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A REPORT TO  
Mr IAN DOBSON

MAY 2006

5 DELORAIN COURT  
JAMES STREET  
LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED BY  
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

MJAS REPORT No.: 534

adventurous development of aerospace technology  
90/3/5

# 5 DELORAIN COURT JAMES STREET LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Conservation  
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08 MAY 2006

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

## **5 DELORAIN COURT JAMES STREET LINCOLN**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- *Between the 17 June and 12 August 2005, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on during groundwork associated with the construction of a conservatory.*
- *This watching brief has revealed evidence for two probable periods of occupation on the site.*
- *A north-south stone foundation believed to be of Roman date was uncovered during the excavation for a soak-away. Further deposits, possibly associated with its subsequent destruction, were also revealed.*
- *The excavation for the conservatory revealed the buried foundations of the medieval Close Wall (known to lay beneath the sites western and northern boundaries).*
- *Remaining deposits were generally less interpretable due primarily to the limited scale of the groundwork, although a complete glazed medieval floor tile bearing a fleur-de-lis motif was found in a late deposit present in the soak-away trench.*
- *In conclusion, the watching brief has revealed evidence supporting the survival of deposits and remains ascribed to both the Roman and medieval periods. As is typical with this type of archaeological response, the small scope of the development groundwork limited the interpretive value of the archaeology uncovered and as a result little can be said regarding the form, function and date of the remains uncovered. However an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.*

## 5 DELORAIN COURT JAMES STREET LINCOLN

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 17 June and 12 August 2005, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Mr Ian Dobson, during groundwork associated with the construction of a conservatory at the above site location.

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The following background information has been extracted from the brief for Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) produced by the Heritage Team, City of Lincoln Council.

*The Site is located on the west side of the west wing, in the north-east part of the garden, with the wall of the County Assembly Rooms on the north side (following the line of the Close Wall). National Grid Reference: SK 97700 71966.*

*This brief relates to an application for Listed Building Consent (ref 2004/0806/LBC) registered 6 October 2004, for "Erection of conservatory to west elevation (LISTED BUILDING CONSENT)."*

##### *Archaeological and Historical Background*

*The Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA) has classified the site as having the following potential research agendas;*

*Prehistoric Era (-10000 - 60); Hill top activity*

*Prehistoric Era (40000- 60); the Jurassic Way*

*Prehistoric Era (-10000 - 60); Limestone uplands*

*Roman Military Era (60-90); Neronian Fortress*

*Roman Military Era (60-90); Barracks*

*Roman colonia Era (90-410); Houses within the upper city*

*Early Medieval Era (410-850); Central elements of former Roman city and Roman network Early Medieval Era (410-850); "Reserved" enclosure(s) defined by the Roman city walls*

*High Medieval Era (850-1350); Houses in the Bail (and the Close within St Mary Magdalene's parish)*

*Early Modern Era (1350-1750); Houses in the Bail (and the Close within St Mary Magdalene's parish)*

*Industrial Era (1750-1945); Housing in the Close and Eastgate*

*Reference should be made to details relating to these research agendas in: Jones, M J et al*

2003

*Archaeological investigations in the locality recorded in the Lincoln UAD*

*RE307 4 Deloraine Court, 1945. An experimental hole dug in the garden revealed that all colonia levels had been removed by a large medieval pit, but several clay floors of the legionary period were noted yielding 1st century pottery (Roman Lincoln 1945-6)*

*RE4424 Coach House, Deloraine Court, 1997. Archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the conversion of the property from commercial to residential use (Jarvis 1997).*

### 3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.

To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.

To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.

To provide information for accession to the Historic Environment Record (HER).

The watching brief required observing all groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the site and the construction of the new sports hall building.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, scale drawings and photographs.

### 4.0 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS (Fig. 2)

#### 4.1 ANALYSIS

##### Conservatory

Excavation for the conservatory revealed an undated east-west stone foundation [006] - top c. 67m OD) lying beneath the northern boundary wall to the site. The southern face to the structure was visible in the trench but its full width was not evident. Structure [006] (seen in plan only) was constructed from unbonded, medium angular limestone fragments.

Lying to the south of the foundation was ([008] - 67.10m OD) a spread of pale yellow sandy soil containing occasional limestone fragments and infrequent fragments of roof tile (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century).

Sealing both [006] and deposit [008] was [007] an extensive but undated layer of brown silt soil with occasional limestone & shell inclusions (67.50m OD). A small pit ([019]) cut in to [007] and its fill [009] an undated brown silt soil, contained a small quantity of oyster shell fragments.

Remaining deposits and features within the conservatory trench ([001] - [005], [020] and [021]) were more recent and contained material dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (ground level c. 67.90m OD).

### **Drainage**

The east side of a north-south, stone built structure ([018] - top c. 66.50m OD) was revealed in the base of the soak-away trench. Investigation showed it to be constructed from mid-sized angular limestone fragments, bonded with a pale brown sandy mortar (one shard of 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman pottery was found within [018]).

To the east of [018] lay two undated layers [013] and [014]. The earliest [014] was a dark brown sandy silt and this was sealed by [013], a black coloured ash-rich soil that contained frequent small flecks of charcoal (top - 66.90m OD).

Above [013] lay a mid-brown clay soil ([012]) from which was recovered a few sherds of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century pot and tile. Sealing [013] was [017], a deposit of firm grey clay that was in turn sealed by ([022] - 67.30m OD) a mid-brown silt soil (similar in description and appearance to [007] in the conservatory trench). A complete late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14th century brown glazed floor tile bearing a yellow fleur-de-lis motif found in deposit [017], was partially covered in soot, suggesting that it may once have been reused, possibly within a fireplace.

Remaining deposits ([005], [011], [015] and [016]) were recent and dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (ground level c. 67.90m OD).

No further features of deposits were recorded during the watching brief.



Plate I: General view of groundwork for the new conservatory, looking east. The wall in the left of the photograph follows the line of the medieval close wall (see Fig. 2 plan 1).

## **4.2 RESULTS**

This watching brief has revealed evidence for two probable periods of occupation on the site:

### **Roman**

The north-south stone structure revealed in the base of the soak-away is believed to be of Roman date and probably represents a wall foundation. However, due to the limited scale of the groundwork, little of the structure was revealed and its precise date, form and function remain unclear. The ashy deposit lying directly above this structure may be associated with its subsequent destruction.

### **Medieval**

The east-west foundation revealed beneath the northern site boundary wall, although undated, almost certainly represents the medieval Close Wall (constructed around the late 13<sup>th</sup> - early 14<sup>th</sup> century) and known to follow the line of the western and northern boundaries of the site.

Remaining deposits were generally less interpretable due mainly to the limited scale of the groundwork, although a complete glazed medieval floor tile (late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century) bearing a fleur-de-lis motif was recovered from a probably post-medieval deposit recorded within the soak-away trench.

In conclusion, this watching brief has revealed evidence supporting the survival of deposits and remains ascribed to both the Roman and medieval periods. The small scale of the groundwork has limited the interpretive value of the archaeology uncovered and as a result little can be said regarding the form, function and date of the remains uncovered, however an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.

## **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

MJAS would like to thank Mr Ian Dobson for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to the City Archaeologist (Mr M J Jones) and the Heritage Officer (Mr J Hemridge) for their advice and guidance.

### **External Specialists**

Barbara Precious -Roman pottery (freelance)  
Jane Young -post-Roman pottery & tile (freelance).

Maps contained in this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. MJAS Licence No. 100042473.

## **6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Jones, Michael J, Stocker, D & Vince, Alan 2003, (stocker, D, ed), *The City by the Pool. Assessing the Archaeology of the City of Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 10, Oxbow Books, Oxford



Fig. 1: Site location map.

