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Archaeological Evaluation
at
4 - 8 Union Place, Boston,
by
Heritage Lincolnshire
for
Mr. H. S. Hodgson.

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Methodology

Introduction

Between the 17th June and 2nd July, an archaeological evaluation, in advance of redevelopment, was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire, at 4 - 8 Union Place, Boston, (N.G.R. 325443) for the site owner, Mr. H. S. Hodgson.

Previously the site has been used as stables and later as a builders yard. Approximately fifteen years ago, buildings which once fronted onto Norfolk Street were demolished, since which time some of the land has been left undeveloped and some used as a car-park.

The aims of the evaluation were:

- 1.) to establish whether the Northern part of the Barditch, the boundary of medieval Boston, was present within the area of the evaluation.
- 2.) to reveal the depth and extent of any surviving archaeological stratigraphy on the site which would provide information on the development of this area of Boston from the 12th century to the present.

Methodology

Three exploratory trenches were established in positions that would clarify whether the Barditch existed on the site. They also served to investigate the nature of other archaeological deposits (see Figure 1).

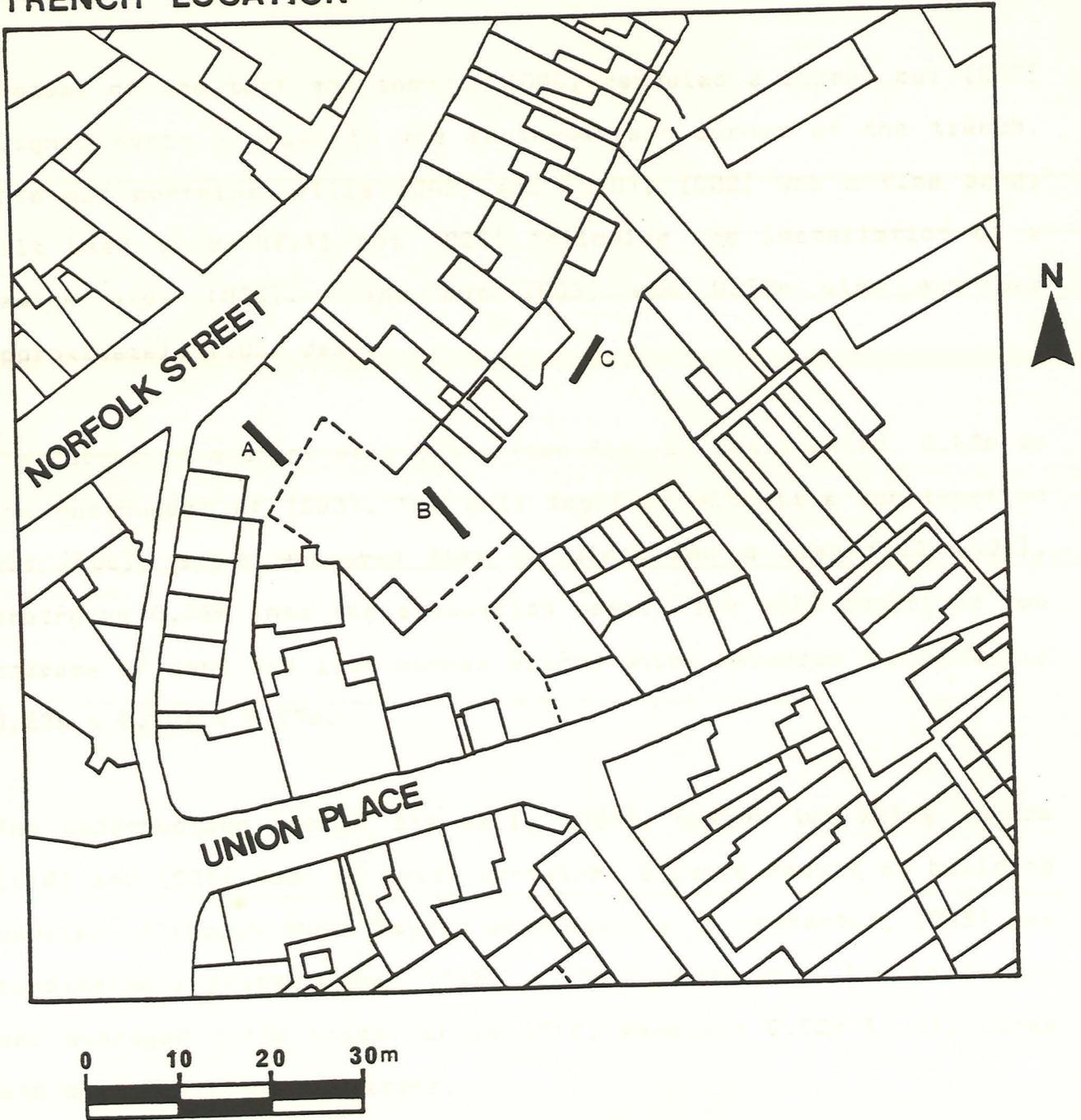
Trench A was positioned in the north of the area, near to the gateway fronting onto Norfolk Street. This trench was 6.58m long and 1.00m wide and was aligned north-west - south-east.

Trench B was central to the site, positioned underneath the existing sheds, currently used for car parking. This trench was 7.00m by 1.00m and lay on a north-west - south-east alignment.

Trench C was positioned to the east of the site and was 5.80m by 1.00m. It was aligned north-west - south-east.

All of the trenches were excavated by hand. A single context recording system was employed, whereby each archaeological feature or layer was recorded individually and given its own unique number. The records consist of a written description of each feature and layer, 1:20 scale plans, 1:10 section drawings and where appropriate, photographic records.

FIG.1
TRENCH LOCATION



Evaluation Results

TRENCH A. (Fig. 2).

Removal of the turf and topsoil [001] revealed a linear cut [003] aligned north - south in the south-western corner of the trench. This cut contained fills [002] and [020]; [002] was a fine sandy silt used to backfill cut [003] following the installation of a sewage pipe (020). The cut [003] was 0.50m wide and was approximately 1.00m deep.

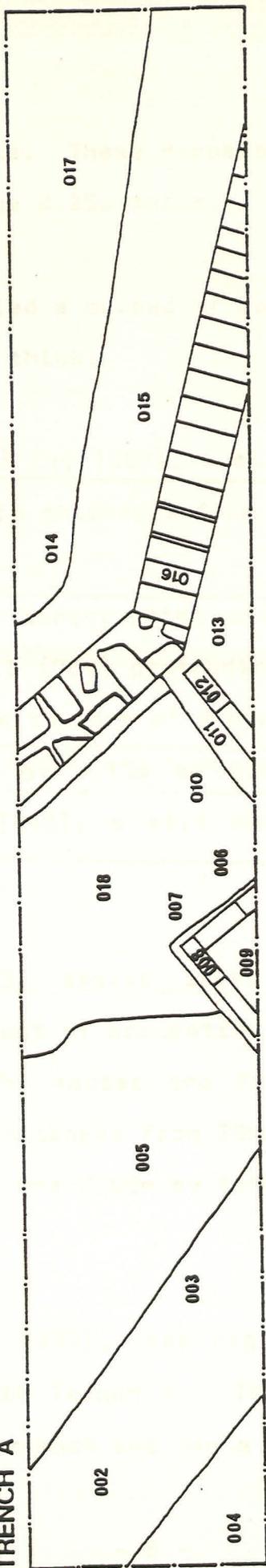
The corner of a brick wall [008] (see Fig. 2) was located 0.40m to the north-west of [003]. The wall together with its construction cut [006], which measured 60mm in width and a clay fill [007], protruded 0.36m into the excavation area. The wall comprised two courses of sand and lime bonded bricks which measured individually 0.22m x 0.10m x 0.07m.

The construction cut of the wall, [006], sealed two silty layers [018] and [005] each of which contained a large amount of building debris. Although these layers were similar in character, [005] was considerably thicker than [018]. [005] measured 1.80m in length and averaged 0.10m thick, while [018] measured 0.50m in thickness and measured 1.80m in extent.

Below [005] and [018] lay deposit [023] which was similar to layers [022] and [024] all of which were silts containing large amounts of

FIG. 2

TRENCH A



brick and tile fragments. These deposits extended across the whole site and were on average 0.25m thick.

Removal of [023] revealed a spread of mortar [026] measuring 2.00m by 1.00m but only 10mm thick.

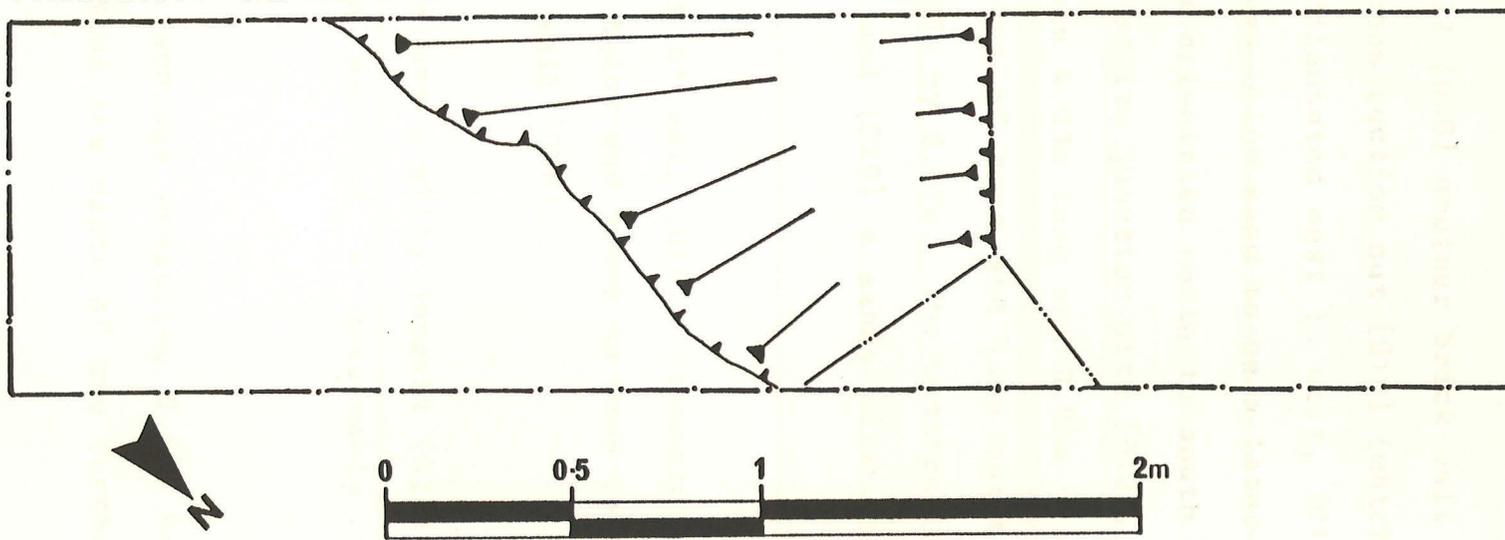
Immediately below [026] lay [027], a silty deposit 2.00m by 1.00m in extent and varying in thickness from 20-50mm.

Beneath layer [027] a construction cut [033] was found. Within [033] there was a wall [034] protruding 0.36m into the excavation area. It comprised six courses of unbonded bricks. The individual bricks measured 0.22m by 0.10m by 0.07m. The construction cut [033] was filled by [030], a silt containing a large amount of mortar

Construction cut [033] sealed layer [028] which was a silt containing a large amount of occupation rubbish including charcoal, pottery fragments, ash, mortar and fragments of brick and tile. This layer varied in thickness from 20mm at its northern extreme to 100mm to the south and was 3.00m by 1.00m in extent.

Beneath [028] lay cut [032], (see Fig. 3), filled by [031], the earliest feature within Trench A. This feature ran north-west - south-east across the trench and had a maximum depth of 0.50m and

FIG. 3
TRENCH A- GULLY 032



an approximate width of 2.00m. The fill [031] was a water-lain deposit of virtually pure silt with some sand lenses.

0.60m north west of wall [008] another brick wall [012] was found, (see Fig. 2) with its construction cut [010] (which was 0.10m wide) and its fill [011]. Orientated east to west, [012] comprised two bricks in a single course which seem to be a later addition to wall [016]. The latter was orientated north to south along the trench but turned to the east at its junction with [012]. The full extent of [016] as revealed was 4.00m long and 0.50m high. The wall was made up of eight courses of sand and lime mortared bricks, each measuring 0.23m by 0.105m by 0.07m. The construction cut for [016] was filled with [015] and [029] a sandy silt and a silty mortar respectively.

The construction trench of wall [016] truncated an earlier layer [017], which was 0.15m thick and seems to have been lain down prior to the construction of wall [016].

Below layer [017] there was a silty deposit [023] containing large amounts of demolition material - presumably from an earlier building.

Beneath [032] a small sondage measuring 0.60m by 0.60m by 0.50m deep was dug to determine the depth of any further archaeological deposits.

Three more deposits were revealed: [035] which was sealed by [032] was a silt layer 0.13m thick containing much organic material with some fragments of brick and tile.

Below [035] lay [036], a dark grey silt 0.18m thick containing some fragments of brick and tile.

