

**SOUTHERN EXTENSION TO NO. 3 ABBEY PARK
TORKSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING
REPORT**

NGR: SK 8387 7890
WLDC Planning Ref.: 124495
LCNCC Accn No.:2009. 154
Site Code: TAPT 09
PCA Job No.: 592

Report for
Stuart Kinch

(on behalf of Mr Stock & Mrs Stock-
Cheekooree)

by
G. Tann

March 2010



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road,
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
Fax: 01522 703656
e-mail: info@pre-construct.co.uk

Contents

Site Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
2 Site Location	2
3 Planning Background	2
3 Geology and Topography	3
4 Archaeological Background	3
5 Methodology	3
6 Results	4
7 Conclusion	4
8 Effectiveness of Methodology	4
9 Bibliography	4
10 Acknowledgements	4
11 Site Archive	4

Illustrations

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25 000).

Fig. 2 Site Plan (1:1250).

Fig. 3 Plan and section of the extension footings (Plan 1:50, Section 1: 20).

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Appendix 3: Pottery Report *Jane Young*

Appendix 4: Tile Report *Jane Young*

Appendix 5: Animal Bone Report *Jane Young*

Appendix 6: Oasis Form

Summary

- *Archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during excavations for a house extension identified no significant archaeological deposits or features.*
- *It was established that the site had been artificially raised during the construction of the existing residential development; a process that had inadvertently resulted in the re-deposition of a mixed group of finds dating from the Late Saxon period to the modern era.*

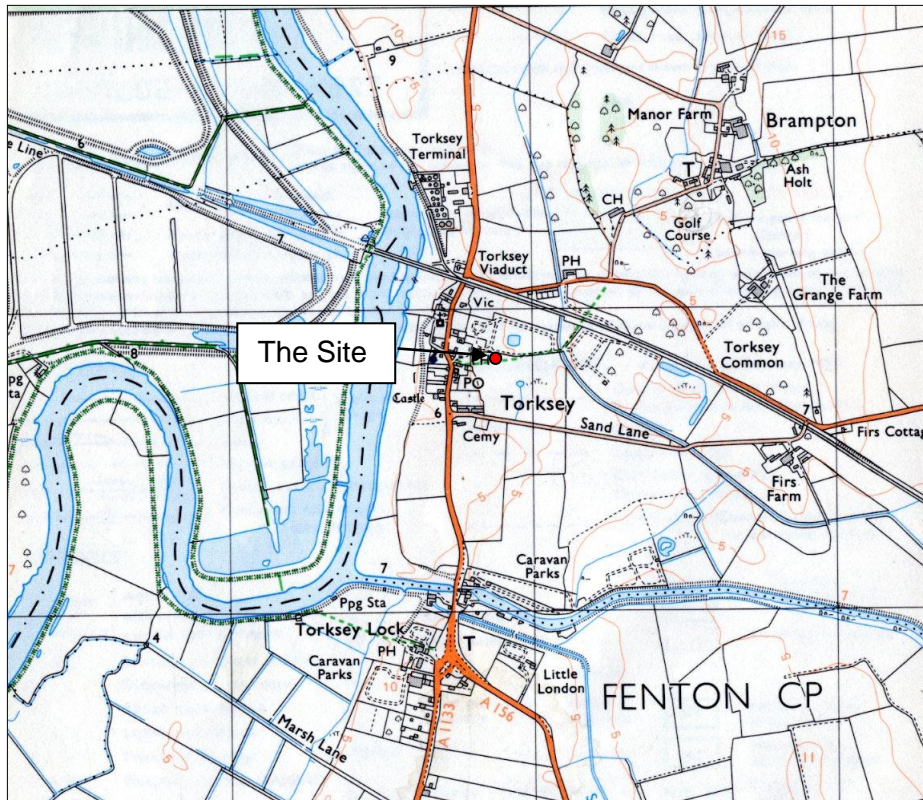


Fig. 1 Site location plan. Site highlighted in red. Scale at 1:25 000 (based on the 2000 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 271. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording for Mr R. Stock and Mrs Stock-Cheekooree during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to No. 3 Abbey Park, Torksey. Mr M Rowe of PCA undertook the fieldwork on 13/10/2009.

2. Site location and description

Abbey Park is a recent residential development, located within the parish of Torksey, to the east of the A1133 Main Street.. No. 3 lies at the northern edge of this small estate (NGR SK 8387 7890). The monitored extension is situated to the front of the existing house, within a flat lawned area (PI. 1).

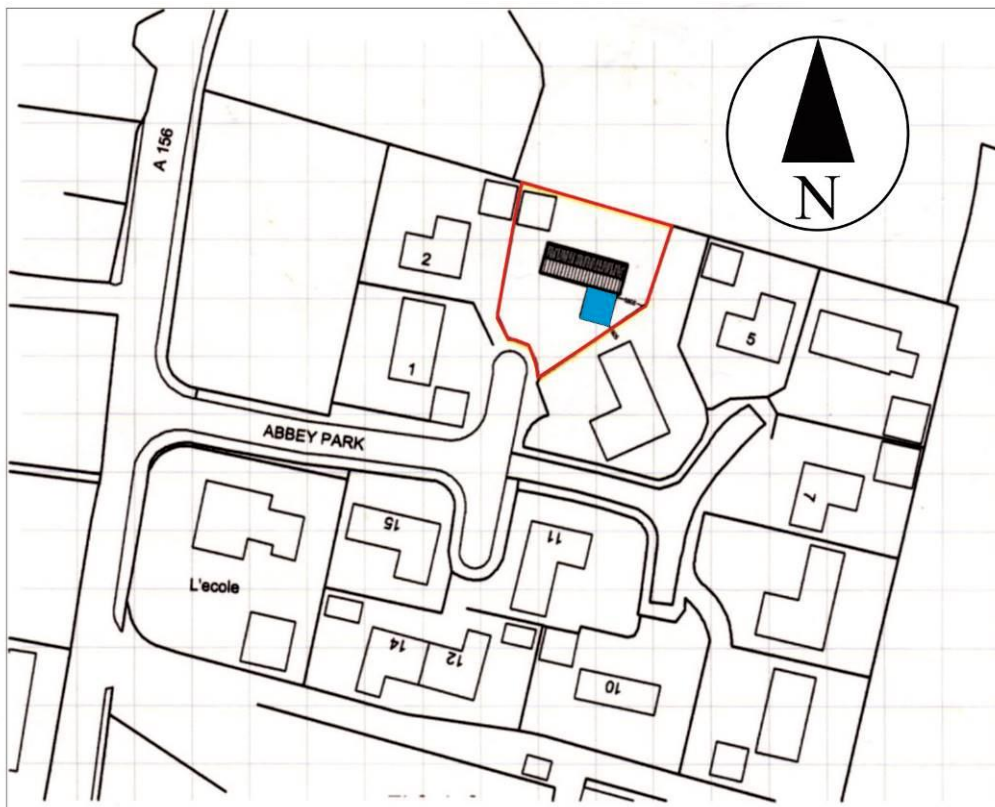


Fig. 2: Site Location Plan. 3 Abbey Park Torksey is outlined in red. The area of development monitored is highlighted in blue. Scale at 1:1250. Map supplied by developer. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278

3. Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for the construction of a single-storey extension to the front and rear of the existing house, with a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation; approved in writing by the LPA. The required programme of investigation consisted of archaeological monitoring and recording during all intrusive groundworks.

The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with an agreed Archaeological Works Specification prepared by PCA, dated October 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); and *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2009).

The proposed rear extension has not been constructed.

4.0 Geology and topography

The site is approximately 250m east of the River Trent, where the mean elevation is approximately 8m OD. The British Geological Survey has mapped drift deposits in the vicinity as typical sandy gley soils of the Blackwood Association.

5.0 Archaeological Background

Torksey is a settlement with an archaeological and historical significance very much greater than its present size and status would suggest. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records that the Danish army over-wintered at Torksey in 873 AD; presumably even at that date sufficient resources were available in the immediate vicinity.

It was a royal borough prior to the Norman Conquest, and by the 10th century it possessed its own mint. It had a market, and a pottery industry which was particularly active between the 9th and 12th centuries. There were three churches (though the sites of two are not known with certainty), and two monastic houses. The site of St Leonard's Priory remains unconfirmed, but archaeological evaluation of the Abbey Park development site identified stone foundations at the eastern edge of the development which are suspected to mark its location.

The economic status of Torksey is thought to have resulted largely from its position on the River Trent; at the junction with the Foss Dyke, a canalised waterway linking the Trent with the Witham at Lincoln. The canal was certainly in use by the Saxon period but is thought possibly to be of Roman origin.

The settlement has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations since the 1990s, as areas of open ground have been developed. The Abbey Park estate was built within the area of a former caravan park.

In addition to the stone foundations to the east, the investigations of the Abbey Park development site identified human burials, some associated with a former apsidal-ended building beside Main Street. Land to the east and south of that building had been occupied from the late Saxon period to the early medieval period, and remains of a possible Saxon *grubenhaus* structure were found.

The evaluation at Abbey Park identified a medieval well, late Saxon and post-medieval remains in the trenches closest to No. 3, but the indications were that archaeological activity had diminished in this vicinity.

6.0 Methodology

The foundation trench for the three sides of the extension was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.05m by a mini-digger fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket (Pl. 2); slightly deeper than the existing foundations. These works were undertaken with an archaeologist in attendance. A photographic record was maintained, and selected photographs accompany this report (Appendix 1). Context sheets were used for recording purposes (Appendix 2).

7.0 Results

Beneath the turf was a 0.4m thick layer of grey/brown sandy silt (101), which sealed 0.35m of much darker material (102) – a disturbed or redeposited topsoil. Both of these layers were associated with the construction of the present residential development, under construction since the mid-1990's. Animal bone fragments and pottery sherds were present in both layers, and medieval tile fragments (including part of a glazed ridge tile) were found in context (102) (Appendices 3 - 5). The upper layer (101) produced Late Saxon, late medieval, and modern sherds, while layer (102) contained Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sherds. Two plastic pipes crossed the foundation trenches at depths of 0.85m – 0.9m below the lawn.

Beneath the buried / redeposited topsoil (102) was a brown sandy silt (103), that yielded two sherds of Late Saxon pottery and small stones (Pl. 3). This layer was at least 0.3m thick and may have been a former ploughed soil.

8.0 Conclusion

No significant archaeological features were identified within the foundation trenches. Deposits within 0.8m of existing ground level appear to have been associated with the development of the Abbey Park residential estate since the mid 1990s. It is conceivable that the lowest layer encountered, which incorporated fragments of pottery, bone and tile, was possibly a demolition horizon associated with clearance of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval buildings on land in the vicinity (the sites of a probable church and other ecclesiastical structures have been located during previous archaeological investigations on the Abbey Park site).

No undisturbed, naturally formed deposits were evident within the foundation trenches, indicating that medieval or earlier archaeological remains could survive beneath the level of the house and extension foundation trenches.

9.0 Bibliography

BGS 1999 *British Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales); Solid and Drift; Sheet 102: Market Rasen*. Scale 1:50,000.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCA would like to thank Mr Stock & Mrs Stock-Cheekooree, and Stuart Kinch for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The archive is currently held at the offices of PCA and will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln (LCNCC 2009.154).

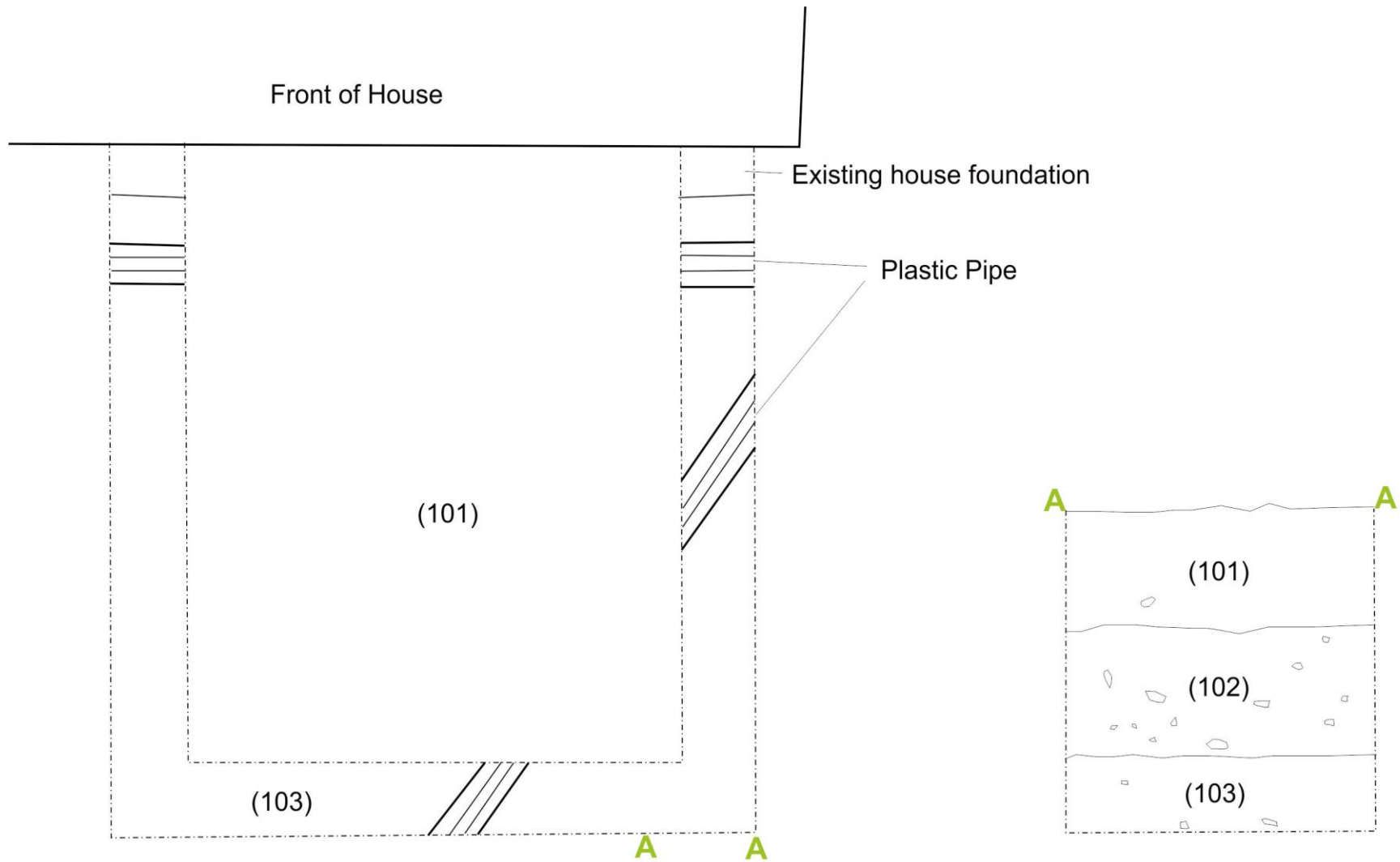


Fig.3: Plan and section of extension footings. Plan at 1:50 and Section at 1:20 @ A4.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



PI. 1 Location of the site of the new extension to the south of No. 3 Abbey Park (looking north-east).



PI. 2 Footprint of the new extension (looking south-west towards No. 1 Abbey Park).



Pl. 3 Buried topsoil (102) and overlying sandy levelling deposit (101) cut by the trenches for the new foundations. The brown stony soil (103) near the trench base may represent a demolition or site levelling layer dating to destruction of St Leonard's Priory and other structures in the immediate vicinity. (Looking south-west; scales 1m).

Appendix 2**Context Summary (TAPT 09)**

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds/Dating
101	Layer	Above 102	Grey/brown very sandy silt topsoil and turf, with crushed limestone, and bone fragments. 0.4m thick.	The deposit contained late Saxon, late medieval, and modern pottery sherds.
102	Layer	Below 101, above 103	Mixed dark grey/brown sandy silt, with limestone and sandstone fragments and infrequent wood fragments. 0.36m thick.	The deposit contained late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds. Medieval tile & animal bone
103	Layer	Below 102	Brown sandy silt with infrequent limestone fragments; at least 0.3m thick.	The deposit contained sherds of Late Saxon pottery and animal bone.

Appendix 3

Pottery Archive for 3 Abbey Park, Torksey, Lincolnshire (TAPT 09)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
101	TORK	Torksey ware		small jar	1	1	7	BS	thin walled;thick ext soot	late 9th to early 11th
101	HUM	Humberware		jug	1	1	3	BS	flake	late 13th to mid 16th
101	WHITE	Modern whiteware		dish	1	1	10	rim	red painted line at rim	mid/late 19th to 20th
102	MEDX	Non Local Medieval	light buff/grey/buff;fine sandy	jar/bowl	1	1	16	base	soot;spots green glaze;abundant fine quartz comm fine fe	13th to 15th
102	NOTGR	Reduced Nottingham Green Glazed ware		jug	1	1	11	BS	pocked reduced glaze	late 13th to 14th
102	HUM	Humberware		small jug	1	1	4	BS	internal deposit	late 13th to mid 16th
102	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar/bowl	1	1	5	base		mid 12th to early/mid 13th
102	TORK	Torksey ware		jar	1	1	20	BS	soot	late 9th to early 11th
103	TORK	Torksey ware		jar	1	1	5	BS	oxid with dark ext surfaces	late 9th to early 11th
103	TORK	Torksey ware		small jar	1	1	6	BS	thin walled	late 9th to early 11th

16 February 2010

Page 1 of 1

Appendix 4

Tile Archive for 3 Abbey Park, Torksey, Lincolnshire (TAPT 09)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
102	GRID	Glazed ridge tile	Torksey Fabric 1	1	94	thin walled at 12mm;mortar;longitudinal scar from	late 12th to 13th
102	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Torksey Fabric 3	1	6	flat roofer;soot;salt surface	late 12th to 14th

Appendix 5:

3 Abbey Park, Torksey, Lincolnshire (TAPT 09) *The Animal Bone* By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 17 (205g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at 3 Abbey Park, Torksey, Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from made ground layer (102) and former soil horizon (103) both provisionally dated from the medieval to Post-Medieval periods.

Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996). No evidence of burning, gnawing or pathology was noted on the remains.

A total of 4 fragments displayed evidence of butchery. All of the cut mark evidence appears to be consistent with jointing of the carcass.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
102	Pig	Skull- frontal	R	1	7	
	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	R	1	17	Distal shaft, cut and snapped midshaft
	Sheep/Goat	Innominate	R	1	13	Chopped and snapped through Ilium
	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	R	1	6	Lower M3=g
	Cattle	Tooth	L	1	22	Upper M2
	Cattle	Sacrum	R	1	33	S1, chopped longitudinally
	Cattle	Scapula	L	1	42	Mid-blade
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	19	Two knife cuts on the lateral side of the blade
	Large Mammal Size	Skull	X	6	14	Fragments
103	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	2	15	
	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	R	1	10	Distal Shaft

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals. The assemblage appears to represent domestic butchery waste.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 6:

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Southern Extension to 3 Abbey Park Torksey, Lincolnshire - Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

OASIS ID - preconst3-73010

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	laura	laura@pre-construct.co.uk	24 February 2010
View 2	2	Laura	laura@pre-construct.co.uk	24 February 2010

Completed sections in current version

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

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?