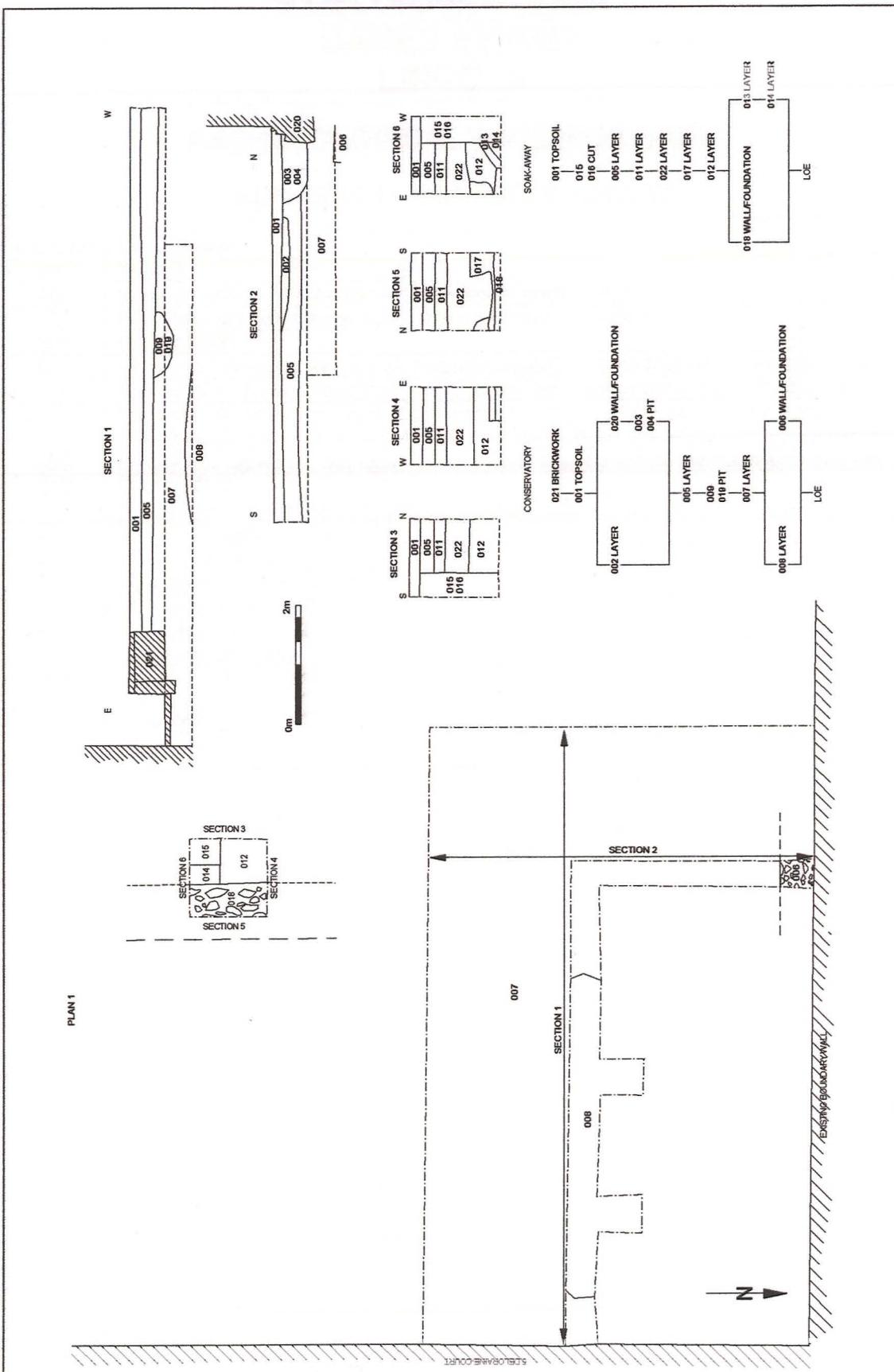


Fig. 2: Plan showing principal elements of groundwork, Plans 1 & 2, Sections 1 – 6 and stratigraphic matrix (scale 1:100).

