

**LAND TO THE EAST OF THE A15, REDBOURNE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 96143 99814  
Planning Authority: North Lincolnshire Council  
PCAS site code: ESRM 20  
PCAS job no.: 2407  
North Lincs site code: RDAU

Prepared for

North Lincolnshire Council

by

R. Neale

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PCAS Archaeology Ltd  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX



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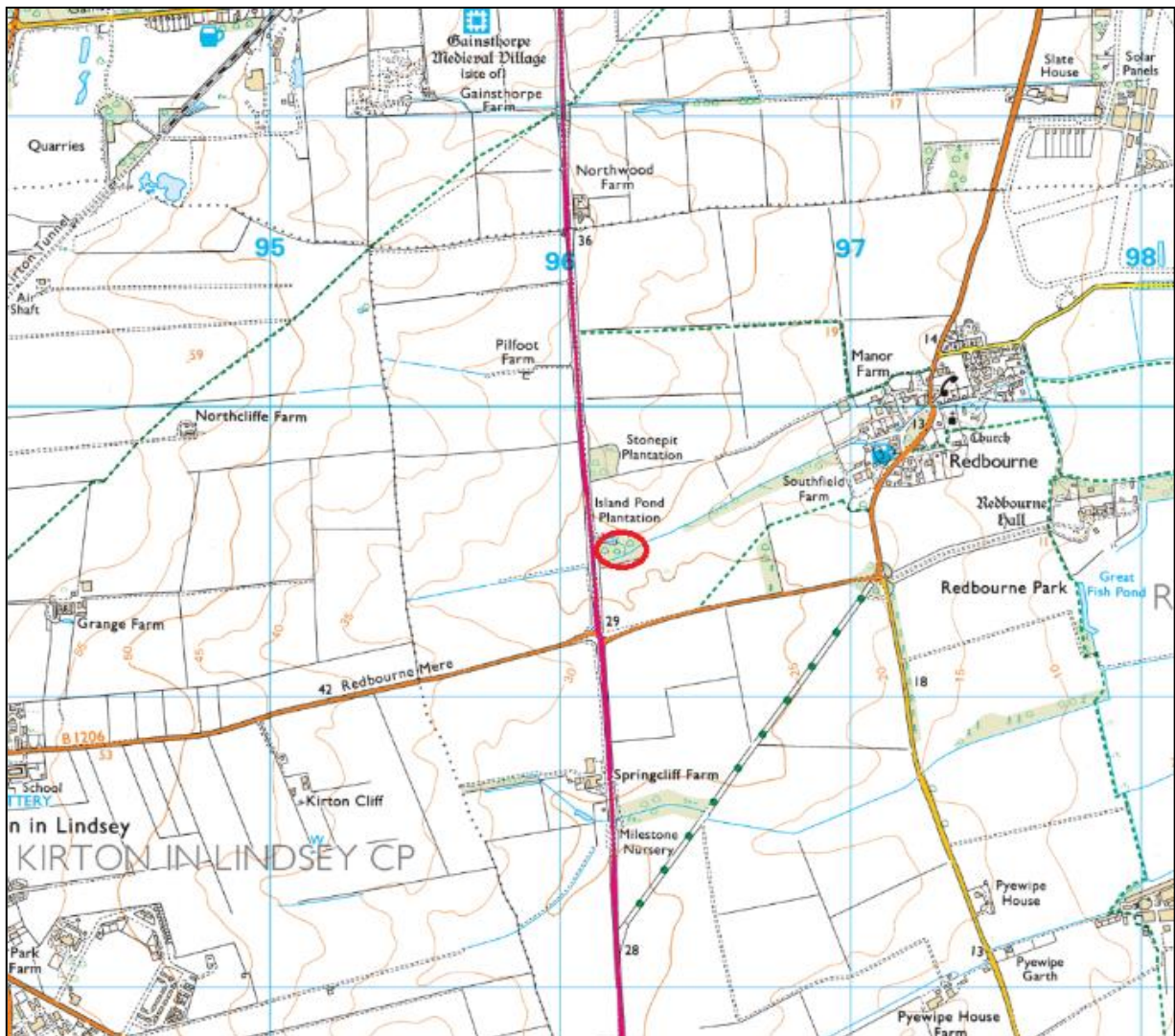
**PI. 3:** Bore hole 3, showing how small the bore holes were

## Summary

An archaeological observation, assessment and recording programme consisting of three 2m x 1m test pits and nine bore holes was undertaken on land east of Ermine Street, Redbourne, North Lincolnshire prior to flood mitigation works.

