

**LAND OFF HIGH STREET, BISCATHORPE, EAST LINDSEY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT**

NGR: TF 2224 8478  
Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council  
Planning ref: N/059/02259/14  
PCAS job no. 2099  
Site code: BWSM 18  
Acc. No.: LCNCC 2018.162

Prepared for:

CgMs Heritage

by

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February 2019



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## Summary

*PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a temporary access track and well site to facilitate investigations for conventional hydrocarbons (oil) at the site off High Street, Biscathorpe.*

*Excavations during the groundworks did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits. Modern features, including land drains and rubbish/waste pits and spreads were revealed at four locations along the length of the new access track and at the northern end of the area stripped for the well site. A single residual flint scraper, dating to the later Neolithic period, and a residual sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery were the only archaeological finds encountered during the groundworks.*

# 1 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a temporary access track and well site to facilitate investigations for conventional hydrocarbons (oil) at the site off High Street, Biscathorpe. (NGR: TF 2224 8478, Fig. 1).

Planning permission was granted for the development in February 2016. Since the site lies in a landscape of archaeological potential a condition comprising archaeological monitoring was required to ensure any encountered buried remains were identified and recorded.

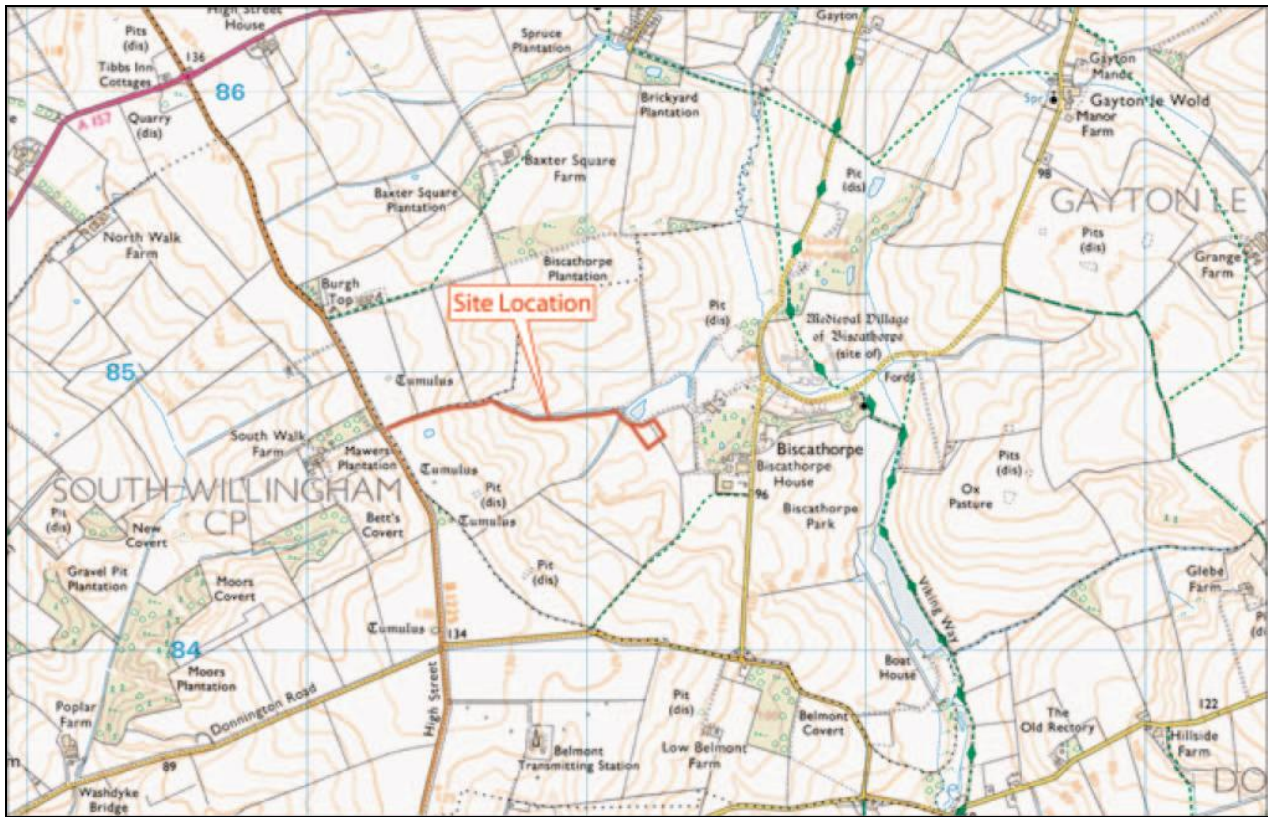


Figure. 1: Site Location Plan with development highlighted in red. OS mapping Crown Copyright. PCAS License No. 100049278.

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

Biscathorpe is a parish in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. It lies to the south of the A157 between Wragby and Louth, on the banks of the River Bain. Burgh on Bain lies c.2km to the south.

The exploratory well site lies on the west bank of the River Bain, to the east of the B1225 High Street between the A157 and Donnington Road. Access is along a temporary track from the B1225 that will be installed as part of the works, along an existing field boundary. The well site itself lies to the south of Biscathorpe Plantation, a small copse of woodland.

## 3.0 Topography, Geology and Soils

Biscathorpe lies in the Lincolnshire Wolds, in a rolling landscape on the bank of the River Bain. The site of the well lies a little above 90m OD, with the temporary track approaching from the west, down a slope that starts above 130m OD.

The predominant soil type identified in the vicinity of the proposed development comprises naturally wet loamy soils with naturally high groundwater (Magic.co.uk). The bedrock geology of the site is Tealby formation Mudstone, formed in a shallow sea environment in the Cretaceous Period. It is described as brown and grey clays, occasionally silty. This is overlain by Biscathorpe sand and gravel, and there are Head and Till deposits in the surrounding area with the course of the River Bain marked by alluvium (bgs.ac.uk).

#### **4.0 Planning Background**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012, revised July 2018. 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, s199).

Temporary planning permission for the construction of a new access track, temporary well site with associated portable cabins for the storage of equipment and for staff office accommodation, the drilling of an exploratory borehole, undertaking of production tests for conventional hydrocarbons and retaining the site and well head valve assembly gear for evaluation, was granted conditionally by East Lindsey District Council in February 2016, application ref N/059/02259/14.

The permission included archaeological conditions requiring monitoring and recording according to an approved WSI (Lane 2018), and reporting of the results.

This report details the findings of the archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken at the site.

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

An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared and submitted with the application (CgMs 2014). A summary of the assessment is presented below:

There are several prehistoric scheduled monuments in the area around the site, including a Neolithic long barrow at Burgh Top Farm, c.180m north of the new access track. There are three other scheduled barrows within 1km, the closest c.250m south of the track along High Street, and cropmarks of at least two others have been identified as cropmarks in this field and recorded on the HER. To the south of the new access track the Lincolnshire HER records cropmarks of prehistoric ditches and enclosures.

A Romano-British farmstead has been identified during investigations c.700m south of the site, with evidence suggesting Roman dated activity is concentrated in this area. The settlement of Biscathorpe has its origins in the Saxon period; the place name derives from the Old Norse *biskup* and *porp*, meaning the bishops outlying farm / settlement (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>).

The medieval village of Biscathorpe lay to the east of the well site, however the village now is evidenced by a cluster of earthworks and cropmarks. The reasons for the decline of the village are unknown; documentary records indicate that Biscathorpe was a small village throughout the medieval period, and the parish church of St. Helen's dates from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The area of the well site was extensively quarried in the post-medieval period, with the quarries appearing on aerial photographs.

## 6.0 Methodology

The scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during all construction groundworks including those for the new access track, and the well site, including initial site clearance and topsoil and subsoil removal.

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Lane 2018) and is summarised here:

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place between October 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018. The topsoil stripping and excavation works were undertaken using a mechanical excavator. Monitoring was undertaken by suitably experienced field archaeologist (Tom Bell, Simon Savage, Ria Seaman, and Stan Palmer-Brown).

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 – based on plan supplied by client) 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.

## 7.0 Results

### *Access Track (Fig. 3, Plates. 1 - 4)*

Excavation for the new access track, to a maximum depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface, revealed natural orange brown silty sand subsoil (104 & 107) or natural limestone (108) directly beneath 0.25m of topsoil (100). Four modern features [102], [103], [105] & [109], each containing modern material such as brick and animal bone, were the only features revealed during the excavations.

A single residual sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery (Appendix 5) was retrieved from the fill of modern rubbish pit [109]. No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in the area excavated for the new access track.

### *Well Site (Fig. 4, Plates. 5 - 8)*

Excavation of the area for the new well site (cellar and spill drainage) revealed natural orange brown silty sand subsoil (201) beneath 0.25m of topsoil (200). Two small modern pit like features [202] & [204] were revealed towards the northern end of the well site, with both contained fragments of modern brick.

A flint side and end scraper (Appendix 2), of later Neolithic date, with secondary working on the distal end and one lateral edge, was found at the interface between the topsoil and subsoil during the initial stripping of this area, but no other archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks associated with the construction of the well site.

## 8.0 Conclusion

Excavations during the groundworks associated with the construction of the new access track and well site did not reveal any significant archaeological features or deposits. Modern features, including land drains and rubbish/waste pits and spreads were revealed at four locations along the length of the new access track and at the northern end of the area stripped for the well site. A single residual flint scraper, dating to the later Neolithic period, and a single residual sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery were the only archaeological finds encountered during the groundworks.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The Methodology employed during this project 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 Archaeology Ltd would like to CgMs Heritage 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 Collection, Lincoln in due course, under Museum Accession Number LCNCC 2018.162.

## 12.0 References

English Heritage (EH), 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation (second edition)*. English Heritage Publishing.

CgMs Consulting, 2014, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Exploratory Well Site, Biscathorpe, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished document by CgMs

CgMs Consulting, 2015, *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation: Exploratory Well Site, Biscathorpe, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished document by CgMs

Lane A. 2018. *Land off High Street, Biscathorpe, East Lindsey: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Unpublished document by PCAS

OS Explorer Map, 2015, *Sheet 282: Lincolnshire Wolds North* Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Websites:

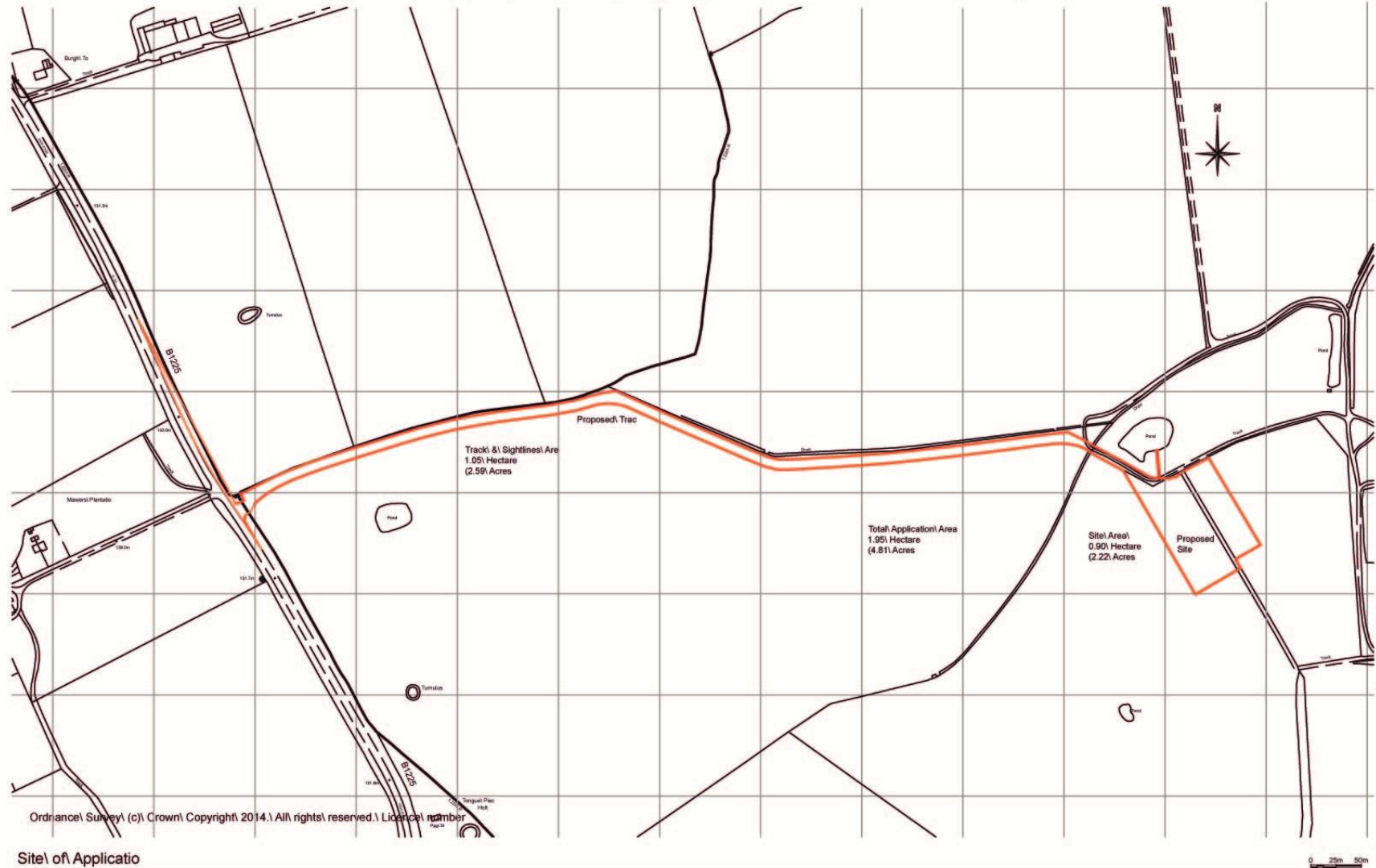
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>

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

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/>

Figure 2: Site layout plan showing temporary access track and well site. 1:500 @ A4



Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number  
 Site of Application  
 Scale: 1:2,500

<b>R ELLIOTT ASSOCIATES LTD</b> CONSULTING STRUCTURAL & CIVIL ENGIN T: (01592) 683178 F: (01592) 683332 info@rea-lltd.co.uk www.rea-lltd.co.uk	 Denholt House Broughton Road Sway Lymington Hampshire SO41 6BE	Egdon Resources UK Biscathorpe Louth Lincolnshire	AJNE September 2011 Site of Application 1:2,500	A2
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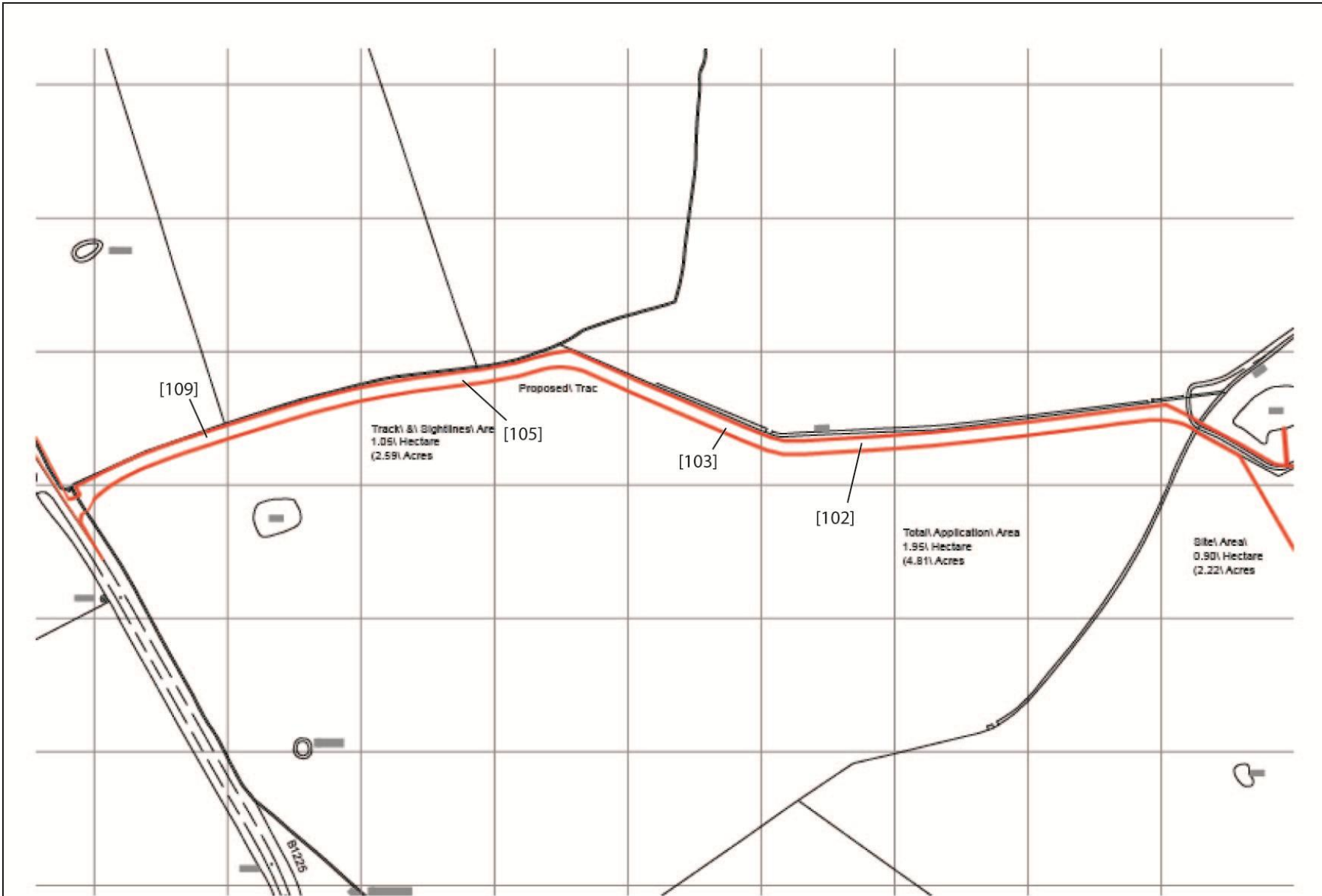


Figure 3: Plan detailing location of modern features revealed during the excavations for the access track



Plate. 1: Looking west along the new access track during machine strip



Plate. 2: Looking east c. 550m along the new access track



Plate. 3: Looking east along new access track at c. 700m with natural limestone (108) showing through the subsoil



Plate. 4: Looking west at an example of the modern activity encountered during the track excavation

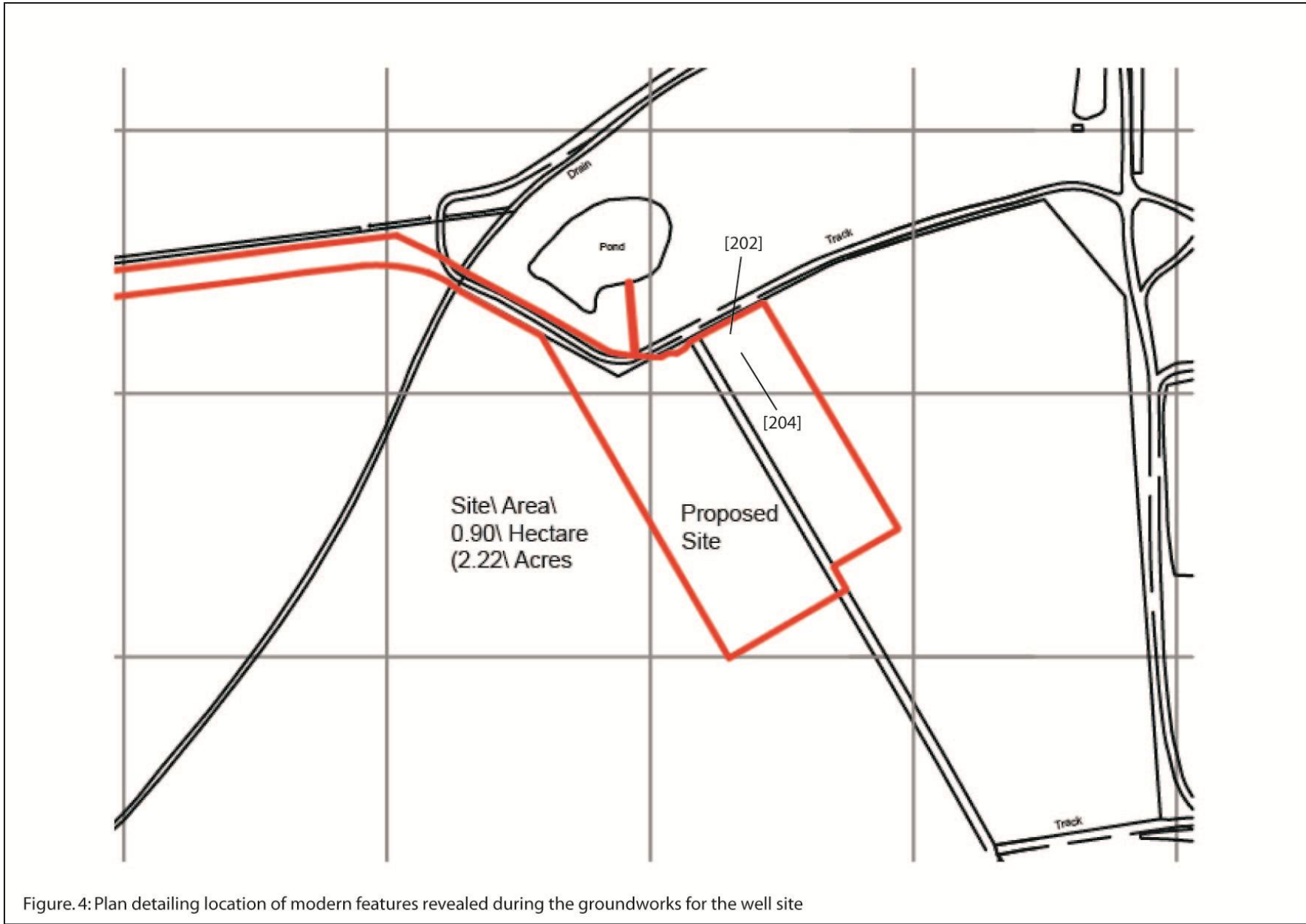


Figure. 4: Plan detailing location of modern features revealed during the groundworks for the well site





Plate. 5: Looking north at area of well site after initial site strip



Plate.6: Looking north during the excavation of the Well Site Cellar



Plate. 7: Looking north at Well Site Cellar excavation



Plate.8: Looking south at spill drainage syatem at the Well Site

## **Appendix 1: Context Summary**

Context	Type/relationship	Description	Finds/dating
100	Layer	Topsoil 0.3m thick	
101	Layer	Vegetation	
102	Cut	Modern pit 1m in diameter	
103	Cut	Modern cut (land drain?)	
104	Layer	Orange brown silty sand natural subsoil below (100)	
105	Cut	Modern Pit	
106	Fill	Fill of Pit [105] containing animal bone	Animal bone
107	Layer	Yellow brown silty sand subsoil (variation of (104))	
108	Layer	Natural limestone bedrock	
109	Cut	Modern linear cut (land drain?)	
110	Fill	Fill of [109] containing modern rubbish	Modern pot and animal bone
200	Layer	Topsoil	
201	Layer	Orange brown silty sand natural subsoil below (200)	
202	Cut	Modern pit	
203	Fill	Fill of [202] containing modern bricks	
204	Cut	Modern pit	
205	Fill	Fill of [204] containing modern bricks	

## **Appendix 2: Flint Report**

## Flint

By Tom Lane

### Introduction

A single flint from Biscathorpe was submitted for Assessment.

### Condition

The flint, a Side and End Scraper, was slightly abraded. No conservation work is required before deposition in a museum.

### Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
201	Scraper. Side and End Scraper. Honey coloured flint. Non-patinated. Secondary working on distal end and one lateral edge. Steep retouch. Some cortex still remaining on opposite lateral edge to working, possibly to facilitate handling. 34 x 29 x 6mm	1		Later Neolithic

### Range

A single find, a well-fashioned side and end scraper of later Neolithic date, was submitted. Found in the subsoil the item was not *in-situ*.

### Potential

As no other worked flint was found it is likely that this was a casual loss.



## **Appendix 3: Animal Bone Report**

# Biscathorpe, East Lindsay, Lincolnshire. The faunal remains analysis

by Julie Curl –Sylvanus – Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration Services for PCAS . February 2019

## The bone assemblage

A total of 819g of bone, consisting of eleven elements, was recovered from this site. The bone was recovered from topsoil, a pit and possible land drain, with most remains discovered in a pit. The assemblage is quantified in Table 1.

Context	Feature	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
100	100	Topsoil	1	30	Cattle	1
106	105	Pit	8	785	Cattle	8
110	109	Land drain?	2	4	Mammal	2

**Table 1.** Quantification of the bone assemblage.

The bone in this assemblage is in good condition, although some fragmentation has occurred from butchering. There is no gnawing on any of the bone, which suggests a lack of scavenger activity and that the bone was buried rapidly. No burnt remains were seen.

**Cattle** was the only species identified in this assemblage. A lower molar from a cattle mandible was found in the topsoil 100, with wear showing it was from an adult.

Eight bones from small cattle was recorded from the pit 105, fill 106, with femur fragments, pieces of tibia and pelvis and a vertebra, all of the bones showed some chops and cuts from dismemberment and preparation of cuts of meat and from removal of meat from the bones. The bones are from a small adult individual, either a female or a small breed such as the Celtic Short-Horn.

Two pieces of mammal bone were seen in the land drain fill 110; these did not show any diagnostic features and were not identifiable to species.

## Conclusions

This is a small assemblage with only one species present. The cattle is a versatile animal and it may have been used for traction (cart or plough pulling) and perhaps milk, prior to culling for meat, skin and other by-products. The butchering present certainly confirms the cattle in this assemblage provided meat.

## Bibliography

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Guidelines for best practice*. English Heritage.

Davis, S. 1992. *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. English Heritage AML report 71/92

**Appendix 1.** Catalogue of the bone from BWSM18

<b>Ctxt</b>	<b>Ctxt Qty</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>NISP</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Element range</b>	<b>Butchering</b>	<b>Comments</b>
100	1	30	Cattle	1	Adult	Vertebrae	Chopped	
106	8	785	Cattle	8	Adult	Fragments of femur, tibia, pelvis and vertebrae	Chopped, cut	Small individual
110	2	4	Mammal	2		Fragments	Butchered	

**Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material Report**

# An Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material from Land off High Street, Biscathorpe, East Lindsey. Site Code: BWSM 18

Zoe Tomlinson. Bsc. Msc.

## Introduction

A total of seven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 54 grams in total were presented for examination. The material ranges in date from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century all appears relatively modern. The assemblage was examined both visually and where necessary under x20 binocular microscope and then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames in an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001), the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2001) and the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (2016).

## Condition

The material is in variable condition with some fragments showing a small degree of abrasion. Fragments are all small-sized from 8 grams to 21 grams with some pieces having fresh breaks.

## Overview of the Material

A small range of ceramic building material including drain (DRAIN) and an unidentifiable fragments (MISC) was recovered from the site. The types are shown and quantified in Table 1.

Codename	Full name	Total fragments	Total weight in
MISC	Unidentified type	5	37
DRAIN	Drain	2	17
<b>Totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>

Table 1: Ceramic material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

## Site Sequence

All the ceramic building material was recovered from topsoil layer (**100**). This includes three flakes of unidentifiable ceramic building material in an oxidised sandy fabric with a moderate amount of small iron rich grains of less than 0.1mm and occasional visible quartz grains. These flakes are likely to be from a relatively modern tile or are possibly garden pot. A fragment of unidentifiable ceramic building material which is 20mm thick is a coarse oxidised sandy fabric with a moderate amount of calcareous and iron rich inclusions. It appears to be relatively modern in date. A further miscellaneous fragment was also recovered from this deposit which is an oxidised sandy fabric which has a deposit or concretion on the surface. Two joining fragments of

ribbed drain in a course fabric with slag, clay pellets and calcareous inclusions. Again, this appears to be relatively modern in date.

### **Conclusion & Recommendations**

This small assemblage dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century with most of the material being relatively modern small fragments of ceramic material. Fragments have been recorded with a fully quantified archive and as the material offers little in the way of site interpretation I recommend that it may be discarded.

### **References**

Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material, third version (2001) [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmq1/CBMGDE3.htm>

*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 2016 edition [Internet]. Available from <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?docId=29200>

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, 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.

## **Appendix 5: Pottery Report**

## Roman pottery from land off High Street, Biscathorpe, East Lindsey (BWSM18)

I.M. Rowlandson

### Summary and discussion

A single abraded sherd (21g) with abundant quartz inclusions and rare grog or clay pellets was retrieved from context 110. The sherd was abraded and difficult to identify with certainty but appeared to be in a transitional gritty ware type fabric (IAGR) with similarities to a fabric recorded from Horncastle and Park Farm, Tattershall Thorpe (BVIAGR5). The sherd probably dates to the later 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

### Methodology

An archive has been produced to comply with the requirements of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004) using the codes and system developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious 2014). A tabulated sherd archive is presented below. The dates provided represent the pottery recorded here: the main text of the report and other specialist contributions should be consulted to ascertain the overall date attributed to each context.

BWSM18 Roman pottery sherd data												
Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Vessels	Alt	Draw	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
110	IAGR	JB		1	ABR		BS; THICK WALLED; POSSIBLY BVIAGR5		1	21	0	0

### Recommendations

This pottery has limited research potential. As it is such a small quantity of pottery- it could be deposited with the rest of the archive but would also be suitable for discard.

### References

Darling, M.J., 2004, Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 11, 67-74.

Darling, M.J. and Precious, B.J., 2014, *Corpus of Roman Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No. 6, Oxbow Books, Oxford



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## Archaeological monitoring land east of High Street, Biscathorpe - PCAS Archaeology Ltd

OASIS ID - preconst3-328514

### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk">alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk</a>	14 September 2018
<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk">alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk</a>	6 March 2019
<a href="#">View 3</a>	3	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk">alison.lane@pcas-archaeology.co.uk</a>	6 March 2019

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Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

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