

**LAND AT PARK HOUSE, NORTH STREET, MIDDLE RASEN, WEST
LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 08503 89431
WLDC Planning Ref.: 136273
PCAS job no. 1940
Site code: PHOM 17
Archive acc. no.: LCNCC 2017.154

Report prepared for

Ms. J. Parr

by

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the groundworks for an equestrian development on land at Park House, off North Street in the village of Middle Rasen, West Lindsey.

The development site is situated within the probable area of the early medieval settlement. Previous investigation at the junction of North Street and Church Street identified the possible remains of early medieval house plots, suggesting that the line of North Street itself may derive from the earliest days of Middle Rasen, while the pattern of plot boundaries on both sides of North Street still displays the regular, planned layout of the medieval village.

Park House is built on land that previously formed part of the post-medieval park around Manor Farm. This park appears on historic mapping but has not survived well enough to be nationally designated as historic.

No features other than a modern former pond (backfilled by present owner) were observed during the construction groundworks and no finds were recovered.

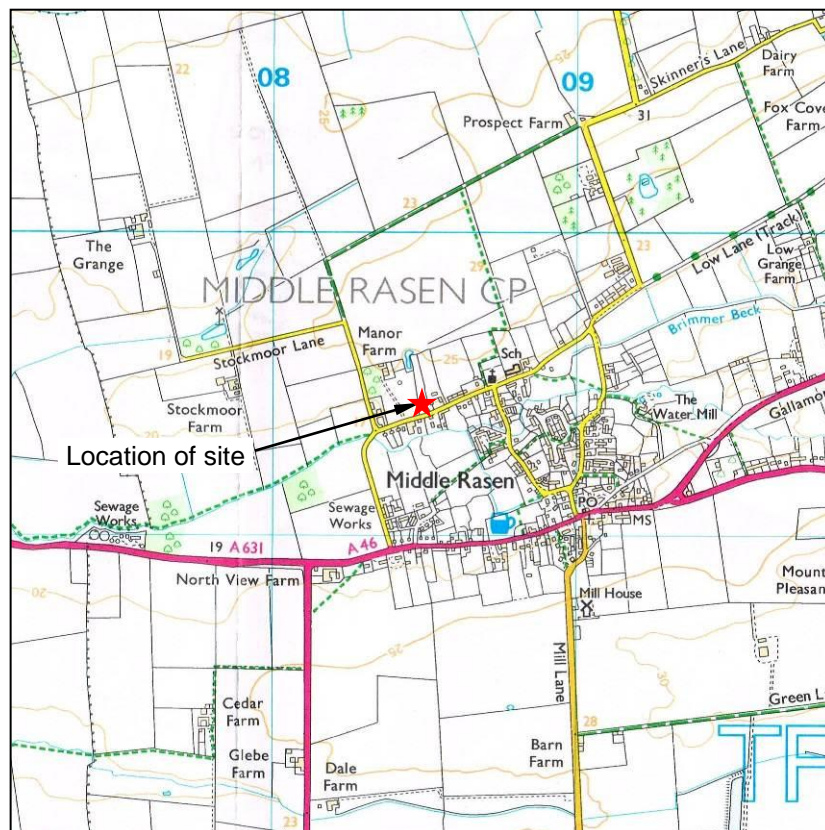


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:10,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Ms. J. Parr to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for an equestrian development on land at Park House, off North Street, Middle Rasen (LN8 3TS). This was to fulfil a condition attached to an approved planning permission. The application site lies within a probable area of medieval settlement, as well as within the former Manor Farm Park. For this reason, the Historic Environment Officer for West Lindsey District Council recommended a programme of archaeological observation and recording during construction groundworks.

The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2019;
- CIFA Code of Conduct (2019 as revised);
- CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015)
- The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (2016)

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

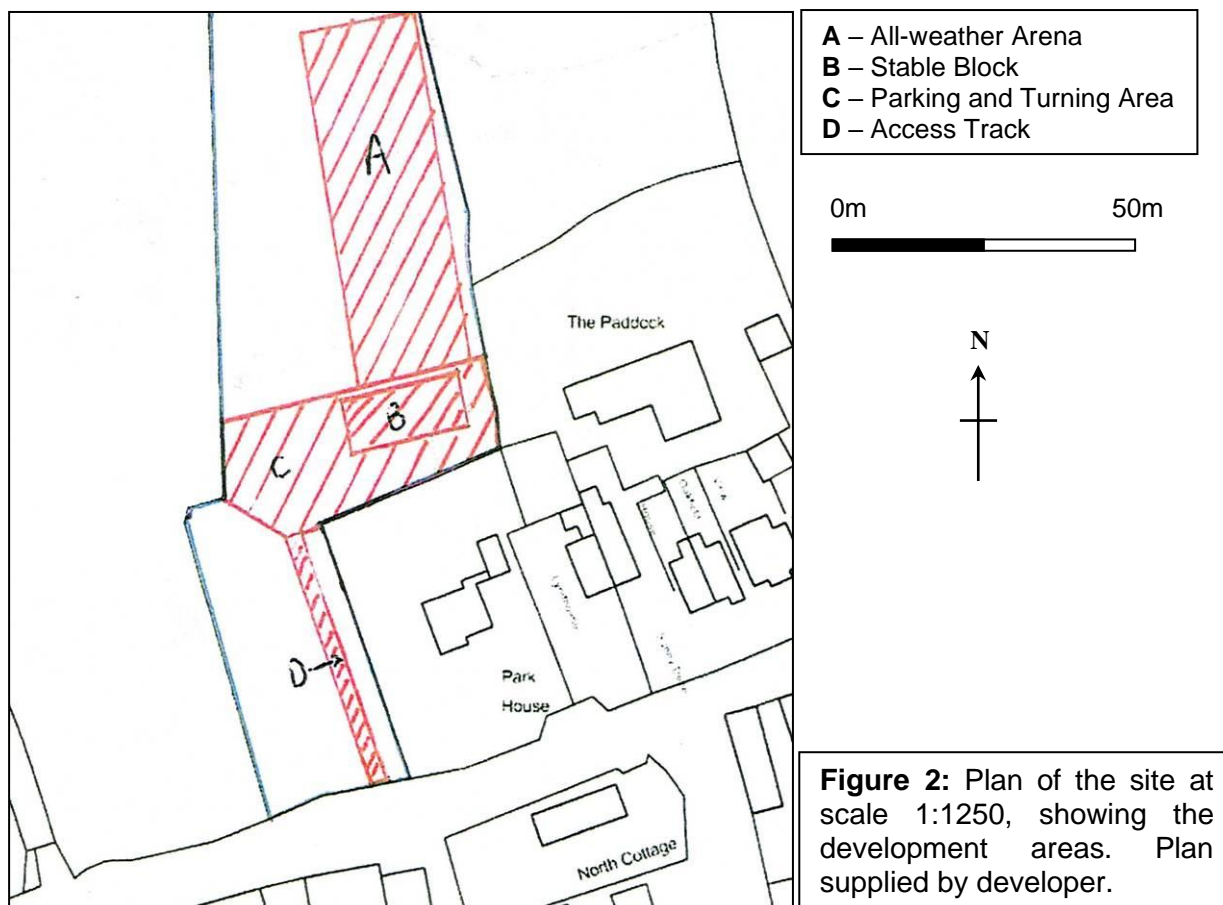
The village of Middle Rasen is in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, approximately 1.5km west of Market Rasen and 22km north-east of Lincoln. It is situated within the Central Clay Vale Character Zone (CLV3) of the Clay Vale Landscape Character Area, which occupies the flat, low-lying land to the north-east of Lincoln (Lord and MacIntosh, 2011). Middle Rasen has no Conservation Area.