The site lies directly besides the modern day A15, which traces the route of the Roman road, Ermine Street. This indicates a high probability of Roman remains surviving in the vicinity of the site, and several Iron Age/Romano-British cropmarks have been identified in the surrounding landscape.

In the event, no archaeological features of any kind were exposed during the archaeological programme; however, observation within borehole cuts was impossible, and only three test pits were excavated.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site 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 North Lincolnshire Council to carry out a scheme of archaeological observation, assessment and recording on land to the immediate east of Ermine Street, Redbourne, North Lincolnshire. These works took place prior to flood mitigation engineering. It was carried out according to current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2019 revision;
- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct, 2019 revision;
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 2020 revision;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015)

## **2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)**

The site lies to the immediate east of the A15 (Ermine Street), approximately 1km to the west of the village of Redbourne. It encompasses an uncultivated area of land that is bordered to the south and north by cultivated fields. The site, which was recently cleared, had a significant tree cover and had become relatively overgrown.

The approximate national grid reference is SK 96143 99814.

## **3.0 Topography and Geology**

The site overlies a bedrock geology of Hibaldstow Limestone - Limestone, Ooidal. This is sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 168 to 170 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. It indicates a local environment previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site is generally flat, although it lies in a slight depression, with a small water course running through its centre. The ground rises to the north east, west and to the south.

## **4.0 Planning Background**

As the proposed works are not subject to planning consent, no conditions are in place. The NLHER has advised the local planning authority that a suitable mitigation strategy to deal with any archaeological remains that may be disturbed by the building works should consist of a programme of archaeological observation and recording during the construction groundwork.

