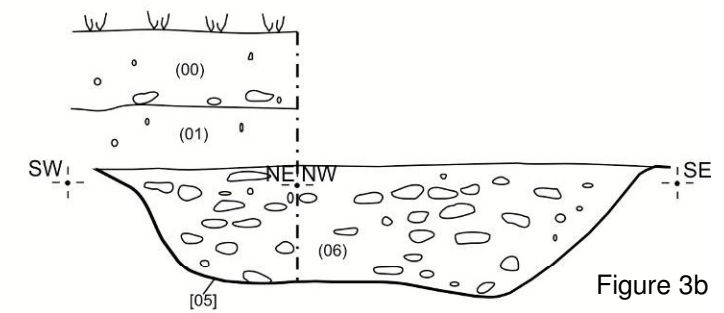


Figure 3b



Figure 3: Plan of the monitored groundworks at scale 1:250 (A3), with section drawings at scale 1:20.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
00	Layer/Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt loam with occasional pebble and small brick fragments	
01	Layer/Subsoil	Dark greyish brown silt loam, slightly lighter than (00) with occasional pebble	
02	Layer/Natural	Mid brownish grey, slightly yellowish loamy clay with frequent plated mudstone inclusions	
03	Cut	NE-SW aligned linear ditch, shallow, slightly concave sides with a flat base	
04	Fill	Mid-dark greyish brown silty loam, firm with occasional small plated mudstone	
05	Cut	Oval pit with concave sides and a concave base.	
06	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty loam, loose with frequent plated limestone fragments	5 x bone fragments, 14 pot fragments
07	Layer/ Modern	Pale red brown sandy silt, frequent inclusions of pebble, gravel and brick fragments	

Appendix 2: The Post-Roman Pottery

by Jane Young

Introduction

Fourteen sherds of pottery representing thirteen vessels were recovered from a single deposit during the archaeological investigations. The material was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context and has been fully archived to the standards for acceptance to a museum archive and within the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001). Visual fabric identification of the post-medieval pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The pottery data was entered on an access database using fabric codenames (see Table 1) developed for the Lincoln Ceramic Type Series (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) and the preliminary Nottingham Type Series (Nailor and Young 2001)

Condition

The pottery is in a slightly abraded condition with sherd size varying between 4 grams and 17grams.

The pottery

Thirteen vessels in six ware types (Table 1) were recovered from a single excavated feature. The pottery is of Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman, early medieval and high medieval types.

Table 1 Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	3	2
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	2	2
LSX	Non-local late Saxon fabrics	870	1080	1	1
NCSW	Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware	1200	1500	1	1
NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green	1220	1320	2	2
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	1100	1250	3	3
POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1250	1500	1	1
SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered	1150	1250	1	1

The thirteen vessels were recovered from pit 5 (fill 6). The earliest sherd may be a small wheel-thrown jar (LSX) of 10th or 11th century date. Two Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware sherds (LFS) come from a jar and a jar or bowl of 11th or 12th century date.

Three Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly ware (LEMS) sherds come from a large jar and a jar or a bowl of mid 12th to early/mid 13th century date. Three 'splashed glaze' sherds come from two Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) jugs and a jug or a jar. The two jugs are in a mid to mid/late 12th century fabric whereas the jug or jar is in a mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th century dandy fabric.

Five sherds are of high medieval type. The two coarsely shell-tempered sherds come from a South Lincolnshire Shell-tempered jar (SLST) of late 12th to 14th century date and a 13th to 15th century Potterhanworth ware jar or bowl (POTT). Two glazed jug sherds are of 13th to early/mid 14th century Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware type (NOTGL). The bright copper-green glaze and form suggest a 13th century date. An unglazed jar or bowl is of Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware type (NCSW) and potentially dates to between the 13th and 15th centuries.

Discussion and recommendations

The recovered sherds are of late Saxon to medieval type. The latest sherds are probably of 13th century date, but several vessels must be residual in the group even if the pottery was deposited in the early part of the century.

The pottery should be retained for possible future study.

References

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Slowikowski, A. Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.

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Appendix 2.1: Pottery Archive

Site Code	Context	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Description
SCFM 15	06	LEMS		jar/bowl	2	1	9	BS	ext soot
SCFM 15	06	LEMS		large jar	1	1	17	rim	everted rim;soot ext
SCFM 15	06	LFS		jar/bowl	1	1	4	BS	
SCFM 15	06	LFS		jar	1	1	6	rim	
SCFM 15	06	LSX		jar ?	1	1	6	BS	ext soot;wheelthrown;10th to mid 11th
SCFM 15	06	NCSW		jar/bowl	1	1	7	BS	abraded
SCFM 15	06	NOTGL		small jug	1	1	17	base	cu glaze;untrimmed base
SCFM 15	06	NOTGL		jug	1	1	16	rim	triangular rim;cu glaze
SCFM 15	06	NSP	fine/sandy	jug	1	1	10	BS	
SCFM 15	06	NSP	fine/sandy	jug	1	1	11	rim	everted rim;mid to mid/late 12th
SCFM 15	06	NSP	sandy	jug/jar	1	1	13	base	int fingerprint
SCFM 15	06	POTT		jar/bowl	1	1	10	base	ext soot
SCFM 15	06	SLST		jar	1	1	14	BS	leached surfaces;? ID

Appendix 3: The Animal Bone

by Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 4 (54g) fragment of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by PCAS Archaeology Ltd (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd) at Land at Shepherd's Cottage, Flawborough, Nottinghamshire. The remains were recovered from pit [05]. No dating was available at the time of assessment.

Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging at grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of butchery, burning, working or gnawing was noted on the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
06	05	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	42	Shaft
		Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	1	Blade
		Large Mammal Size	Scapula	X	1	9	Blade fragment
		Sheep/goat	Tooth	L	1	2	Upper PM

As can be seen, the majority of the remains were unidentifiable beyond size category, only a single sheep/goat tooth was identifiable to species.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary