

LAND SOUTH OF MAIN STREET, STURTON BY SCAWBY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NGR:	SE 96939 04494
Planning Authority:	North Lincolnshire Council
PCAS site code:	MSSE 21
PCAS job no.:	2484
Accession No.:	TBC
OASIS id:	preconst3-425940

Prepared for

Quodos Homes Ltd.

by

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July 2021



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Summary

To inform an application for planning permission, an archaeological evaluation consisting of five 30m x 2m trenches and one 8m x 2m trench was undertaken on land south of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby, North Lincolnshire.

The site of proposed development lies 0.05km to the south west of a Roman villa (HER no 2398): a Roman mosaic pavement and a large architectural fragment were exposed at Home Farm, to the north of the development area, however the location of the main villa building and its surrounding complex has yet to be confirmed. Given that the proposed development site is within an area of potential archaeological importance, evaluation was deemed an appropriate measure in order to determine the presence/absence and significance of any archaeological remains prior to any development taking place.

The evaluation encountered two ditches in one trench, one of which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. This report details the findings of the evaluation.

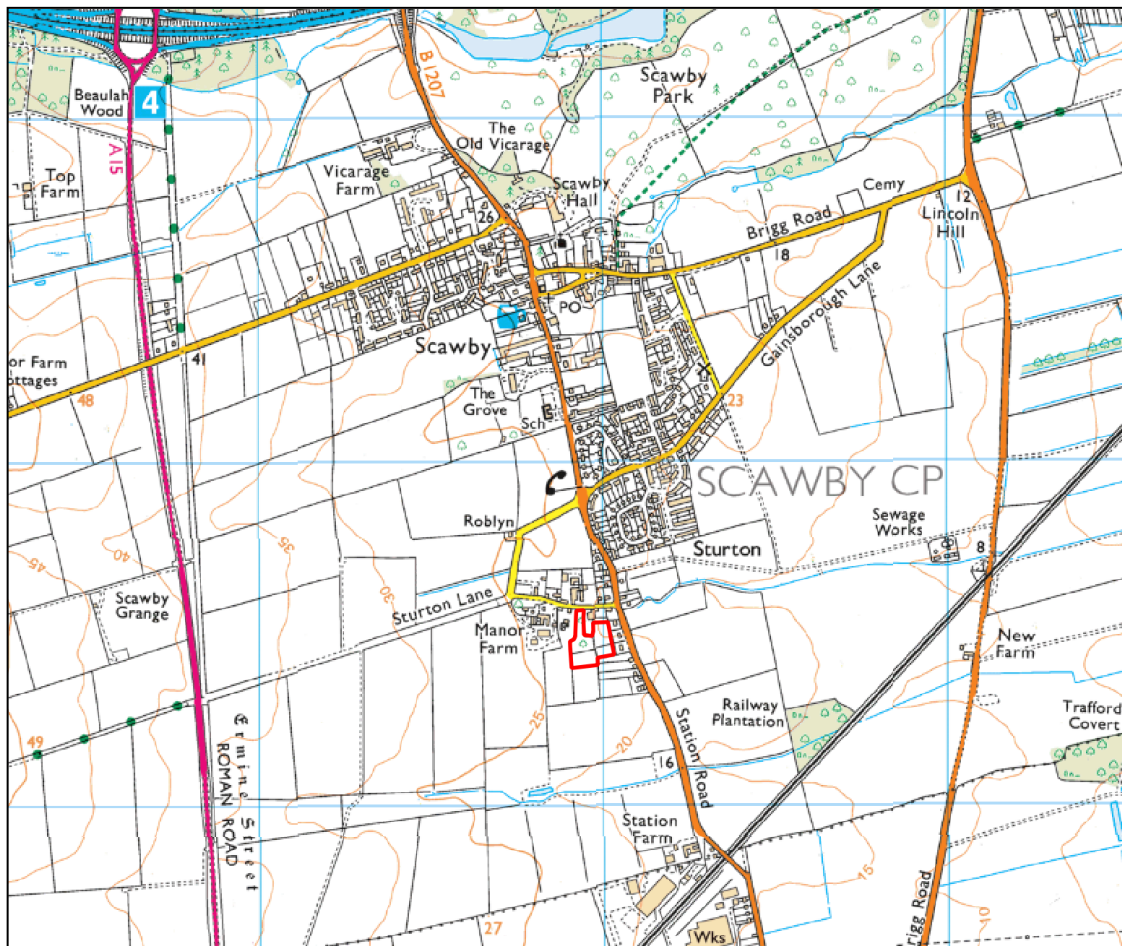


Figure 1: Location plan at scale 1:25,000. The position of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Qudos Homes Ltd to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation on land situated to the south of Main Street, Sturton, North Lincolnshire. This report documents the results of the evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with current best practice, taking into consideration the following documentation:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2019 revision;
- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct, 2019 revision;
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations, 2019 revision;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015).
- The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (revised 2019)

2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Sturton lies within the parish of Scawby in the county of North Lincolnshire. The village is approximately 4km south-west of Brigg, 9km south east of Scunthorpe and 33km directly north of Lincoln. The proposed development site is just over 1km east of the Roman road, Ermine Street (now the A15).

Sturton was formerly an independent hamlet directly to the south of Scawby, yet by the 19th century it had merged with Scawby as the settlement extended. The Scawby Conservation Area does not reach Sturton.

The site is currently undeveloped, with paddocks bounding its southern side, residential properties to the north and east, and the former site of Sturton Nurseries to the west.

The approximate national grid reference is SE 96939 04494.

3.0 Topography and Geology

Sturton lies approximately 17km to the south of the Humber Estuary, on the western edge of the Ancholme Valley, with the River Ancholme situated only 3km to the east. The Lincolnshire HLC includes the village within the Broughton Woodlands, part of the Northern Cliff Character Area. The area is described as having a strongly rural character, with a typical medieval nucleated settlement core surrounded by their open fields, originally with common grazing to the west of Ermine Street, down on the Ancholme Carrs to the east (Character Zone NCL4, HLC for Lincolnshire, 2011). The closest recorded benchmark is situated on No. 11, Sturton Villas, with a height of approximately 23m OD (ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks).

The bedrock geology of the area consists of mudstone and limestone in the Kirton Cementstone Beds, a sedimentary bedrock formed 168 to 170 million years ago in shallow seas (bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012 (revised 2019). This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer: Paragraph 189 of NPPF states that "... Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with

archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation” (NPPF 2019).

The Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire Council requested that the current scheme of evaluation trenching should be undertaken, which was preceded by a geophysical survey (Bunn 2021). This combined approach was to inform the application for planning permission and to advise and inform any future (mitigation) works, if required.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

There is limited recorded prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the proposed development. A findspot recorded in 1972, of Neolithic flint flakes and scrapers (HE Pastscape no 63506) was located approximately 0.30km to the west of the proposed development. A Neolithic polished flint axe was also recovered 0.90km to the north west (HE Pastscape no 63330). Two sets of probable prehistoric or Roman dykes/boundaries were observed as cropmarks in 1994 by the RCHME (HE Pastscape nos 1058232, 1058233), both within 0.40km of the site.

Within 1km of the study area, recorded Roman activity is extensive. In the 1816-17, two Roman mosaic floors overlying a hypocaust were uncovered at Sturton Farm (HER no 2398), along with a sword, battle-axe and jet crucifix. This site is thought to be the remains of a Roman villa and bathhouse and is located 0.05km to the north of the proposed development. Further Roman architectural fragments were uncovered under a barn at Home Farm in 1949 and in 1964. A Roman trumpet brooch was also found nearby. In 1949, a representative of Scunthorpe Museum visited Home Farm in order to view a supposed Roman coffin, which was concluded to be an arch support from a building. During a watching brief carried out by Humber Field Archaeology in 2002, a limestone wall foundation was exposed (HER no 19783), which is possibly related to the Roman villa. The wall survived to a height of two courses and was visible only for 1m and located approximately 0.6m below the surface of a road. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2009 by ARS Ltd; eight trial trenches were excavated in the immediate area of the farm buildings. The trenches revealed extensive quarrying of the limestone bedrock within the farmyard. Most finds were from backfill deposits and were of post-medieval date. No trace of Roman occupation was discovered (NMR 1841360). With this, the location of main villa building, and its related complex of domestic and farm building and bathhouse is yet to be identified. There are various Roman pottery and coin findspots within 1km, from fine wares such as Samian with unidentifiable stamps, to colour coated pottery and greywares. This is potentially due to the proximity of the Roman road Ermine Street (HER nos 15545, 13413, 2407).

A geophysical survey undertaken prior to intrusive evaluation (Bunn 2021) indicated some potential linear features within the proposed development area; possibly ancillary ditches related to the nearby Roman villa.

The village of Sturton is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086; Sturton named as Straitone, Stratone. Stratton 1203, Strettun 1212, Straton' 1225, Stretun' 1226. 'The farmstead, the village near or on the Roman Road' from the Old English straet and -tun (HER no 16399).

There are few remaining earthworks surrounding the village indicating the former medieval field systems, yet the formation of the settlement, a nucleated centre surrounded with fields, represents its history. During the eighteenth century these parishes were enclosed by Act of Parliament, creating a new landscape pattern of rectilinear fields with long, straight hedge boundaries. Instead of being farmed by residents of the villages, as before, the new fields were worked by farmers who lived among their fields in isolated farms, with some exceptions such as Home Farm to the north of the proposed development.

6.0 Methodology

The scheme involved the investigation of five trenches, one measuring 8m x 2m and the others measuring 30m x 2m; positioned to investigate anomalies picked up by geophysical survey. The geophysics suggested that there was limited potential for archaeological remains, but did record linear anomalies that could potentially be related to the nearby Roman villa. Trenches were located to target these anomalies.

Trenches were positioned using survey grade GPS and were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:100, and sections were prepared at 1:20. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS Context Record Sheets, and an excavation site diary was also maintained. A digital photographic record was prepared, and extracts from this are reproduced throughout the text.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the site, which was returned to PCAS's office for cleaning and specialist assessment.

The fieldwork was carried out by Tom Bell and Leigh Brocklehurst and took place between the 28th and 29th June 2021.

7.0 Results

Trench 1 was located in the northern area of the site and targeted two linear anomalies picked up by geophysical survey. The trench measured 8m x 2m; shortened due to the presence of trees. The natural substrate (101) was exposed at a depth of 0.3m and consisted of a mid-orange sandy silt with frequent limestone brash. Cutting into this were two ditches that aligned perfectly with the geophysics results (see fig. 2). Ditch [102] was orientated east to west, with moderately steep sides and a flat base, measuring 1.3m in width and 0.5m in depth, spanning the width of the trench. This feature contained a single fill, (103), of mid-grey-brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments. A single sherd of medieval pot was recovered, suggesting the ditch is probably of medieval date. The second exposed ditch, [104], was situated to the north of [102] and was possibly related, though at roughly 90 degrees to it and beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch [104] was aligned north to south, with moderately steep sides and a flat base and measured 1.05m in width and 0.35m in depth. Its single fill (105) comprised a mid-grey-brown sandy silt incorporating moderate amounts of limestone. No dating evidence was recovered. The trench was sealed by a dark grey-brown, fine, sandy silt topsoil (100).



Plate 1: General, Trench 1 looking south.



Plate 2: Ditch [102] looking west.



Plate 3: Ditch [104] looking north.

All other trenches exposed the natural substrate between 0.45m and 0.58m beneath existing ground level. The geology consisted of mixed patches of light grey clay and patches of compact mid-orange silty sand, with areas of mid-orange sandy silt and frequent limestone brash. The natural in all the trenches was sealed by a mid-brownish orange sandy silt subsoil, between 0.18m and 0.46m in thickness, and a dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil approximately 0.3m in thickness.

No archaeological features were exposed in Trenches 2 to 6.



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking north east.



Plate 5: Trench 3 looking south east.



Plate 6: Trench 4 looking east.



Plate 7: Trench 5 looking south east.

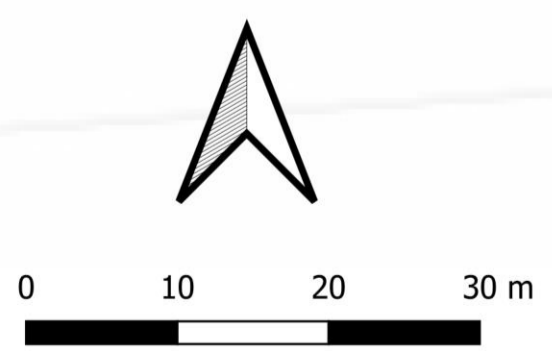


Plate 8: Trench 6 looking east.

- Site boundary
- Limit of Excavation
- Archaeological feature
- Sondage
- Archaeologically Negative Trench



Figure 2
Trench Location Plan (overlying geophysical survey)
1:500







-  Limit of Excavation
-  Archaeological feature
-  Sondage
-  Section

Fig. 3.3

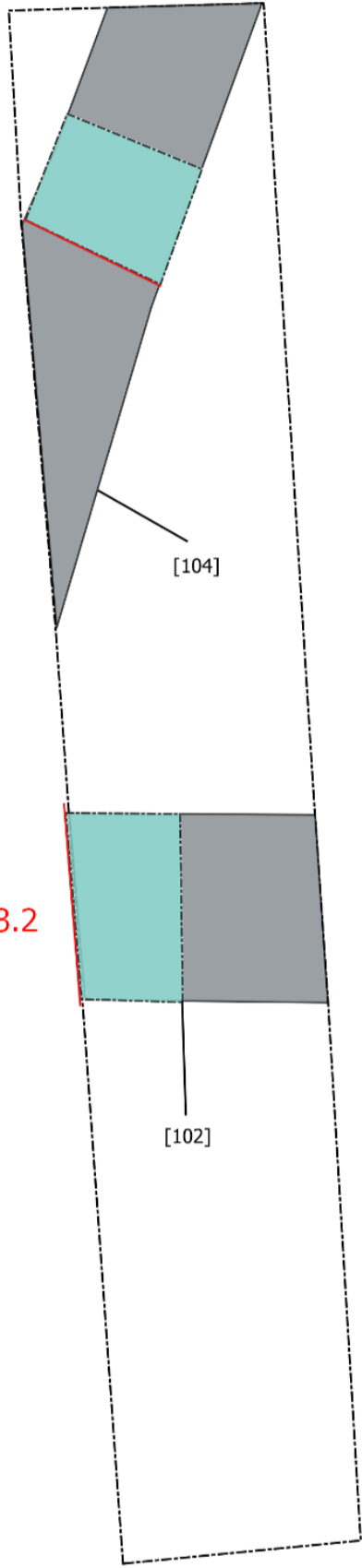


Fig. 3.2

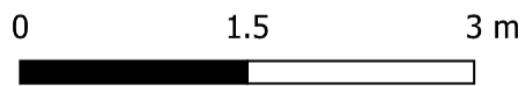


Fig. 3.2

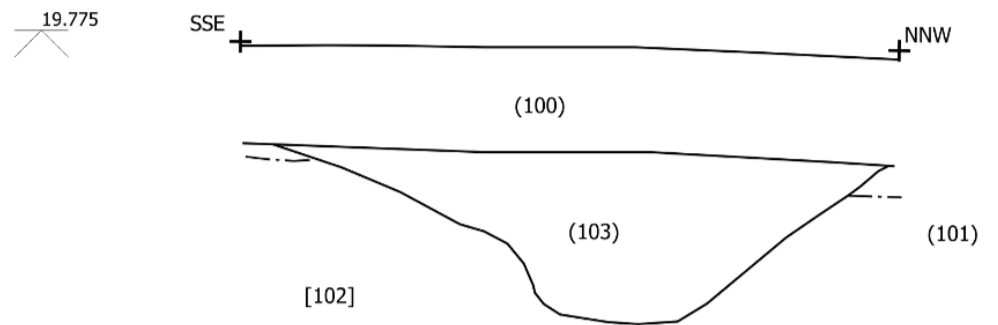
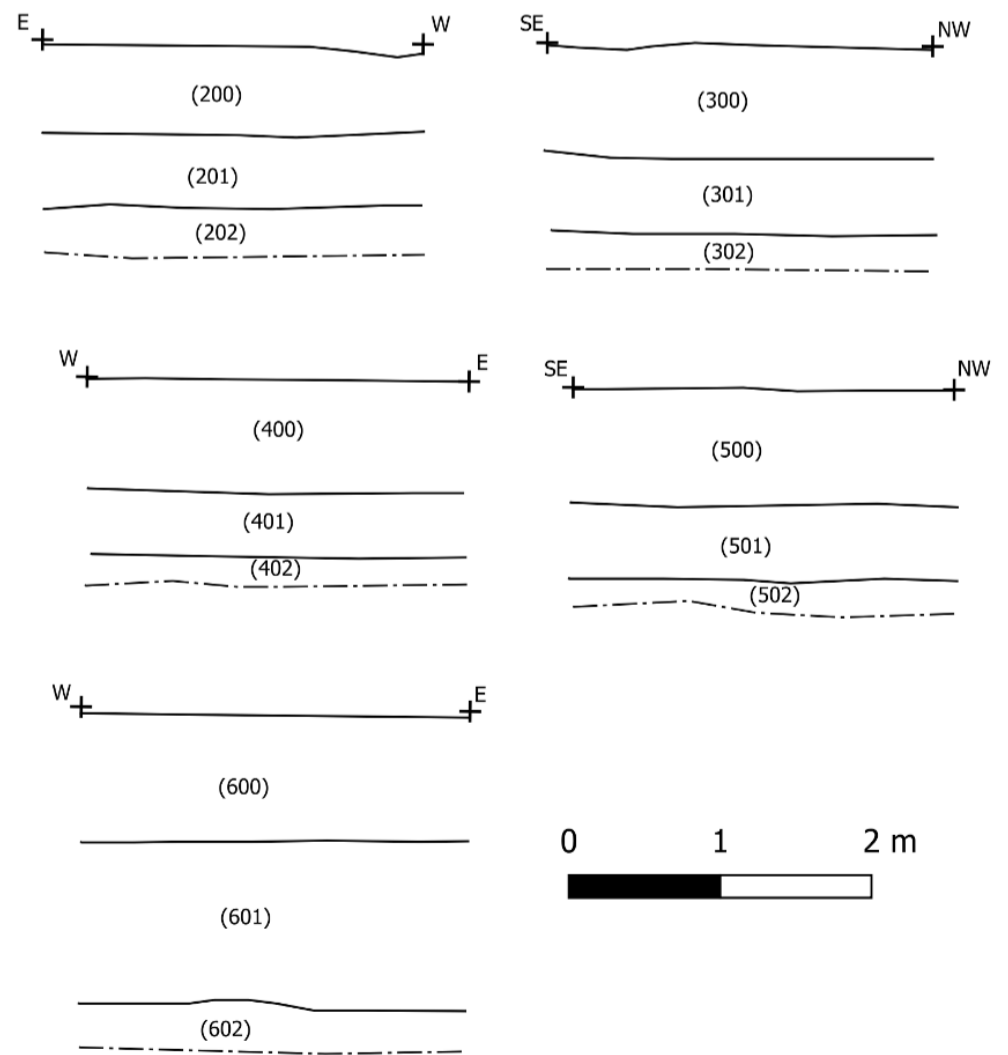
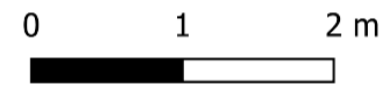
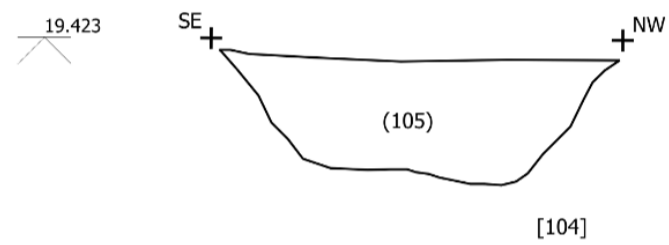


Fig. 3.3



8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Only two ditches were exposed during the evaluation, both in Trench 1 at the north of the site. Ditch [102] yielded a single sherd of pottery which has been identified as being 13th to 15th century in date. The presence of medieval pottery suggests that this ditch is probably not associated with the nearby Roman villa. Ditch [104] yielded no dating evidence but was conceivably associated with ditch [102].

The absence of any other features within the proposed development area suggests that the site was used primarily as agricultural land to supplement the nearby settlements.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Archaeological trenching has been effective in establishing the presence of geophysical anomalies and then a limited density of ditches at the north end of the site only. Other anomalies recorded beyond this do not appear to translate to archaeological features. As only a single sherd of pottery was recovered, dating the two features that were investigated remains difficult but suggests that they were unlikely to have been associated with the purported Roman villa.

10.0 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording will be deposited with printed copies of this report at North Lincolnshire Museum in Scunthorpe in or before June 2022; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

11.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Prospect Archaeology and Quodos Homes for this commission.

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

<https://opendomesday.org>

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description
Trench 1		
100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.3m thick
101	Natural	Mid-orange sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments
102	Cut	E-W orientated ditch with steep stone-cut sides and a flat base, 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep
103	Fill	Fill of ditch [102]; a mid-grey brown sandy silt with frequent stone fragments
104	Cut	Large N-S orientated ditch, steep stone-cut sides and flat base, 1.05m wide and 0.35m deep
105	Fill	Mid-grey brown sandy silt with frequent stone fragments
Trench 2		
200	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.24m thick
201	Subsoil	Mid-brown orange sand silt with occasional limestone fragments 0.2m thick
202	Natural	Mixed patches of light grey clay and patches of compact mid-orange silty sand
Trench 3		
300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.3m thick
301	Subsoil	Mid-brown orange sand silt with occasional limestone fragments 0.2m thick
302	Natural	Mixed patches of light grey clay and patches of compact mid-orange silty sand
Trench 4		
400	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.3m thick
401	Subsoil	Dark brownish orange sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments 0.18m thick
402	Natural	Mid-orange sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments
Trench 5		
500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.3m thick
501	Subsoil	Mid-brown orange sand silt with occasional limestone fragments 0.2m thick
502	Natural	Mixed patches of light grey clay and patches of compact mid-orange silty sand
Trench 6		
600	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt, loose, 0.34m thick
601	Subsoil	Mid-brown orange sand silt with occasional limestone fragments 0.46m thick
602	Natural	Mixed patches of light grey clay and patches of compact mid-orange silty sand

Appendix 2: The Ceramic Finds

Excavation at Main Street, Sturton by Scawby, North Lincolnshire (MSSE21)

THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Barclay *et al* (2016).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	Nos	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
103	HUMG	Humberware Gritty	Jug	1	1	26	BS	

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
103	Mid 13th to 15th	Date on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

BS Body Sherd

CXT Context

NoS Number of Sherds

NoV Number of vessels

W <g> Weight <grams>

REFERENCES

Barclay, A., Booth, P., Brown, D. H., Evans, J., Knight, D. and I. Wood, 2016, *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* [Internet], Medieval Pottery Research Group, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman pottery. Available at <<https://medievalpottery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A-Standard-for-Pottery-Studies-in-Archaeology.pdf>>

Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

12.1 OASIS ID: preconst3-425940

Project details

Project name	Land south of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby
Short description of the project	Land south of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby: archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 28-06-2021 End: 29-06-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any project codes associated with reference	MSSE21 - Sitecode
Any project codes associated with reference	2484 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods techniques	& "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

*Land South of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby
Archaeological Evaluation*

Country	England
Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE SCAWBY Land south of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby: Archaeological Evaluation
Study area	13300 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 96939 04494 53.527900152643 -0.537441774343 53 31 40 N 000 32 14 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project originator	brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project originator	design PCAS Archaeology Ltd.
Project director/manager	Leigh Brocklehurst
Project supervisor	L. Brocklehurst and T. Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive North Lincolnshire Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital recipient	Archive Northern Lincolnshire Museum Service
Digital available	Media "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper recipient	Archive Northern Lincolnshire Museum Service
Paper available	Media "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land south of Main Street, Sturton by Scawby: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Neale, R.
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	PCAS Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln

Entered by	Ruby Neale (ruby.neale@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)
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Entered on	13 July 2021
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