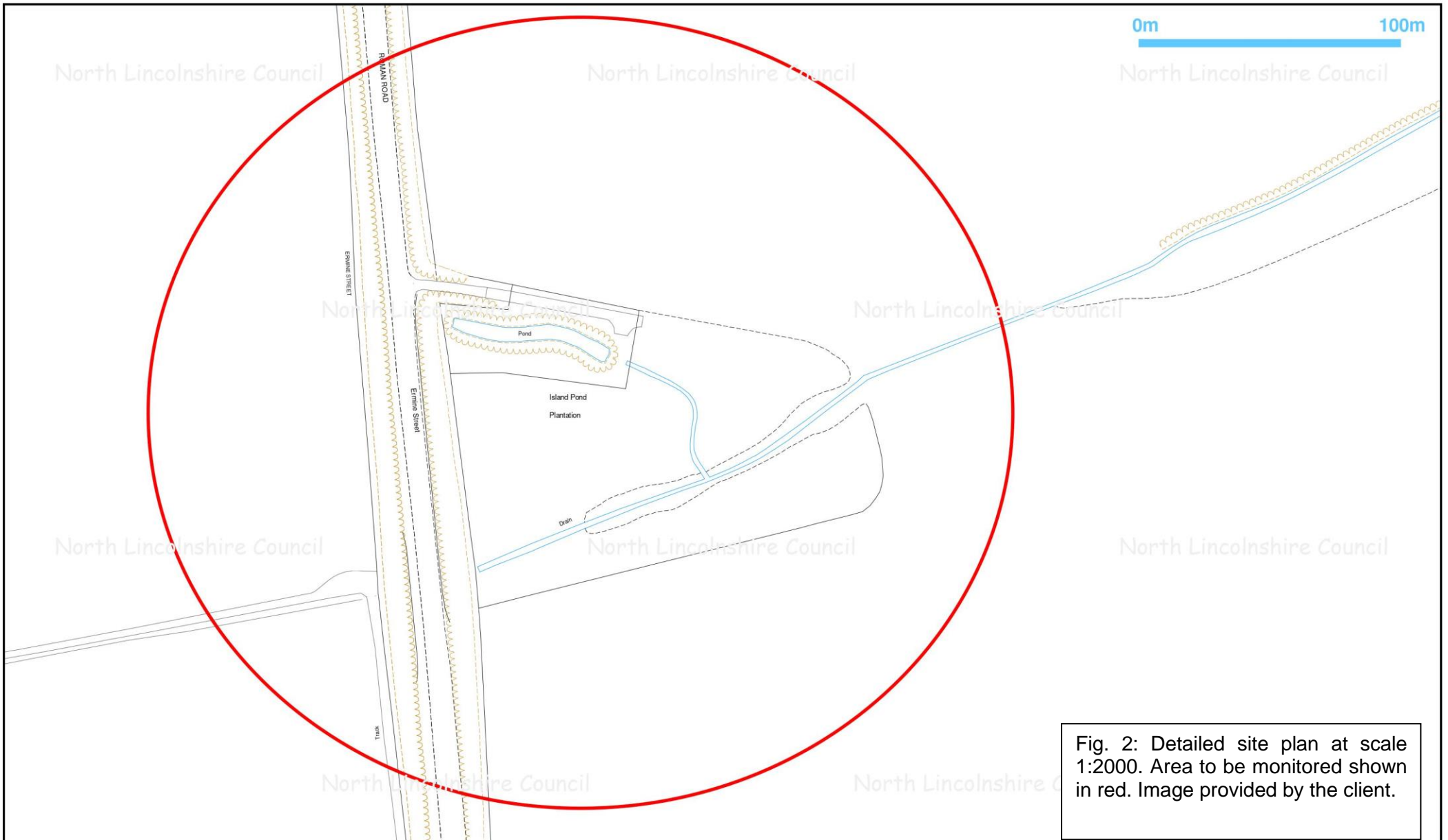


Fig. 2: Detailed site plan at scale 1:2000. Area to be monitored shown in red. Image provided by the client.



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Title: A15 South - Redbourne

Drawing No:

Version: 1

Drawn by: Mark Drust

Date: 07/09/2020

Scale @A4 1:2000



**Director of Deputy Chief Executive &  
Executive Director - Commercial  
Simon Green**

## 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies directly besides the modern day A15, which traces the route of the Roman road, Ermine Street. This suggests a high probability of Roman remains in the vicinity of the site. A total of forty records are recorded on the North Lincolnshire HER (Historic Environment Record) within a 1km radius from the centre of the site. These range from prehistoric find spots to post-medieval farmsteads.

Prehistoric activity on and around the development site (c. 1km radius) is mostly limited to flint findspots, with several Mesolithic to Bronze Age finds identified to the west of Ermine Street (**MLS19846** and **MLS19988**). In addition, a possible round barrow (**MLS17835**) has been seen as a cropmark to the south of Redbourne Mere, approximately 500m to the south west of the site.

Further to the early prehistoric activity, most of the records near to the site are likely to date to the Iron Age/Romano British period. This is to be expected due to its proximity to Ermine Street. These include Roman pottery finds to the west (**MLS19847**) and to the south east (**MLS2387**), as well as cropmarks representing enclosures and settlements (**MLS20593**, **MLS20894**, **MLS17827**, **MLS239**, **MLS19850**, **MLS22483**, **MLS20642**) in the landscape surrounding the site. The closest of these is a linear cropmark (**MLS19626**) seen to the immediate north of the development area. Further to these records, and the known presence of Ermine Street, another possible Roman road (**MLS20896**) was identified on cropmarks to the south east of the site. These find spots and cropmarks identify that there is a high potential for Iron Age/Romano-British finds to be identified on site. They indicate that the site sits within a probable agricultural landscape, although settlement in the area is a distinct possibility.

There are no medieval dated monuments within 1km of the site. Lying so close to the Roman road the site would have remained attractive; however, activity in this area would most likely be agricultural in nature.

There is a total of thirteen post-medieval records within 1km of the site. The majority of these are related to buildings located within the village of Redbourne itself, as well as some farmsteads located to the south and north of the site. As with the medieval period, the site and its surrounding areas would be ideal for agricultural activity, much like it is today.

## 6.0 Methodology

The archaeological observation, assessment and recording was focused on three 2m x 1m test pits, spaced across the site as indicated on fig. 3. The test pits were randomly positioned to sample the whole site, as there was no earlier information on which they could be targeted. A series of nine bore holes were also excavated using a 'dynamic sampler', but these were small round holes that could not be recorded to standard.

Test pits and bore holes were located using a GPS, and pits were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during this process.

The test pits and bore holes were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:2000 and sample sections of the test pits were also prepared at 1:20 scale. Section drawings were located on the base plans, and Ordnance Datum levels were taken using a Global Positioning System. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS Context Record Sheets, and an excavation site diary was also maintained. A colour slide photographic record (supplemented by monochrome and

digital film photography where appropriate), and extracts from this are reproduced throughout this report. No finds were recovered.

The fieldwork was carried out by Stanley Palmer-Brown, and took place between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. Weather conditions at the time were variable, but generally favourable.

## 7.0 Results

A full context summary list appears as Appendix 1.

### 7.1 Test pits (fig. 3&4 )

All three test pits exposed a uniform stratigraphy; therefore, a single number was assigned to the topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and natural substrate (003), respectively (fig. 3). Two additional numbers were assigned to a variance of the natural substrate in the third test pit: a mid-brown silt (004) overlay a pure dark brown clay (005).

Test pits 1 and 2 displayed similar deposits, topsoil (001) measuring 0.3m in depth and subsoil (002) measuring between 0.1m and 0.2m. The difference in the natural substrate seen in test pit 3 could be linked to the proximity of the site to the nearby watercourse, suggesting that the dark clay deposit (005) is a fluvial or colluvial deposit as opposed to glacial, like (003) and (004).

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the test pits.



Plate 1: Test pit 1



**Plate 2:** Test pit 3 detail, showing full depth.

## 7.2 Bore Holes (fig. 3)

Nine small round holes were excavated using a 'dynamic sampler'. These measured roughly 0.3m in diameter and were photographed. Due to their small size, they were not drawn. No archaeological features were observed in these bore holes.