## 5 DELORAIN COURT JAMES STREET LINCOLN

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Small limestone fragments with occasional brick rubble
003	Fill - Pale yellow/brown sift clay with no obvious inclusions
004	Cut for [0031]
005	Light-mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone fragments, tile and brick
006	East-west stone wall/foundation. Unbonded but a pale yellow clay soil between.
007	Light-mid brown silt soil with occasional small angular limestone fragments, shell
008	Pale yellow/brown sandy mortar with occasional small limestone and infrequent tile
009	Pit fill? Mid brown silt soil with frequent small angular limestone fragments and tile
010	Cut for [009]
011	Mid brown sand sift with occasional charcoal, mortar and limestone fragments
012	Mid brown sand silt clay soil
013	Friable, black ash soil frequent charcoal inclusions
014	Dark brown sandy silt soil
015	Dark brown sandy sift - fill
016	Cut - fill [0151]
017	Firm blue/grey clay
018	Possible wall consisting of angular limestone fragments bonded with a pale brown
019	Cut - fill [009]
020	Foundations
021	Brick wall
022	Light-mid brown silt soil with occasional small angular limestone fragments & shell

#### APPENDIX 2 – FINDS SUMMARY

##### Roman Pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Comments	Sherds	Weight
012	GREY	J	BS TYP Lincoln Grey Ware	1	4g
012	ZDATE		3C+/Postro		
012	ZZZ		Grey only residual		
018	SAMSG	27	BS; bright slip; prob Nero	1	2g
018	ZDATE		55-80		
018	ZZZ		Fits with early material Cottesford Place		

##### Post-Roman pottery

Context	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Weight	Part	Description	Date
012	LSW1	12 <sup>th</sup> century Lincoln Glazed ware	Coarse fabric	jug	1	4g	BS	High fired	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13th

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Sub Type	Frags	Weight	Decoration	Ref No	Description	Date
008	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Lincoln Fabric 1		1	80g			flat roofer	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>
008	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Lincoln Fabric 1		1	107g			flat roofer	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>
008	NIB	nibbed tile	Lincoln Fabric 1	4D/E	1	80g			left corner	13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>
011	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine oxidised fabric		1	86g			fresh break	13 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>
011	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Lincoln Fabric 1		6	138g			flat roofers	13 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>
011	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Lincoln Fabric 1		1	275g			flat roofer/hip; unusual rounded edge as pantile; sanded base; struck upper; fresh break	14 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>
012	NIB	nibbed tile	Lincoln Fabric 1	4D/E	1	107g			right corner	13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>
022	GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile	common subround quartz mod fe mod laminar shale/fe		1	745g	Fleur-de-lis set diagonally	DR1	complete tile; 120x120x25mm; yellow impressed design on brown background; edges only slightly chamfered; possibly reused or placed in fireplace as sooted edge & one side of upper & lower faces; mortar on underside & 1 edge; worn upper surface; poss local	Late 13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>

Title

### **APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY**

**SITE NAME:** 5 James Street, Lincoln

**SITE CODE:** JSL05

**MJAS REPORT NO.:** 534

**NGR:** SK 97700 71966

**PROJECT TYPE:** Watching Brief

**PROJECT DATE:** 17 June and 12 August 2005

**PLANNING APPLICATION No.:** 2004/0806/LBC 6 October 2004

**CLIENT:** Mr Ian Dobson, 5 Deloraine Court, James Street, Lincoln

**SMR No.:** N/A

**CIVIL PARISH:** Lincoln

**MUSEUM ACCESSION No.:** 2006.9

**ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION:** MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

**ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION:** The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln