

LAND AT TOP FARM, STAINFIELD, WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING REPORT**

NGR: TF 10330 71765
PCAS job no. 1881
Site code: TFSM 17
Archive acc. no.: 2017.83

Report prepared for

Annakin Farms Ltd

by

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July 2018



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Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Annakin Farms Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development groundworks at Top Farm, in the village and civil parish of Stainfield in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

Planning permission was granted for the erection of an agricultural storage building for the drying of straw and the construction of an associated combined heat and power (CHP) plant within an existing building. The groundworks monitored consisted of the construction of the stanchion pads which comprise the buildings foundation.

The programme of monitoring and recording did not encounter a high level of archaeological remains. A single ditch was observed in the north-eastern corner of the development area, with all the other base pads proving to be archaeologically sterile.

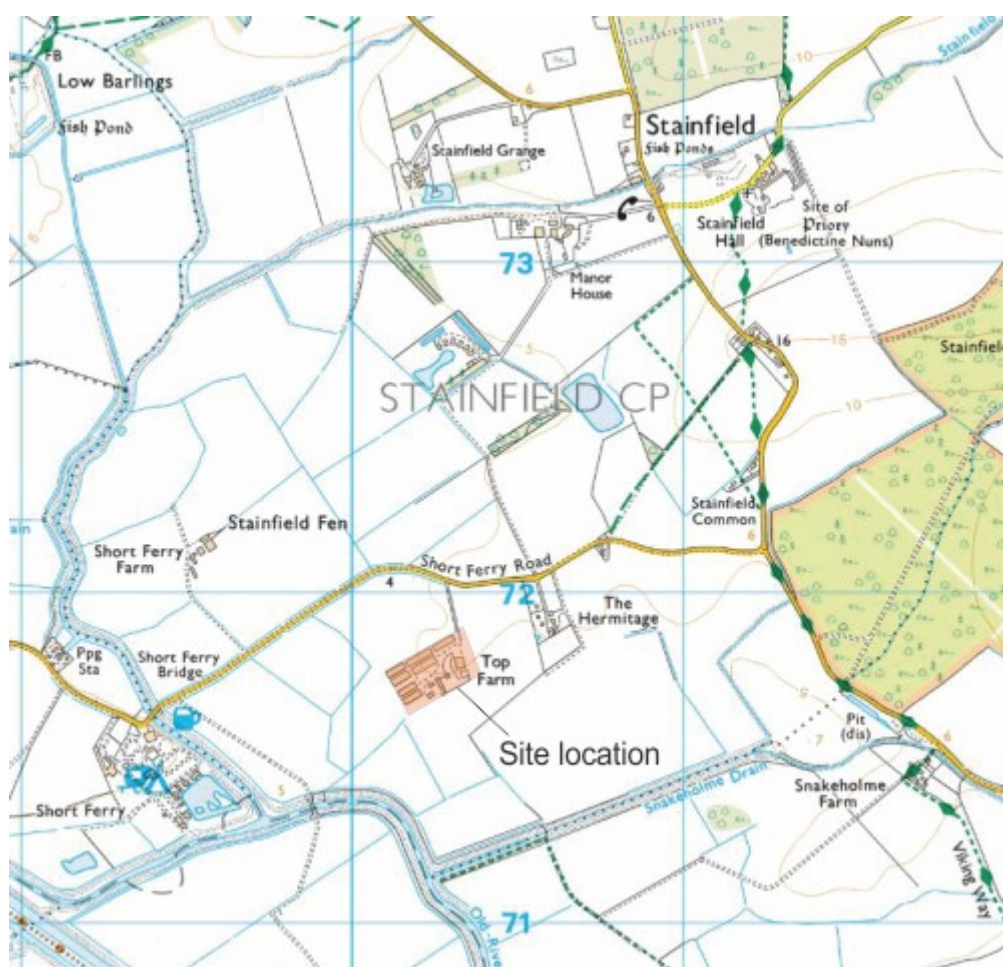


Figure 1: Location plan of area monitored (outlined in red) at scale 1:25000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Annakin Farms Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development groundworks at Top Farm, in the village and civil parish of Stainfield in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

Planning permission was granted for the erection of an agricultural storage building for the drying of straw and the construction of an associated combined heat and power (CHP) plant within an existing building. The groundworks monitored consisted of the construction of the stanchion pads which comprise the buildings foundation.

The specification (written scheme of investigation – WSI) describing the methodology to be adopted during the archaeological 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)
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2016).

The strategy was approved by the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council.

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

The village of Stainfield is approximately 4 miles to the south of Wragby, and 10 miles east of Lincoln.

Top Farm is situated to the south west of the village, to the south of Short Ferry Road. The development adjoins the eastern periphery of a complex of poultry houses, agricultural buildings and agricultural dwellings.

The approximate national grid reference is TF 10330 71765

3.0 Topography and Geology

The landscape surrounding Top Farm is characterised by arable farmland and is predominately flat with no notable variations in gradient or topographical features.

The BGS online Geology of Britain viewer shows the solid geology of the area as West Walton Formation – Mudstone and Siltstone; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas.

Superficial River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel are also recorded in this area. This is a superficial deposit formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Significant prehistoric activity has already been identified on Top Farm, with a Bronze Age round barrow (**Lincolnshire HER No. 53836**) located on the western edge of the farm yard, in addition to various pits, gullies and trenches (**LHER No. 54162**) seen during a watching brief on the farm in 1997 (PCA). These features were dated following the recovery of pottery (**LHER No. 54161**) to the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age periods.

A further round barrow (**LHER No. 53835**) has been observed on aerial photographs approximately 350m to the east of Top Farm, whilst the remains of a dug-out canoe (**LHER No. 51203**), dating to the Bronze Age, was ploughed up in 1953 at Fen Farm, approximately 500m to the west of the development.

Roman activity in the area is confined to a number of Romano-British potsherds (**LHER No. 51196**), possibly from a single pot, and recovered from a field immediately to the south of Short Ferry Road, 200m north-east of Top Farm.

Medieval activity in the area is limited to ridge and furrow earthworks (**LHER No. 53838**), suggesting this area has long been dedicated to agricultural activity. This continues into the post-Medieval period with both Top Farm (**LHER No. 58055**) and Hermitage Farm (**LHER No. 58956**), 300m to the east, dating to the 19th Century. Historic mapping shows this area as fields through the second half of the 19th century.

5.0 Methodology

The scheme of archaeology comprised the monitoring of the concrete base pads followed by the manual cleaning and excavation of any archaeological features exposed, the recovery of artefactual or ecofactual remains, and detailed recording. These works were undertaken by a qualified staff member of PCAS (Project Officer).

All machine excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless blade, in spits no more than 200mm thick, to ensure a clean, even surface. Machine excavation ceased at the first archaeologically significant horizon or the construction depth, whichever was encountered first.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on standard PCAS site diary sheets. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on scale 1:500 location plans. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the monitoring project: selected photographs are reproduced in this report.

Monitoring of the base pads began 11th May 2017 and was completed on the 12th. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Rebecca Dickinson and Leigh Brocklehurst.

6.0 Results

Each of the foundation pads was 1.8m by 1.2m and was excavated to 0.9m below original ground level.

For the most part, the excavations revealed a stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural sand substrate, although in places subsoil was not present.

A possible ditch was identified in two of the 34 base pads excavated. All two of these were in the north-eastern corner of the development area. This ditch was sealed by topsoil, and it appeared to be on a north to south alignment, with gradual sides and a flat base. Each time it was exposed it contained just a single sandy silt deposit from which no finds were recovered.



Plate 1: General view of development area prior to excavation of base pads (looking NNW)



Plate 2: Section showing ditch [104] (looking N)



Plate 3: Further view of section showing ditch [104] (looking S)



Plate 4: Working shot during second day of monitoring (looking SSW).

7.0 Conclusion

The programme of monitoring and recording did not identify a high level of archaeological remains within the development area. A single ditch was observed towards the north-eastern corner of the development area, with all the other base pads proving to be archaeologically negative.

The ditch identified did not yield any pottery and this feature does not appear on any OS mapping, suggesting that it pre-dates the mid-19th century. Due to it only being observed in three of the base pads, it is not easy to comprehensively interpret this feature, but it most

likely relates to earlier agricultural practice on the land – potentially a former field boundary for example.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that did or might survive were not destroyed without record; at the same time causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

9.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Annakin Farms Ltd. for this commission.

10.0 Bibliography

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Pre-Construct Archaeology, 1997, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Top Farm, Stainfield, TFS97* (Intervention Report). SLI1803.

Planning documents accessed online at:

<https://planning.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning/details.asp?id=134961&nb=1#content>

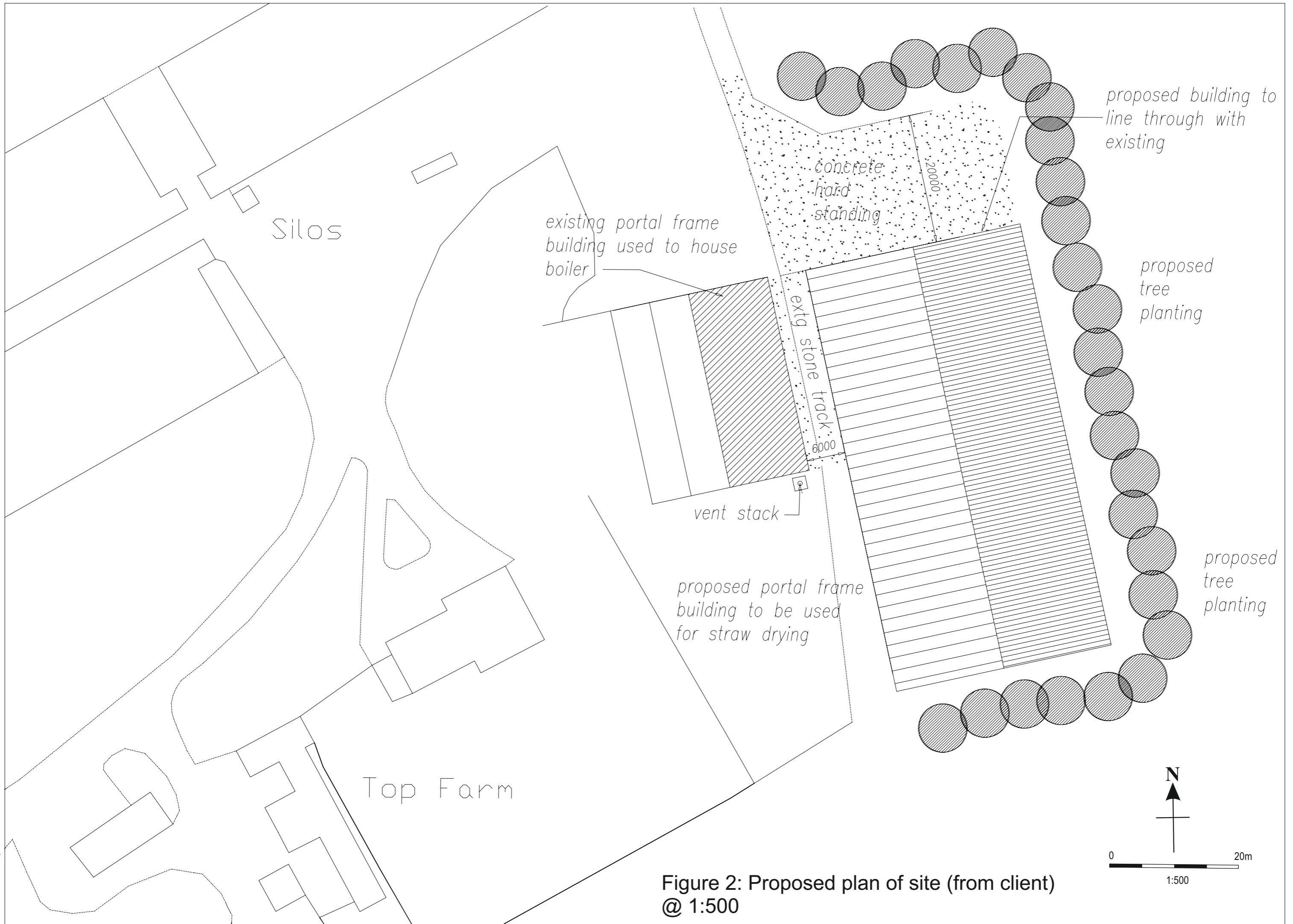


Figure 2: Proposed plan of site (from client)
@ 1:500

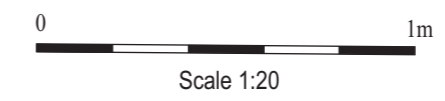
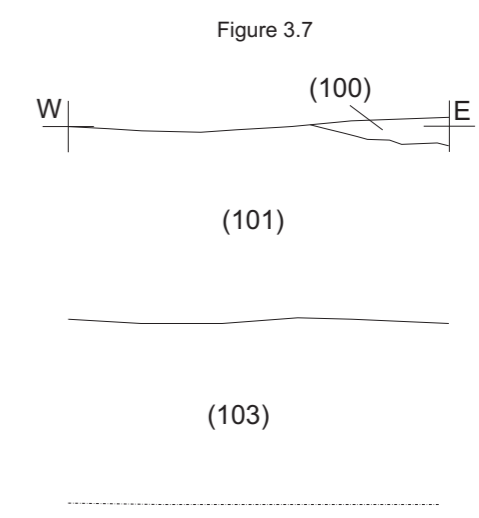
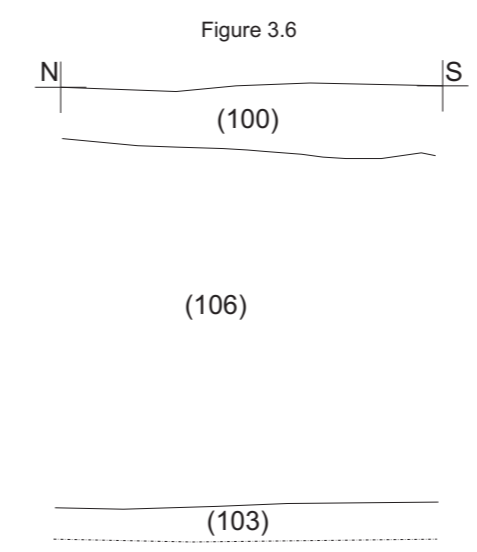
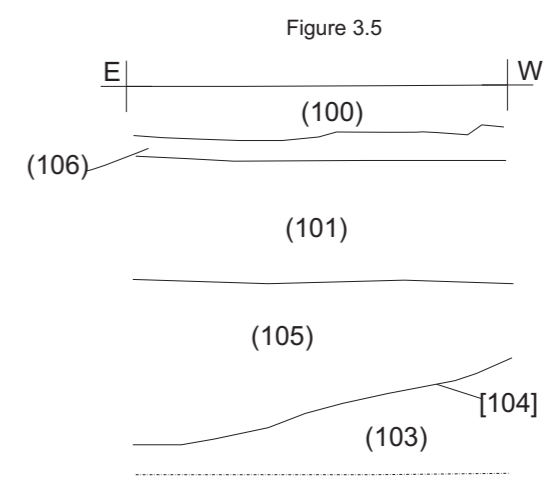
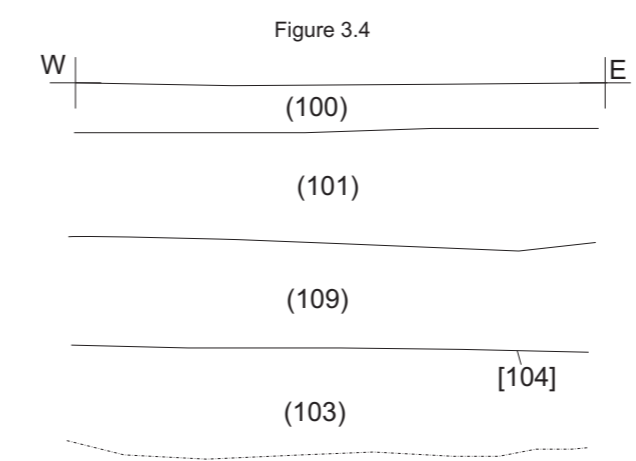
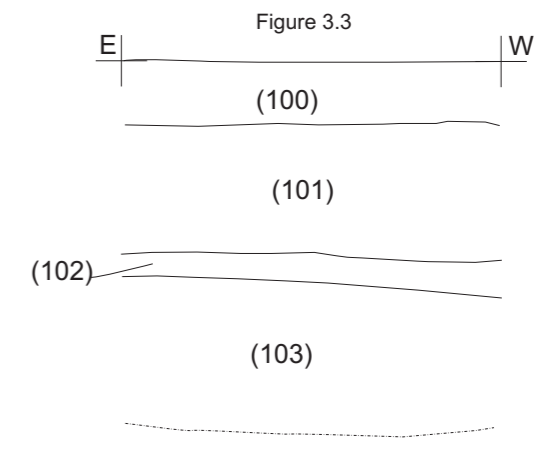
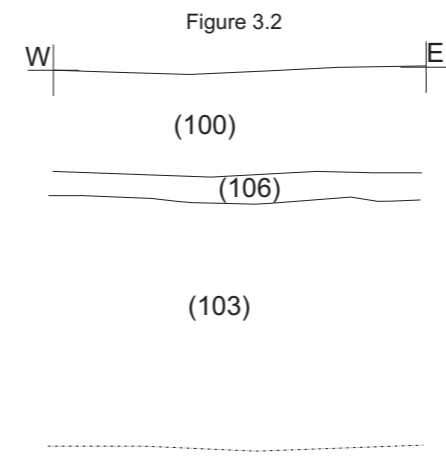
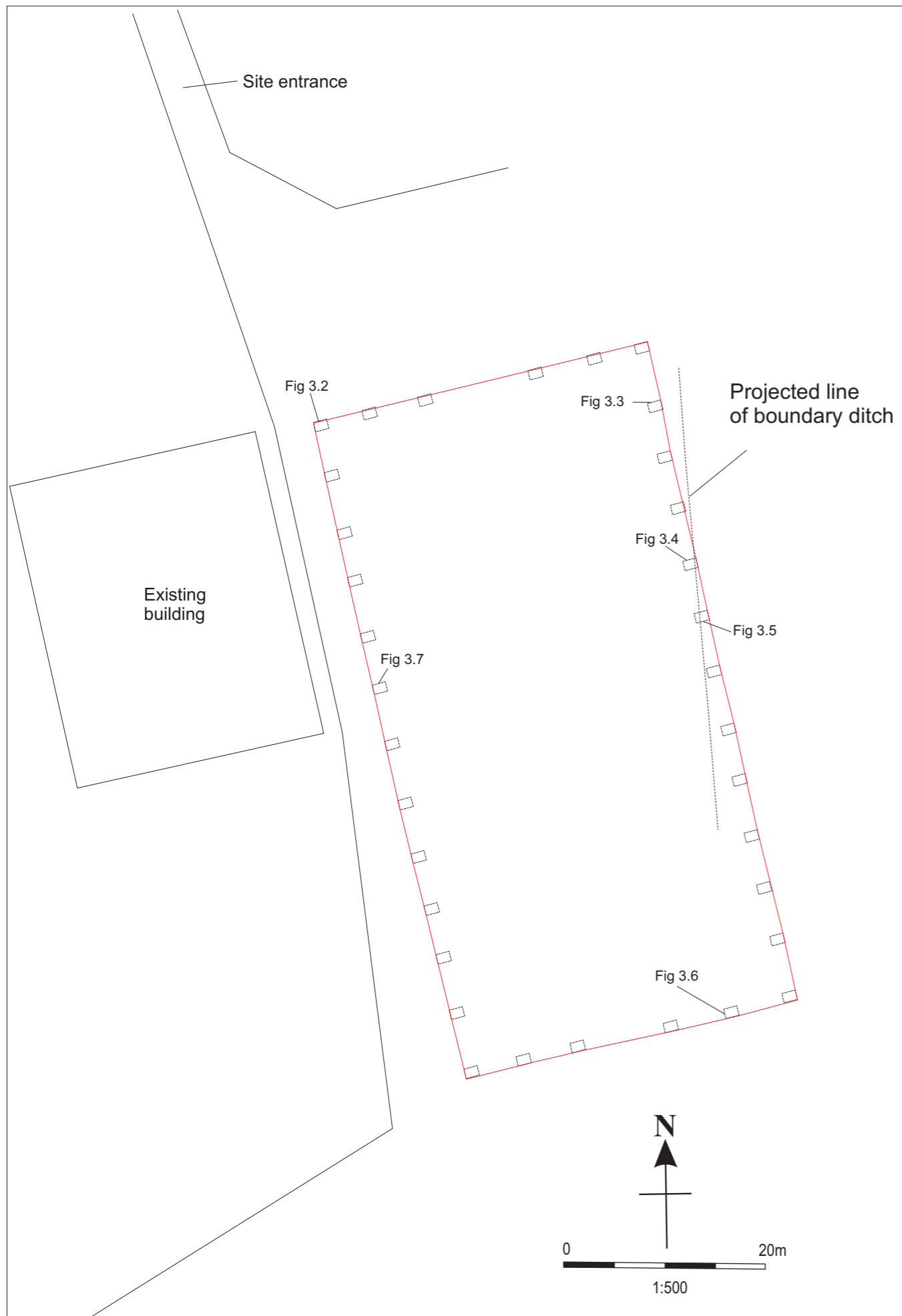


Figure 3: Plan of base pads excavated (1:500) and sample sections (1:20)

1881 Top Farm, Stainsfield

Appendix 1 – Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds
100	Layer	Modern hardcore. Yellowy white limestone.	
101	Layer	Plough soil. Mid brown grey silty clay. Occasional stone inclusions and well compacted. 0.3m to 0.36m thick.	
102	Layer	Subsoil. Mottled mid brown, yellow orange sandy silt. Loose and friable. Frequent stone inclusions. 0.06m to 0.1m thick.	
103	Layer	Natural sand substrate. Orange yellow sand. Loose with some occasional stone inclusions.	
104	Cut	Possible ditch running approximately north-south. Gradual sides with a gradual curve into a flat base.	
105	Fill	Single fill of ditch [104]. Mid brown sandy silt with some orange sand throughout. Loose and friable. Frequent stone inclusions throughout.	
106	Layer	Made ground. Same as (100). 0.02m to 0.5m thick.	
107	Fill	Fill of ditch [104] seen in different foundation pad. Same as (105).	
108	Fill	Fill of ditch [104] seen in different foundation pad. Same as (105).	
109	Fill	Fill of ditch [104] seen in different foundation pad. Same as (105).	

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Project details

Project name	LAND AT TOP FARM, STAINFIELD, WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE
Short description of the project	PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Annakin Farms Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on development groundworks at Top Farm, in the village and civil parish of Stainfield in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire. Planning permission was granted for the erection of an agricultural storage building for the drying of straw and the construction of an associated combined heat and power (CHP) plant within an existing building. The groundworks monitored consisted of the construction of the stanchion pads which comprise the buildings foundation. The programme of monitoring and recording did not encounter a high level of archaeological remains. A single ditch was observed in the north-eastern corner of the development area, with all the other base pads proving to be archaeologically sterile.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2017 End: 12-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TFSM 18 - 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 Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY STAINFIELD LAND AT TOP FARM, STAINFIELD, WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 10330 71765 53.231156705745 -0.346925841651 53 13 52 N 000 20 48 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
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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	L. Brocklehurst and R. Dickinson
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", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh.brocklehurst@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	4 July 2018

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