**Plate 3:** Bore hole 3, showing how small the bore holes were.

Fig. 3.1  
Plan of Test Pits and Bore Holes  
Scale: 1:1000

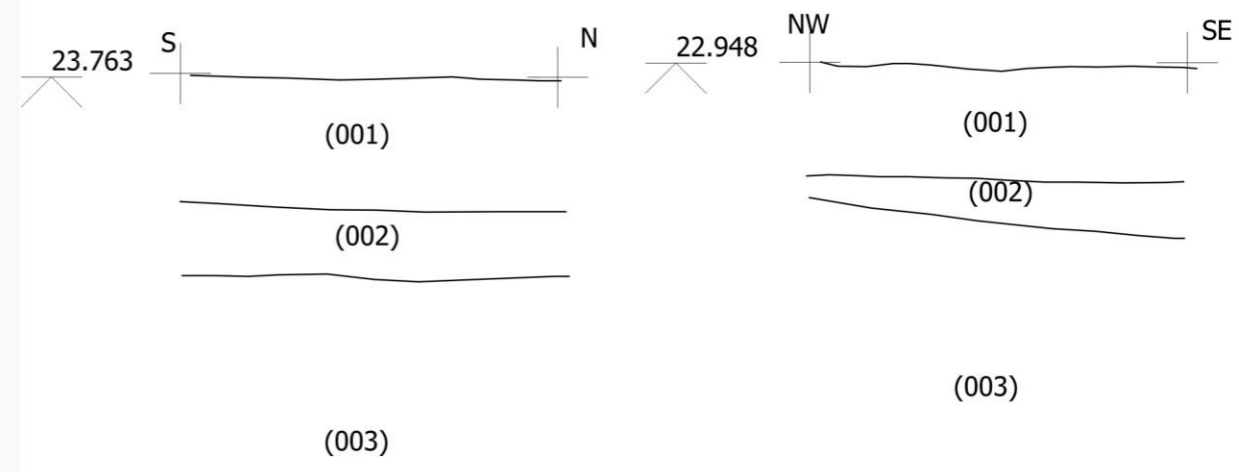
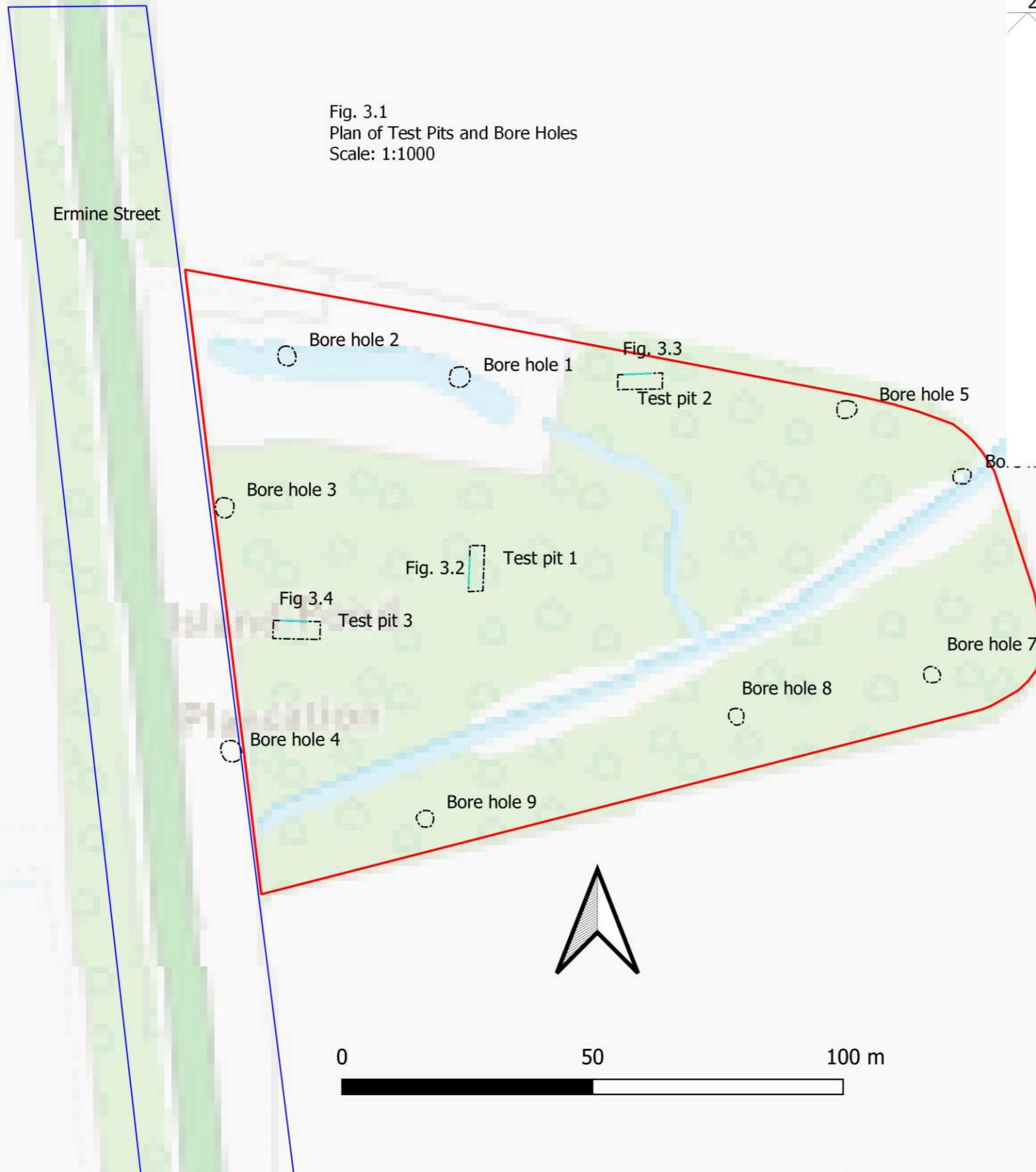


Fig. 3.2  
E facing representative  
section of Test Pit 1  
Scale: 1:20

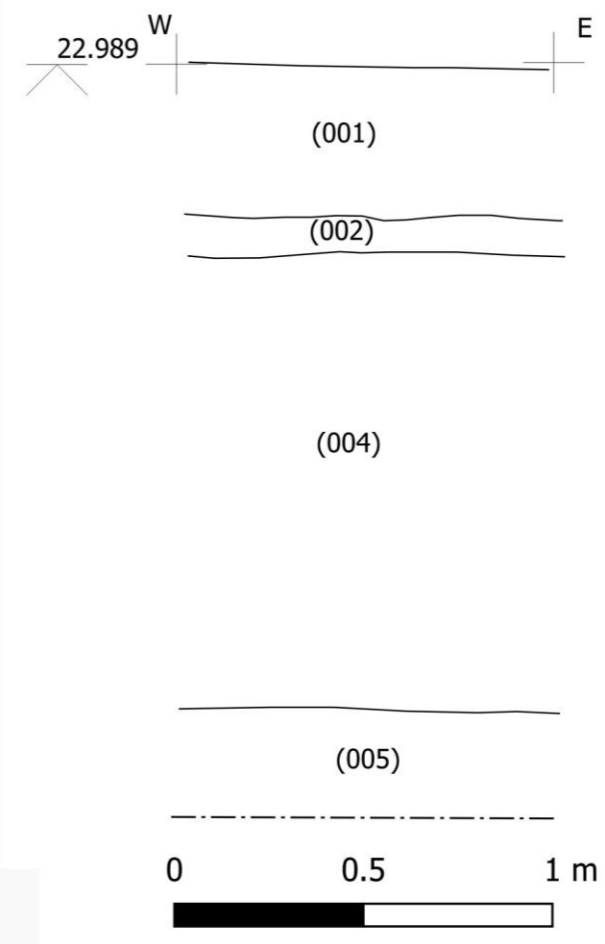


Fig. 3.3  
SW facing representative  
section of test pit 2  
Scale: 1:20

Fig. 3.4  
S facing  
representative  
section of test pit 3  
Scale: 1:20

Figure 3:  
Plan and representative  
sections

## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

No archaeological features or deposits of any period were exposed during this scheme of preliminary investigation. That said, borehole data was of no practical value whatsoever in terms of identifying archaeology, and test pitting was restricted to only three small interventions.

## 9.0 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording, will be deposited with printed copies of this report and the forthcoming full report at The North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe, in or before June 2021; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the North Lincs. site code RDAU. 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.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank North Lincolnshire Council for this commission.

## 11.0 References

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1983, *Brigg: 1:50,000 Series Sheet 89, Drift Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

English Heritage (EH), 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation (second edition)*. English Heritage Publishing.

North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) consulted online  
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>.

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Ancholme Valley, Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Scunthorpe & Kirton in Lindsey: Explorer series no. 281, 1:25,000 edition*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/dating
<b>Test pits</b>			
001	Topsoil	Mid-grey silty sand, loose with some pebbles. 0.28m deep.	Modern
002	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty sand, firm, with some vegetation. 0.18m deep	Modern
003	Natural	White grey silty loamy sand, loose	Geological
004	Natural	Dark brown sand, fine.	Geological
005	Natural	Dark brown pure clay	Geological

## Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

### Project details

Project name	Land to the East of the A15, Redbourne, North Lincolnshire Archaeological Observation, Assessment and Recording
Short description of the project	Land to the East of the A15, Redbourne, North Lincolnshire Archaeological Observation, Assessment and Recording
Project dates	Start: 14-12-2020 End: 15-12-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESRM20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2407 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RDAU - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Development type	Flood alleviation
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE REDBOURNE Land to the East of the A15, Redbourne, North Lincolnshire RDAU Archaeological Observation, Assessment and Recording
Postcode	DN21 4JF
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	NGR - SK 96143 99814 LL - 53.48598947392 -0.550882603289 (decimal) LL - 53 29 09 N 000 33 03 W (degrees)

Point  
Lat/Long Unknown  
Datum

### Project creators

Name of Organisation PCAS Archaeology Ltd.  
Project brief originator PCAS Archaeology Ltd.  
Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
Project director/manager Leigh Brocklehurst  
Project supervisor S. Palmer-Brown  
Type of sponsor/funding body District Council  
Name of sponsor/funding body north Lincolnshire Council

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Media available "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

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