

**PROPOSED HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE,
GUASH WAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, STAMFORD, LINCS.:**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING
OF SITE INVESTIGATION**

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Site code | WRCS 09 |
| NGR: | TF 0384 0862 |
| Planning Ref: | n/a |
| Acc No: | 2009.100 |
| PCA Ref: | 09/557 |

Report prepared for

Lincolnshire County Council

by

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Fig. 2 Locations of the monitored trial pits (based on a plan supplied by the client, reproduced at 1:1000. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

Fig. 3 Sections showing the soil deposits seen in the trial pits (1:50).

Plates

- Pl. 1** The site slopes down towards the north and north-east (looking north-east, with the vehicle close to TP 2).
- Pl. 2** The south-eastern part of the site (looking north, in the position of TP5).
- Pl. 3** Limestone bedrock in Trial Pit TP 2 (looking west, scale 1m).
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Proposed Household Waste Recycling Centre, Guash Way Industrial Estate, Stamford, Lincs.: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Site Investigation

Summary

Machine excavation of five narrow trial pits and four boreholes did not reveal archaeological remains.

Slight differences in topsoil depth have been interpreted as resulting from colluviation, encouraged by medieval and later ploughing.

A thin subsoil, observed in places, may include the position of a medieval headland.

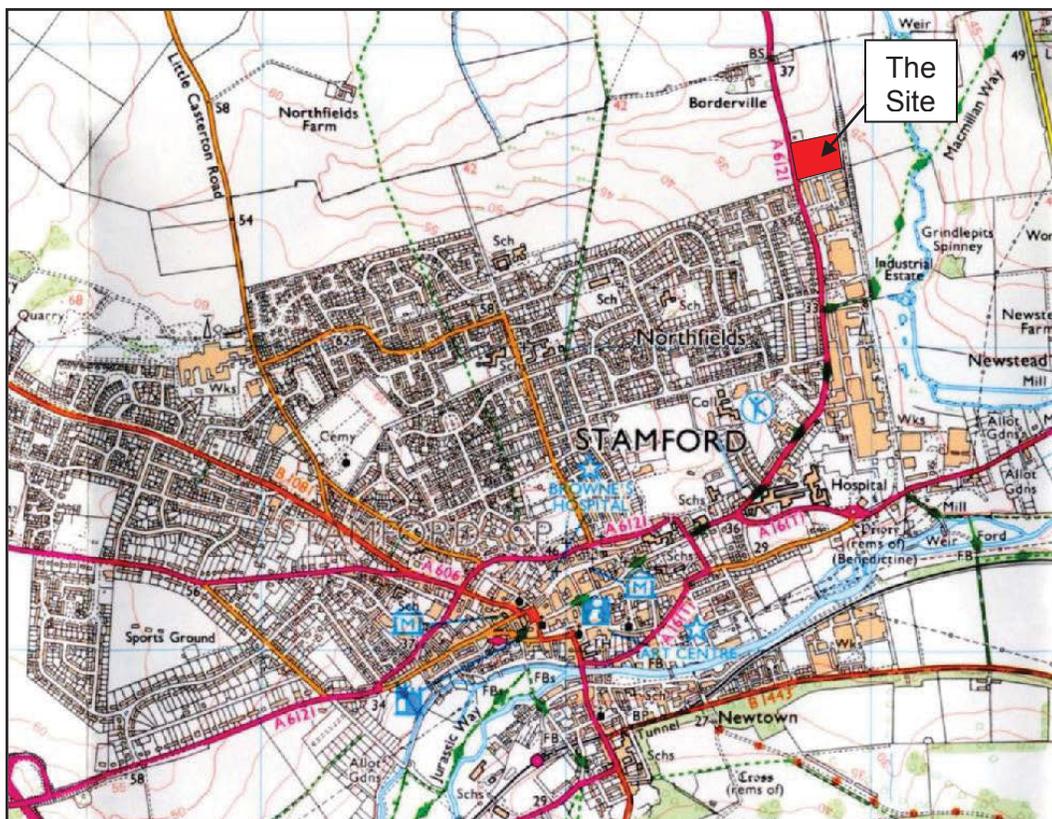


Fig. 1 Site Location (based on the 2002 Ordnance Survey Landranger map, Sheet 234, reproduced at 1:25,000 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeology [Lincoln]) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording for Lincolnshire County Council at a site situated to the west of Guash Way Industrial Estate, Stamford, during geotechnical investigations. There is a proposal by Lincolnshire County Council to construct a Household Waste Recycling Centre at the site.

Archaeological monitoring by Linda Hamilton took place on 17th and 20th July 2009.

2.0 Site Location

The site is situated at 30m OD, sloping down eastwards to the River Gwash, within the parish of Stamford in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. It is situated off the A6121 Ryhall Road, to the west of the Guash Way Industrial Estate, and is centred on NGR TF 0384 0862 (Fig. 1).

The site is currently farmland and comprises approximately 1.63ha (Pls. 1 and 2). A former railway easement forms the eastern boundary of the site.

3.0 Planning background

The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in response to a recommendation from the Archaeological Advisor to Lincolnshire County Council that a Scheme of Archaeological Works be arranged, comprising initially the monitoring and recording of preliminary geotechnical and other site investigations.

The archaeological intervention was conducted in accordance with an agreed Archaeological Works Specification, dated 29th June 2009. The work followed the standards recommended in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy and Guidance Note 16* (Department of Environment 1990), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 2008); *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2009); *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

4.0 Archaeological context

A single Mesolithic flint tool represents the only prehistoric artefact reported from the vicinity of the site, although cropmarks of a track way and ditched enclosures have been identified from air photographs, indicating some activity in the area. The trackway (Lincs. Historic Environment Record ref. 36692), is visible along the eastern edge of the limestone escarpment, and can be traced intermittently from Stamford northwards. It has been identified immediately to the south-west of the monitored site, where a projection of the features would pass across the site. An undated pit alignment cropmark (HER 34256) is about 0.6km to the south-west of the site.

The Roman road Ermine Street passes through the north-western part of the modern town, and the site of a Roman military camp and later walled town at Great Casterton is

known. During trial trenching 1km to the south-east of the monitored site, ditches containing Romano-British material were recorded. One ditch contained ceramic building material as well as pottery. Earthworks (HER 36827), including a bank and terraces, were also observed and tentatively dated as Romano-British.

The modern town of Stamford, 1.2km south-west of the monitored site, was first documented in 656 AD. It became one of five Danish *burhs* (defended settlement or borough) in 877 AD, developing a market and a mint on the south bank of the River Welland by the late 10th century. A Saxon cemetery (which produced one cremation urn, one skull and skeletal remains, a spear, and pottery, HER 30676) was found during the excavation of a cutting on the Stamford to Essendene Railway in 1854, to the south-east of the monitored site.

Shortly before 1268, a Carmelite friary was established in the eastern suburb of Stamford (1km south of the development). Dissolved in 1538, it was documented to have been a magnificent structure with grounds nearly a mile in circumference. Only a 14th century gateway remains (HER 30613).

5.0 Methodology

The trial pits (TP1-TP5) were excavated with a JCB fitted with 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The specification had anticipated that a smooth bucket would be used, in order to produce less damage to archaeological remains and provide an ideal surface for rapid identification and recording. This proved impracticable due to the nature of the natural limestone geology. The positions of the trial pits were not as originally notified, and a fifth trial pit was excavated (Fig. 2).

Two boreholes were drilled with the archaeologist in attendance, but only limestone was visible in the plastic-encased core and the hole was obscured with the water and grout used. The archaeological advisor was contacted and it was agreed that no further boreholes would be monitored.

Monitoring and photographic recording was undertaken from ground level, and for safety reasons the unstable trenches were not entered. Limited measured recording was possible with assistance from the contractors. Further information was later obtained from the draft Trial Pit logs supplied by LincsLab.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trial Pits 1-5 (Figs. 2 and 3; Pls. 3-5)

Each trial pit measured 2m x 0.4m. In trial pits TP1 and TP2, at the northern end of the site, the topsoil (100) directly overlay undisturbed limestone gravel and cobbles (brash) (101). The topsoil varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.4m.

A 0.1 – 0.15m thick layer of orange/brown silty clay subsoil (102) was covered by the topsoil in trial pits TP 3 – TP5. No archaeological remains were seen.

| Trial Pit | Dimensions | Depth of Trial Pit | Thickness of topsoil | Top of undisturbed deposits |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|-----------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2m x 0.4m | 1.6m | 0.3m | 0.3m |
| 2 | 2m x 0.4m | 2m | 0.3m | 0.3m |
| 3 | 2m x 0.4m | 1.5m | 0.3m | 0.3m |
| 4 | 2m x 0.4m | 1.3m | 0.3m | 0.3m |
| 5 | 2m x 0.4m | 1.7m | 0.3m | 0.3m |

Table 1: Trial pit dimensions and topsoil thicknesses (as recorded in the LincsLab logs).

Table 1: Trial Pit summaries (information supplied by LincsLab)

6.2 Boreholes 1-4

The logs for the four boreholes indicate topsoil depths of 0.5m for BH1-3, and 0.3m in BH4. Borehole BH4 was sited on flat high ground to the south of the site, with the land falling to the north. The relatively thinner topsoil may be the result of ploughing eroding deposits and producing colluvium to the north, but the discrepancy in recorded depth between the boreholes and the trial pits is probably best explained in terms of recording tolerances for the boreholes.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

GoogleEarth historic air photographic imagery (April 2005) records soilmarks to the west of the railway, crossing the proposed development site. The soilmarks appear to represent north-south aligned medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. No marks are apparent in a zone along the southern edge of the field, which probably marks the position of the headland where the plough-team was turned, and where dislodged material produced thicker soil. Ploughing down the slope may have encouraged colluvial soil movement, producing the thicker ploughsoil in the lower boreholes.

The probable headland may explain the survival of subsoil layer (102) in TP4 and TP5 but is unlikely to be the reason for subsoil survival at TP3 close to the eastern boundary. The boundary is related to the adjacent railway easement and need not pre-date the mid-19th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology allowed the depth of deposits above the bedrock to be established, but the monitored works were too limited in scale to indicate whether any archaeological features are present across the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Lincolnshire County Council for this commission.

10.0 References

BGS 1968 *British Geological Survey; England and Wales, Solid and Drift: Sheet 157 Lincoln*. Scale 1: 50,000.

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months. The accession number for this project is LCNCC 2009.100.

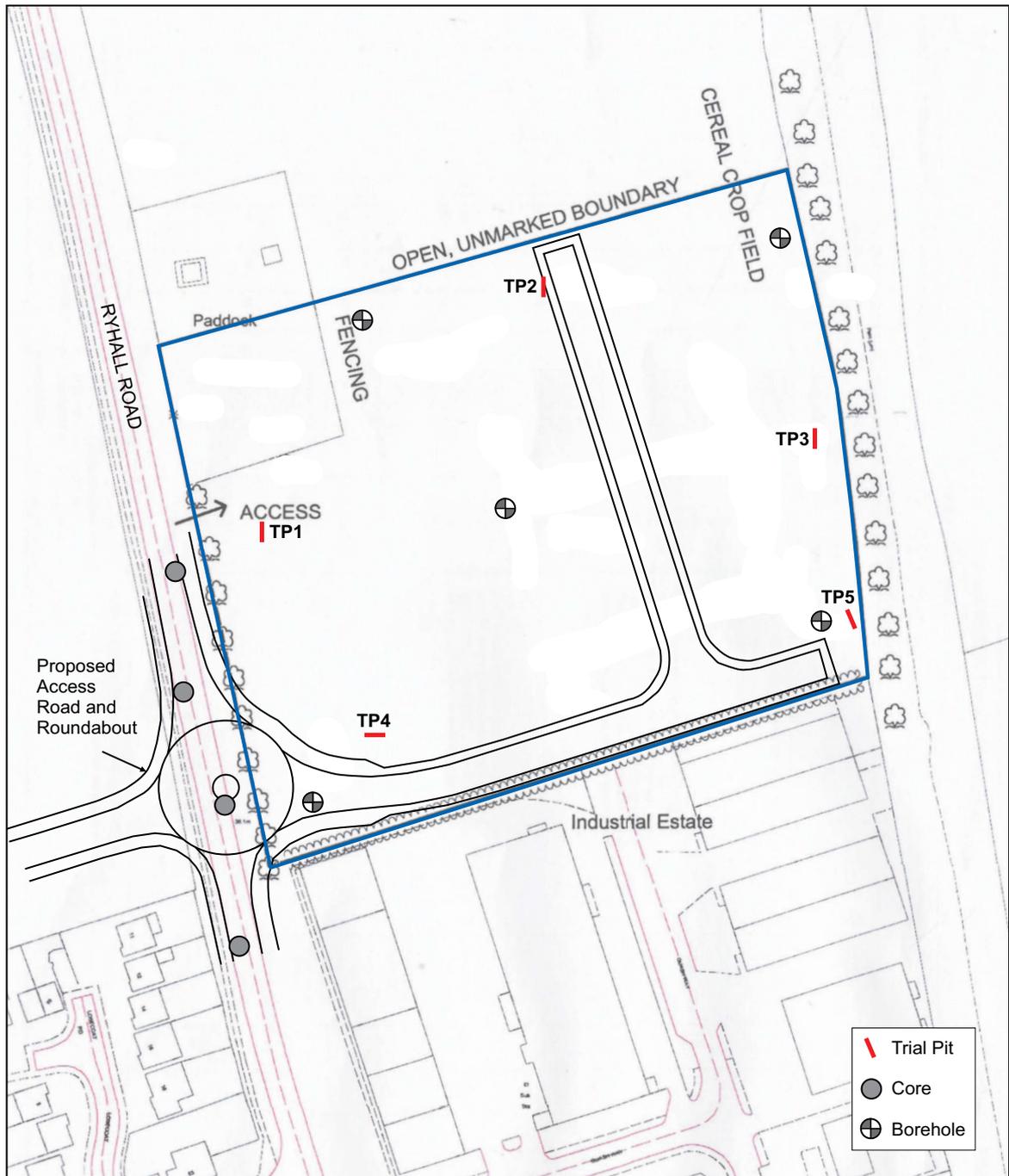


Fig. 2 Locations of the monitored trial pits (based on a plan supplied by the client, reproduced at 1:1000. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

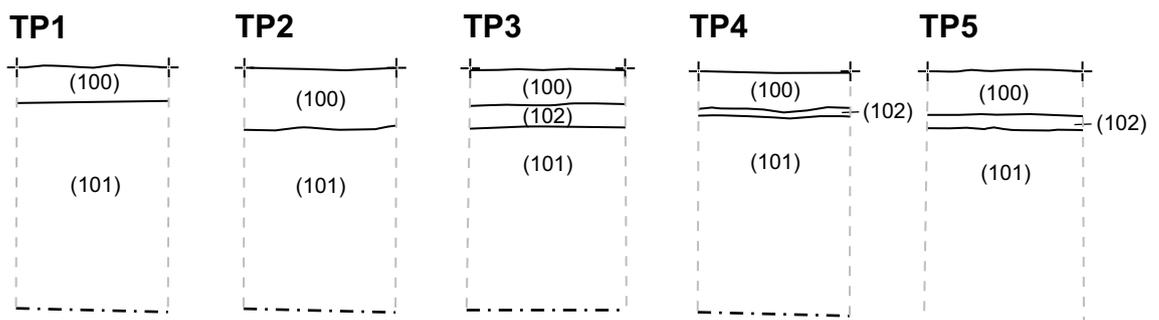


Fig. 3 Sections showing the soil deposits seen in the trial pits (1:50).



Pl. 1 The site slopes down towards the north and north-east (looking north-east, with the vehicle close to TP 2).



Pl. 2 The south-eastern part of the site (looking north, in the position of TP5).



Pl. 3 Limestone bedrock in Trial Pit TP 2 (looking west, scale 1m).



Pl. 4 Trial Pit TP3 (looking north).



Pl. 5 Trial Pit TP 4 (looking south-west, scale 1m).

Appendix 2

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