Park House is on the north side of North Street, which delineates the northern edge of the village. The development occupies an irregularly-shaped field to the north and west of Park House, which was previously agricultural land.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The settlements of West, Middle and Market Rasen lie on the northern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, within the valley of the River Rase, which runs from near Tealby to the east through the three Rasen settlements before turning north and eventually feeding into the River Ancholme. The greater part of Middle Rasen is situated on the level ground of the valley base at the south side of the river, but the site occupies the rising ground on the north side. The valley of the River Rase is broad and shallow here: the site lies on a gentle downward slope, just above the 20m Ordnance Datum contour.

Middle and Market Rasen are both situated near the edge of an extensive ridge of windblown sand: this sand forms the drift geology of the development area, and the underlying solid geology is Amphill Clay formation mudstone (BGS, 1999).



4.0 Planning Background

Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a private stable block with an all-weather arena for business and private use, including a new access, dropped kerb and hard standing. The permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council in August 2017 (Planning Ref.: 1362573). The Historic Environment Officer for West Lindsey District Council recommended a scheme of archaeological monitoring be attached to the permission to fulfil the requirements of NPPF. This document presents the results of the scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record does not record any sites, monuments or findspots from the prehistoric or Roman periods within 500m of Park House.

Although there is no documentary evidence for a settlement at Middle Rasen pre-dating the Norman Conquest, Domesday Book indicates that it was likely to have been established from at least in the late Anglo-Saxon period, if not even earlier. Limited archaeological evidence for a late Saxon settlement was encountered during archaeological monitoring during construction works off Church Street and North Street in 1995, when two substantial ditches dated by late 10th to 11th century pottery were discovered. The ditch alignments were either parallel or perpendicular to North Street and were interpreted as property boundaries – their alignment suggests that the line of North Street itself may derive from the earliest days of Middle Rasen (HER ref. 52023).

The three settlements on the River Rase that shared the name 'Rasen' were first documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086. At this time, the settlement that would later be known as East Rasen and eventually as Market Rasen was the least of the three Rasen villages, overshadowed by West and Middle Rasen and having no manor, while Middle Rasen was a substantial settlement with at least four manorial holdings, its own church and possibly its own mill. The Bishop of Bayeux had a manor in Middle Rasen, with a church, a priest and a population of 29 taxable households (as well as the priest and the bishop's agent) farming generous areas of arable land and meadow. Roger de Poitou and Joscelin fitzLambert had much smaller manors, one occupied by four households, the other by five, both consisting of arable land only, while Durand Malet had a very small manorial holding indeed, with three households farming 'the third part of half a carucate' of arable land, and another small area was being farmed by three households as *inland* (land whose produce was devoted to the lord rather than to his tenants, probably as a 'home farm') of Alvred of Lincoln's manor of Linwood. A very large manor belonging to Ralph Paynel is also recorded, with a total of 52 households farming extensive areas of arable land and meadow: this manor had its own mill, and administered a further substantial area of arable land and meadow, farmed by another 16 households, as *sokeland* (a semi-independent outlying holding) in the adjoining parish; however, it cannot be confidently ascertained from the account whether the manor was in Middle Rasen and the sokeland in West Rasen or the other way round, as the text refers only to 'Rasen' and 'the other Rasen' (Williams and Martin, 2003, pp. 895, 914, 928, 931, 939 and 944). The Lincolnshire HER notes that the medieval settlement on the north side of the River Rase is laid out in a very regular and planned fashion on an east to west street, with long tofts (house plots including an enclosed area of cultivable land) on the north side and shorter ones backing onto the stream on the south, and that earthworks within now amalgamated properties in the north show that the pattern of long tofts was formerly more complete (HER ref. 52023). There are now no standing remains of the church referred to in Domesday Book: the oldest masonry in the Grade II* Listed parish church of St. Peter, which stands on the north side of North Street approximately 250m to the east of the site, dates from the 12th century (List entry no. 1166238).

Middle Rasen parish was formally enclosed in 1774, although the large areas of old enclosures shown on the enclosure award plan indicate that a good deal of private enclosure had already taken place by the late 18th century. Historic OS mapping indicates that the site lay within the eastern edge of the park surrounding Manor Farm, which was probably a post-enclosure creation (HER ref. 55597; fig. 3). The park is not nationally designated as historic. Manor Farm itself is recorded by the English Heritage Farmsteads Project as a partially extant 19th-century farmstead, with a farmhouse detached from the main working complex, which has lost more than 50% of its traditional buildings (HER ref. 57414).

6.0 Methodology

Initially, a vegetation and topsoil strip for a new access route and car park area was carried out, removing approximately 0.10m to 0.20m of vegetation and topsoil. Following this, the area for the arena (approximately 64m long by 22m wide) was stripped of vegetation and topsoil, maximum depth removed 0.60m.

Exposed features and deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks was noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. A sample section was drawn at a scale of 1:20 and plotted on a base plan. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken intermittently by R. Dickenson and S. Palmer-Brown, between 15th January 2018 and 5th July 2018.



Pl. 1: General view of stripped Car Park Area, looking NNW



Pl. 2: General view of stripped Car Park Area, looking N

7.0 Results (fig. 4)

Natural blue clay with orange sandy flecks 102 was exposed at the base of the stripped area of the arena at the furthest northern point of the site. This was overlain by a subsoil deposit 101, of mid to light brown sandy silt, 0.08m thick (see pl.3). Covering both layers, was dark brown silty clay topsoil 100.

At the south-south western point of the site, where the car park and new access route was proposed, a circular pond **106** was encountered. This was approximately 5m in diameter, and was filled with dark blue-brown silty clay 105. The current owner informed the archaeologist that he had personally backfilled this pond a few years previously. Surrounding the former pond, was a pale yellow spread deposit 103, approximately 5.6m x 9m. To the east of the former pond was a pale blue-grey clay deposit with yellow sandy flecks, situated alongside the existing road and so likely to be part of the road construction.

No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this phase of monitoring, and no artefactual remains were recovered during the groundworks.



Pl. 3: Representative Section within Arena area, looking N



Pl. 4: Working shot of stripped Arena area, looking E

8.0 Conclusion

No finds or features, excluding a modern former pond **106**, were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, possibly indicating that this plot of land has been used predominantly as pasture, with little 'visible' archaeological activity such as cultivation furrows or occupation being evident. That said, it should also be noted that much of the intervention involved minimal soil removal, thus it could well be that archaeological levels were not always reached.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been exposed on the site would not have been destroyed without record, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ms. J. Parr for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection').

12.0 Bibliography

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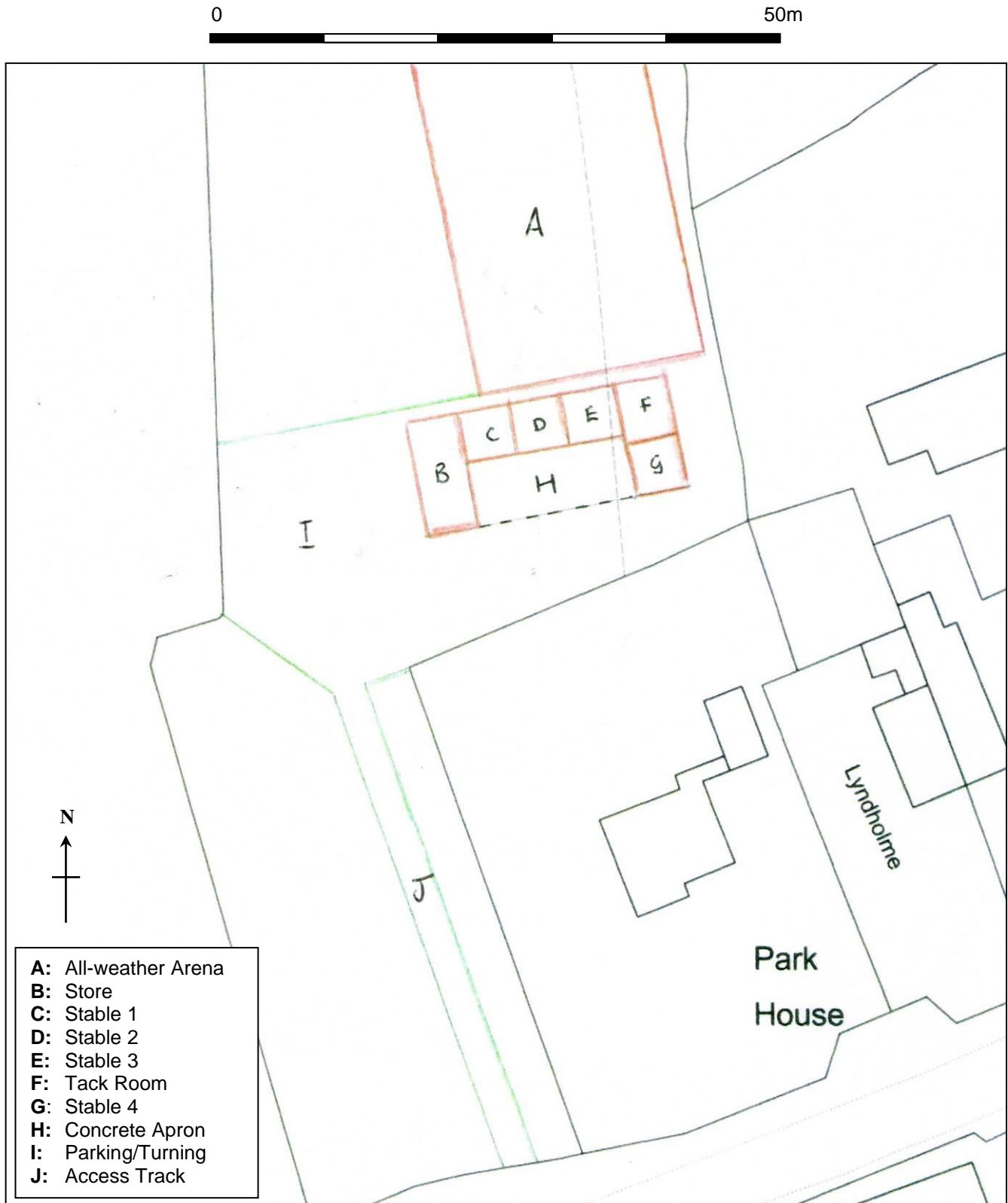
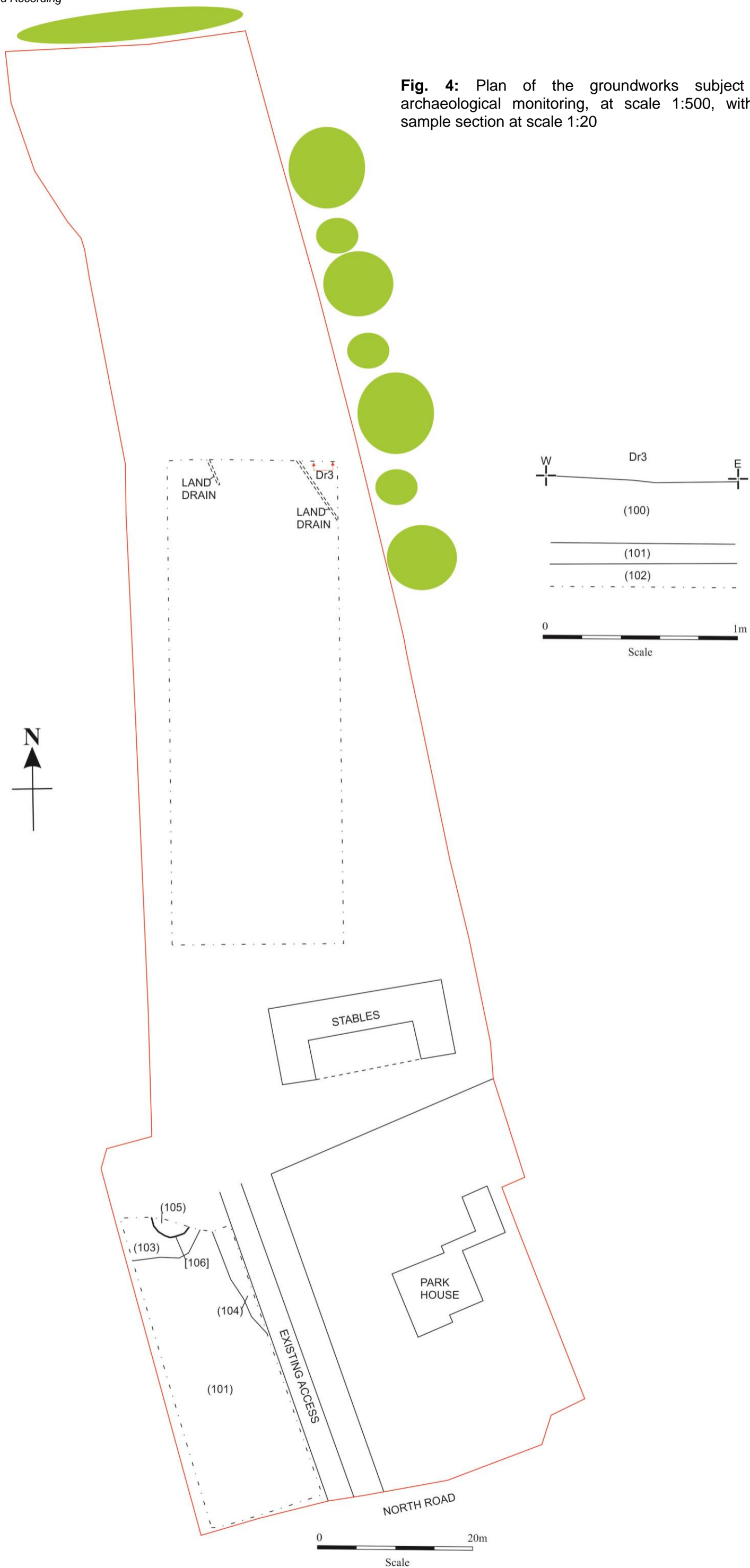


Figure 3: Plan of the proposed development at scale 1:500 showing details of stable block. Plan supplied by client.



Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No	Type	Description	Finds
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay. Fairly compact. Occasional small stone inclusions. D 0.20m	No finds
101	Layer	Subsoil: Mid to light brown sandy silt, slightly clayey. Friable. Occasional small stone inclusions. D 0.08m	No finds
102	Layer	Natural: Blue clay with orange sandy clay flecks. Hard. Clean	No finds
103	Deposit	Spread deposit surrounding former pond [106]. Pale yellow with lenses of blue clay. Fairly compact. Rare small stone inclusions. L approx. 56m. W 9m No depth recorded	No finds
104	Deposit	Pale blue grey clay with yellow sandy flecks. Compact. Occasional chunks of chalk. Situated alongside the existing road. Close to pond [106]. L 15m W 3m No depth recorded	No finds
105	Fill	Fill of former pond [106]. Dark blue brown silty clay. Loose. Rare small stone inclusions. W 5m, no depth recorded	No finds
106	Cut	Former modern pond, circular. W 5m, no depth recorded. Not excavated. Backfilled with 105	No finds

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

13.0 OASIS ID: preconst3-417093

Project details

Project name	Land at Park House, North Street, Middle Rasen
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the groundworks for an equestrian development on land at Park House, off North Street in the village of Middle Rasen in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. No features other than a modern former pond backfilled by present owner, was seen during the construction groundworks with no finds being discovered.
Project dates	Start: 15-01-2018 End: 05-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PHOM17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2017.154 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY MIDDLE RASEN Land at Park House, North Street, Middle Rasen
Study area	1500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 0837 8947 53.390671 -0.37023 53 23 26 N 000 22 12 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project design originator	N/A
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	S.Palmer-Brown, R.Dickinson

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Park House, North Street, Middle Rasen
Author(s)/Editor(s)	R. S. Dennis
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	PCAS Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln
Description	A4 book

Entered by	R Dennis (ria.seaman@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	10 March 2021