

**Land adjoining Firsdale, Tattershall Road, Kirkby on Bain,
Lincolnshire, LN10 6YN**

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

Planning Application No.: S/094/02024/13
NGR: TF 24086 62160
PCAS Site code: KBFM 14
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Archive Accession code: LCNCC 2014.130
OASIS ref.: preconst3-322308

Report prepared for Mr. Baker

On behalf of Mr. Price

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Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Mr Baker on behalf of Mr. Price to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to Firsdale, Tattershall Road, Kirkby on Bain, during the groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling and detached garage.

The site lies on the southern periphery of Kirkby on Bain - removed from the historic core of the village which has Saxon origins, but in an area which was probably utilised for agricultural purposes throughout the medieval period.

During the monitoring works, a natural sequence of deposits was recorded, with a single modern pit identified towards the north side of the house foundations. No archaeologically significant artefacts or features were identified.

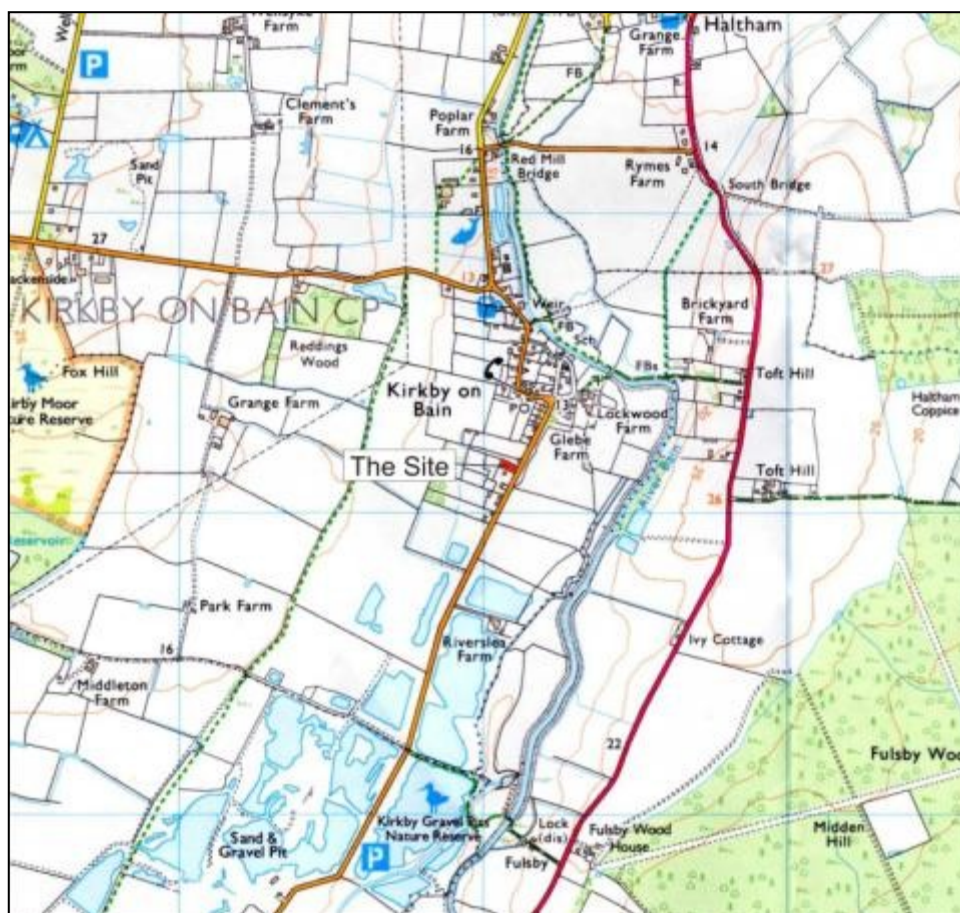


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. The position of the site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.) undertook a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a new dwelling and associated infrastructure on land adjoining Firsdale, Tattershall Road, Kirkby on Bain. This work was undertaken as a requirement of a condition attached to the planning consent. This document presents the results of the monitoring scheme.

The scheme of archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (Lane, 2014), the recommendations of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 as revised) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 as revised) and the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (as revised 2012).

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

Kirkby on Bain is a village and civil parish in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire; it lies close to the A153 between Horncastle (c. 7km north) and Tattershall (c. 5 km south). The closest large town is Woodhall Spa, which lies c 4km to the west. The town lies primarily on the south-west bank of the River Bain, which runs from the Lincolnshire Wolds at Ludford, to Horncastle before joining the River Witham.

Firsdale and the development site lie on the southern periphery of Kirkby on Bain, part of a small cluster of houses on the west side of Tattershall Road around Glebe Farm. The development site was formerly part of the garden of Firsdale, a private dwelling sitting in a large plot.

The new dwelling will be set back from the road, with access from Tattershall Road to a garage and parking area, and the house behind. At the time of the monitoring the site was described as being flat with the turf and topsoil already having been removed.

The approximate central NGR of the development groundworks is TF 24086 62160.

3.0 Geology and topography

Kirkby on Bain lies close to the edge of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation bedrock, a sedimentary mudstone formed c. 151-156 million years ago in the Jurassic period. The bedrock was formed in a shallow sea environment where siliciclastic sediments of mud, silt sand and gravel were deposited.

The overlying drift geology is more complex. The area is dominated by Quaternary Period glacial deposits, however the landscape is affected by the naturally changing course of the River Bain, and the development site itself lies on sand and gravel river terrace deposits, marking the course of the river c. 3 million years ago (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies in the natural flood plain of the River Bain, the modern course of which lies c. 500m east. The landscape is therefore largely flat with only minor undulations, with the site lying below 15m OD. A bench mark on the southern face of St. Mary's

Church (c.0.80m above existing ground level), less than 400m from the development site, is recorded as 14.615m OD.

4.0 Planning background

A planning application for the construction of a new dwelling with associated garage and access was submitted to East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) in October 2013 (Ref: S/094/02024/13). The Historic Environment Officer was consulted concerning the application, and advised the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area with a number of known prehistoric sites in the vicinity; however the archaeological potential of the site itself is currently unknown and that a scheme of archaeological investigation was necessary to record any encountered archaeological remains.

Planning permission was granted in January 2014, subject to conditions requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation and to ensure the results were made publically accessible.

This document presents the results of the subsequent archaeological monitoring that was undertaken during development groundworks.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

There are less than 30 entries on the Lincolnshire HER for archaeological and historical monuments in and around Kirkby on Bain, a bias due perhaps to the limited modern development in the village. Land to the south has been extensively quarried in the late 20th century.

Early occupation in the area around Kirkby on Bain has been identified around Grange Farm, c. 600m to the southwest of the development site. During archaeological investigation relating to modern quarrying activity in this area features dating to the late Neolithic – early Bronze Age were revealed, along with a significant number of worked flints and debitage. The site was interpreted as being occupational, with an enclosure and possible structure identified (LHER ref: 40125).

In the wider area there is considerable evidence of occupation and activity throughout prehistory and into the Roman period. The area around Tattershall Thorpe has been subject to intense archaeological investigation ahead of quarrying; settlement with associated agricultural field systems and enclosures have been identified here, with associated artefacts dating from the Mesolithic through to the Roman period recovered from the excavations. Aerial photography of the surrounding area reveals a dense landscape of occupation, and a Roman multivallate hillfort at Tattershall Thorpe has been identified and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref: 1018353).

Sparse evidence of Roman occupation has been recovered from around Kirkby on Bain; a pit containing a single sherd of Roman pottery was found during work at Reddings Farm close to the core of the village, and an unstratified sherd of a colander was found in the 1960's in the same area (LHER ref: 43840; 40118). A gully containing Roman pottery and charcoal flecks was identified during trenching in 1996 ahead of extensions to Kirkby sand and gravel quarry to the south (LHER ref: 43311).

There is little evidence for Saxon occupation of Kirkby; post Roman midden material has been identified in one scheme of monitoring in the centre of the village and a

large annular black and white glass bead has been recovered from the area (LHER ref: 40249). Settlement here was certainly established by the mid 11th century; Kirkby appears in three entries in the Domesday Book, with thirteen villagers in total and a small amount of ploughland, however large areas of meadow and woodland are recorded (<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/>). The place name derives from Old English, *Kirkby* meaning *the village with a church*, and the suffix *on Bain* being self explanatory (Cameron, 1998). The location of the Saxon church implied by the place name is unknown.

The core of the medieval village appears to have been to the north of the development site, a small settlement in the agricultural landscape of south-west Lincolnshire. The modern village retains some of the early post-medieval buildings at its core. The Church of St. Mary dates from 1802 (LHER ref: 48031), replacing the medieval church the origins of which are unknown. Potentially this demolished church related to the un-located Saxon church.

Tattershall Road remained a local road with no development until the early 20th century. Firsdale House itself was one of the first to be built in this area, and dates from the first half of the century, while the majority of the surroundings dwellings date from 1970 onwards. Historic mapping indicates the development site remained unoccupied prior to this, part of one of the accessible plots of land lining Tattershall Road and likely to have been used for agriculture prior to development.

6.0 Methodology

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Lane, 2014) and is summarised here:

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place on a single day, 21st April 2015, during the excavation of the footings for the new dwelling. This was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket and monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist (J. Coles).

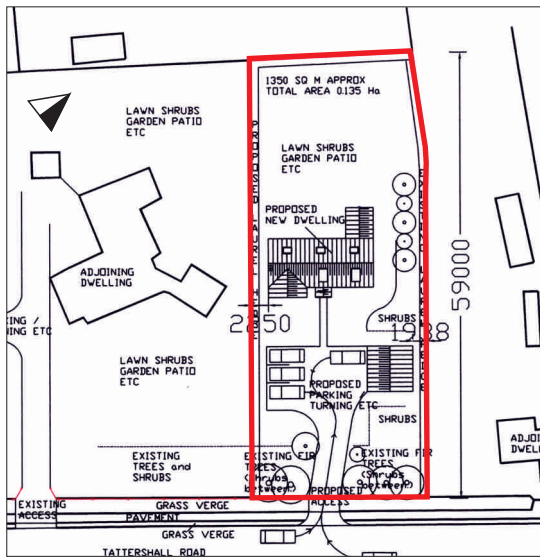
The basis for field recording was measured plans. Recorded sections were plotted on this plan.

A written record of each stratigraphic horizon was made on standard PCAS Context Sheets. These were supplemented by a drawn record consisting of measured plan (scale 1:100) and sample section drawings (scale 1:20). Alongside the written and drawn record, a digital photographic record was maintained. A narrative account of the daily progress was also maintained.

There were no artefacts recovered during the monitoring, and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

7.0 Results (Fig. 2&3)

Initial site works included the removal of the turf layer and topsoil to a depth of c. 0.40m below existing ground level. The footprint of the new house and associated garage had been marked out prior to the arrival of the archaeologist (Fig 2).



Looking west across the excavated footings of the new dwelling

Figure 2b: Site layout plan showing position of detached garage in relation to the new dwelling. 1:1000 @ A4

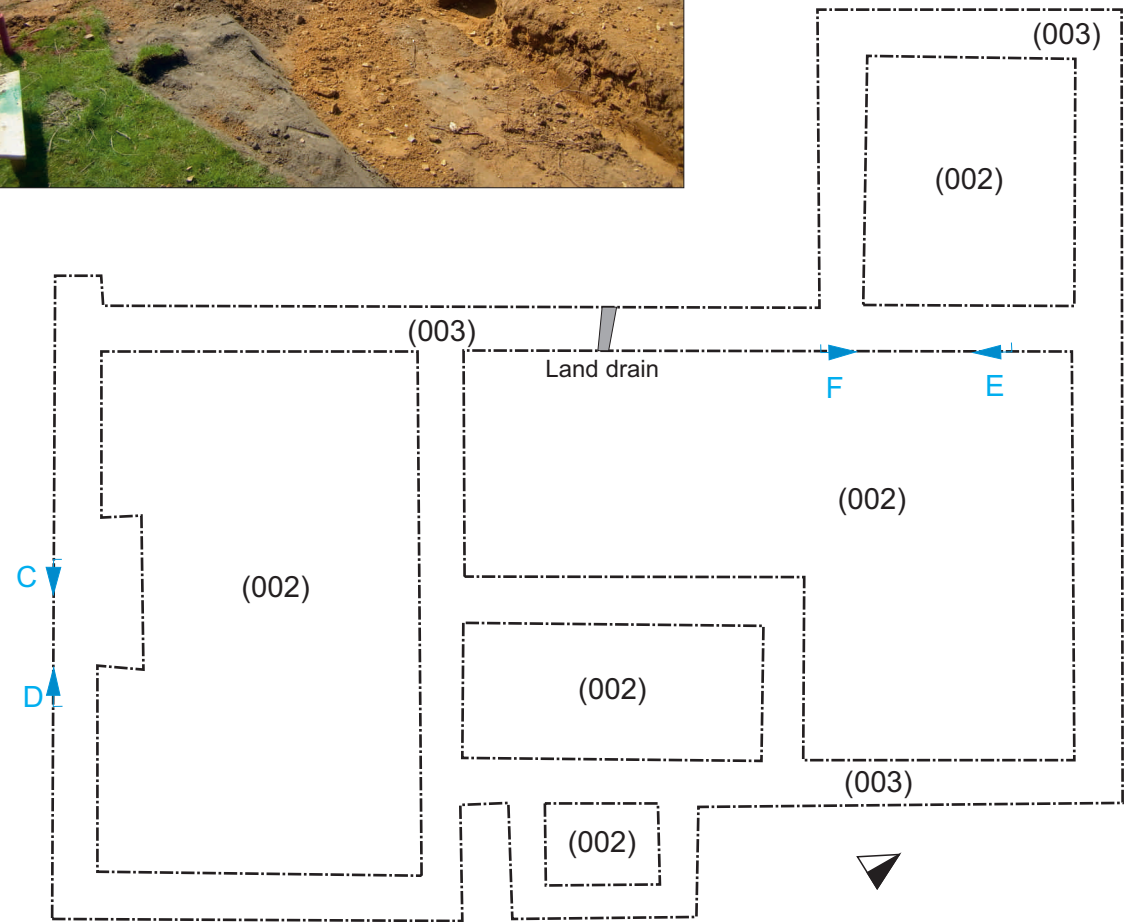
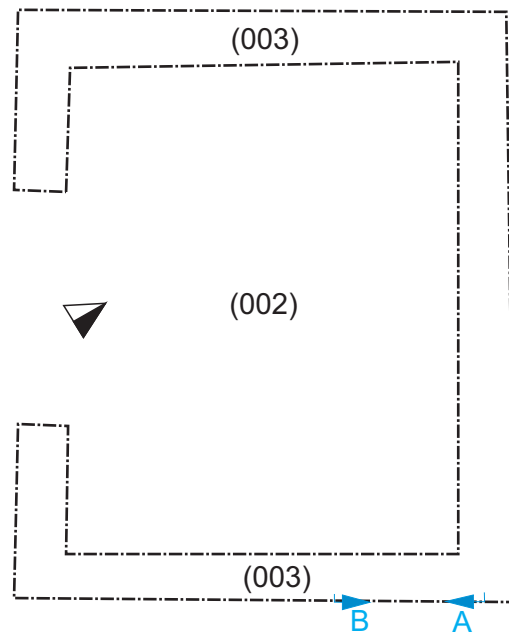


Figure 2: Plan of monitored footings of new house and detached garage. 1:100 @ A4





Above: Site on arrival

Foundation trenches were excavated to a depth that varied between 0.75m (south side of site) to 0.95m (north side of site), revealing a consistent stratigraphy of topsoil (001) covering subsoil (002) and natural geology (003) (Fig 3C-D). The natural geology was described as fine orange sand, probably river deposits from the nearby River Bain.

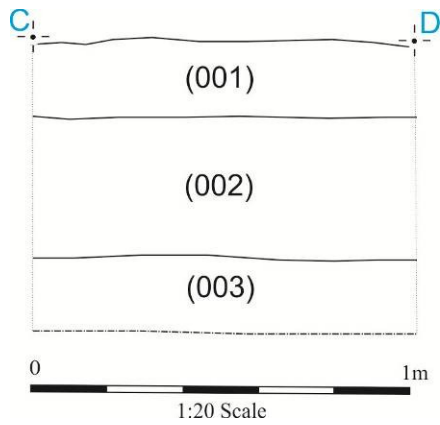
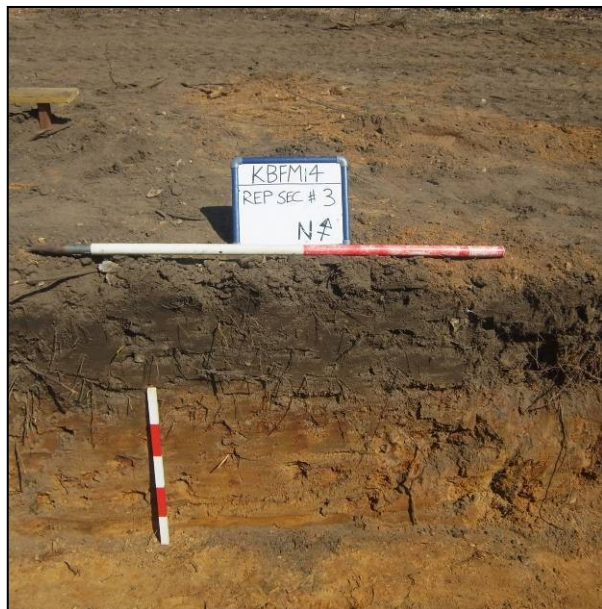


Figure 3 C-D



The only exception to this sequence was a pit towards the northern end of the footings [004], a steep sided pit c. 1.50m in diameter that was cut through the subsoil. It contained a single fill (005) which was heavily rooted, and in which modern rubble, plaster and brick were noted (but not retained) (Fig 3E-F).

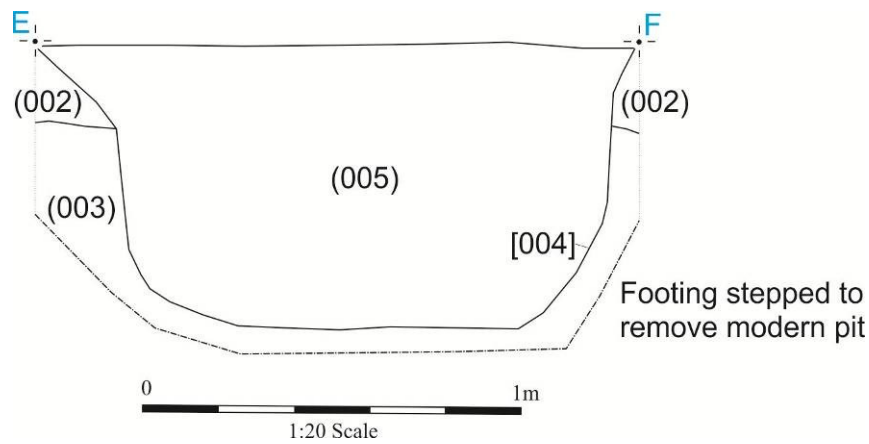
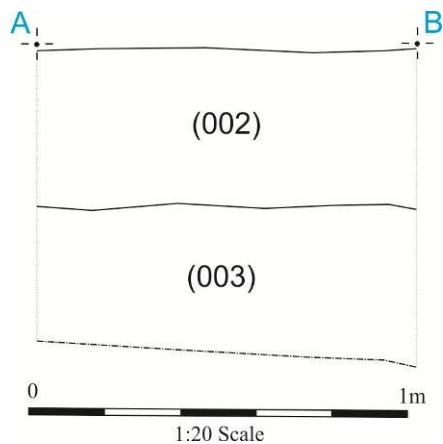


Figure 3 E-F

The excavation of the detached garage footings to the south east of the main house were also monitored, revealing the same sequence of deposits (Fig. 2 & 3 A-B).



No further archaeological features were noted. No further archaeological monitoring took place.

8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The monitoring completed during the groundworks for the new property adjacent to Firsdale identified a single modern feature and a natural sequence of deposits.

No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were recovered.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The monitoring scheme has recorded the layers and deposits that were exposed during the groundworks of this development while not disturbing the construction process.

10.0 Bibliography

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place Names*, English Place Name Society, Nottingham

Lane, A, 2014, *Land adjoining Firsdale, Tattershall Road, Kirby on Bain, Lincolnshire, LN10 6YN: Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. PCAS doc ref 1251

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/>

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/> consulted 23/6/14

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

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

OS Explorer Map, 2006, *Sheet 273: Lincolnshire Wolds South: Horncastle and Woodhall Spa*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Planning documents viewed online 20/6/14 at http://publicaccess.e-lindsey.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=_EASTL_DCAPR_113992

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary and physical archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of PCAS Archaeology Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months of completion of this report under the Lincolnshire Museums archive accession code LCNCC 2014.130.

Appendix 1: Context Summary KBFM 14

Context	Area	Context type	Description	Relationships	Notes
001	Entire site	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, fine silty sand with root disturbance. 0.20m thick	Above 002	
002	Entire site	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown fine slightly silty sand with occasional stone inclusions. C. 0.40m thick	Above 003	
003	Entire Site	Natural	Very fine brown orange sand with occasional stone inclusions	Below 002	
004	House footings	Cut	Approximately circular in plan, steep sides with concave wide base. C. 1.50m in diameter, 0.70m deep	cuts 002	
005	House footings	fill of pit	Dark brown grey slightly silty sand heavily rooted with modern rubble, mortar, plaster inclusions	Single fill of 004	Modern inclusions discarded on site

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