

Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a detached dwelling and garage, on land off Church Lane, Snitterby.*
- *Despite the development being situated to the north of the medieval core of the village, within an area of moderate archaeological potential, no finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.*

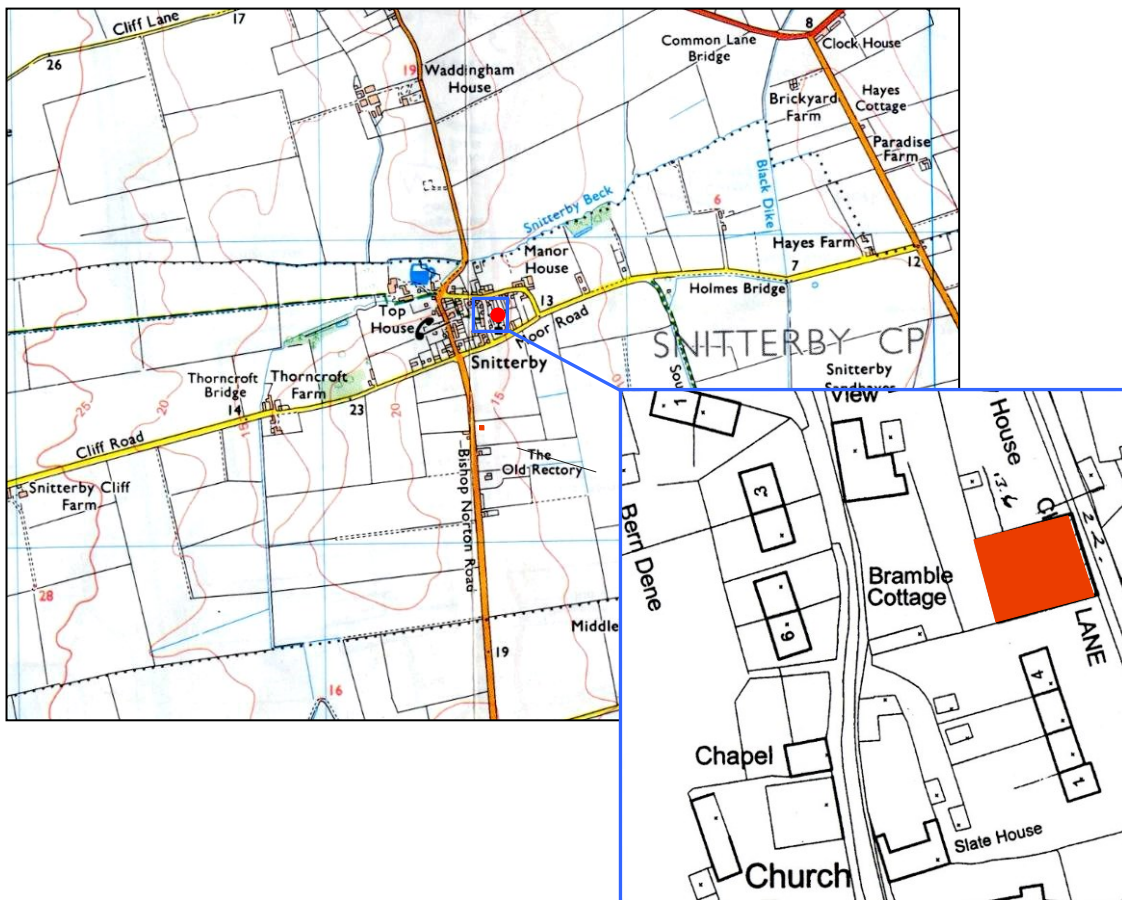


Fig. 1: Location map of the proposed development site within Snitterby. Scale 1:25,000 (OS copyright licence no. A1 515 21 A0001). Inset map outlined in blue showing close-up of site location at scale 1:1250.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by J.E. and S. Barton to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached dwelling with garage, on land off Church Lane, Snitterby, Lincolnshire, NGR SK 9858 9464. These works were monitored by S Williams on 29th October and the author on 30th October 2007 to fulfil the objectives of a specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by Lincolnshire County Council. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment 1990), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA 1999) and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC1998).

2.0 Site location and description

The development site comprises a rectangular plot of land situated to the north of the medieval core of Snitterby, and fronting Church Lane. It was formerly a market garden and is surrounded on three sides by residential properties.

The site is slightly elevated at the west and is approximately 15m OD. The underlying drift geology is Interglacial Silt and Clay (British Geological Survey 1978).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission (planning ref; M04/P/0935) was granted by West Lindsey District Council for the erection of a dwelling and garage subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of development involving ground disturbance; to record any archaeological remains encountered as a result of development.

4.0 Archaeological context

The Snitterby area has been a focus for human activity since the early prehistoric period. This was evidenced by the recovery of several polished stone and flint axes (attributable to the Neolithic period) and earthwork remains that are presumed to be a Bronze Age round barrow (ADS 1996-2007).

Roman British settlement in the area is indicated by a villa that survives as a cropmark. This has been provisionally dated to the c 3rd to 4th century AD by localised pottery scatters (ADS 1996-2007).

Several entries in the 1086 Domesday Survey indicate an Anglo Saxon origin for the village. Mills (1993) also suggests that the name Snitterby is derived from the Anglo – Danish ‘Snytra’s farmstead or village’.

Archaeological evidence comprising a holloway, an earthwork, a pond and a water channel show the village developing into the medieval period (ADS 1996 – 2007).

5.0 Methodology

The methodology involved the monitoring of all machine excavations.

During and following excavation, plan and section surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined to assess the presence/ absence of archaeological deposits and to record the general stratigraphy. Spoil upcast was also scanned for artefactual remains.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

The earliest deposit (102) was encountered at 0.70m below the modern ground surface. This was a natural deposit of limestone brash. Sealing (102) was a mid brown silty clay subsoil (101). The depth of this layer varied across the site: 0.18m in the north east corner; 0.50m at the south. A 0.30m thick layer of dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil sealed the site, this being the modern ground surface.

No archaeological deposits or features were exposed by the ground works.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the proximity of the development site, close to the medieval core of the village and within an area where human activity has been evidenced since the Neolithic period, no finds or deposits of archaeological interest was recorded. This suggests that, in the medieval period, the site was simply part of an open area such as a paddock.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of this development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of archaeological potential to be made, which was deemed to be moderate to low in this particular area of the village.

9.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1978, *Brigg, Sheet 89* Drift Edition

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

Mills A., 1993, *English Place Names*, Oxford University Press

Morris J., 1986, *Domesday Book, Lincolnshire*, Phillimore

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/search/fr.cfm?rcn=NMR-NATINV-897932,327080,892430,349993,327068,1062837>

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank J.E. and S. Barton for this commission. Thanks also go to the ground workers for their assistance.

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months. The global accession number is 2007. 225

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