Sealed below [036] lay [037], a silt layer 0.19m thick, and rich in organic material with some fragments of brick and tile.

Below [037] lay [038], a layer of brickwork, mortar and plaster 0.15m thick containing many fragments of brick and tile.

Below [038] lay [039], a silt layer 0.15m thick, which like [035] and [036] contained a large amount of brick and tile fragments.

Below [039] was [040], a well foundation [040] (Fig. 11) partly made of rough square stones also placed on top of bricks, laid on top of [039] and [038] and [037] also carried. The entire structure was covered with a thin layer of cream-colored mortar. The foundation was oriented north-south - south-south-east. It tapered through nearly degrees at both ends and after tapping, the limestone blocks were not present and the structure seemed to be made entirely of brick. The measurements for the individual limestone blocks averaged between 0.27m by 0.27m by 0.10m and 0.12m

TRENCH B. (Fig. 4).

The first layer to be removed [051] comprised packed clinker and flint pebbles which made up the existing ground surface. The deposit was 70mm thick and extended across the whole trench.

Removal of [051] revealed [052], a fine silt layer containing fragments of mortar, brick and tile. This deposit was 0.13m thick and again was present across the entire trench.

Beneath [052] lay [053], a layer of brick, tile, mortar and plaster fragments in approximately equal proportions. Layer [053] was 0.23m thick and again was deposited over the whole of the trench.

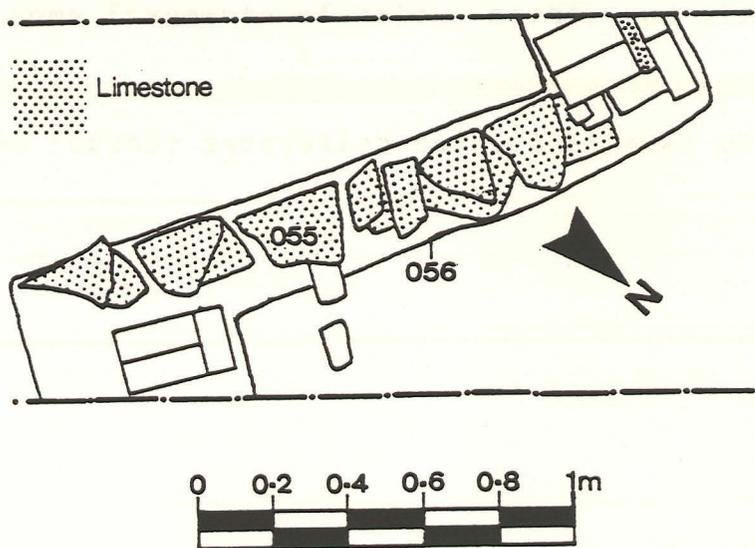
Rubble layer [053] sealed [054], a silt deposit 0.24m thick, which like [052] and [053] contained a large amount of brick and tile fragments.

Below [054] was [055] a wall foundation (see Fig. 4), partly made of roughly squared limestone slabs placed on top of bricks, lain on bed. Two courses of limestone slabs survived. The entire structure was bonded with a thin layer of cream/brown mortar. The foundation as revealed was orientated north-west - south-east. It turned through ninety degrees at both ends and after turning, the limestone slabs were not present and the structure seemed to be made entirely of brick. The measurements for the individual limestone slabs averaged between 0.27m by 0.24m by 0.06m and 0.12m

by 0.23m by 0.36m. The brick measurements were 90mm by 50mm by 38mm. The foundation was 'trench 051' within cut [051].

Foundation trench [051] cut through deposits [057] and [058]. [057] lay immediately to the south-west of cut [051] and [058] lay to the opposite side and to the north-west. [057] was a mass of

FIG. 4
TRENCH B - FOUNDATION 055



by 0.23m by 0.06m. The brick measurements were 90mm by 60mm by 240mm. The foundation was 'trench built' within cut [056].

The turf line and a radiolarian tuff [059] were visible off to Foundation trench [056] cut through deposits [057] and [058]. [057] lay immediately to the south-west of cut [056] and [058] lay on the opposite side and to the north-east. [057] was a dump of cinder mixed with some sand and silt. This deposit was 30mm thick. [058] consisted of a fine silt containing a large amount of cinder flecks and some fragments of brick, mortar and tile.

There was no further excavation below the level of [058].

TRENCH C. (see Fig. 5)

The turf line and a redeposited topsoil [101] were stripped off to reveal [102] which was either the original topsoil or the subsoil before it was covered by the present topsoil [101].

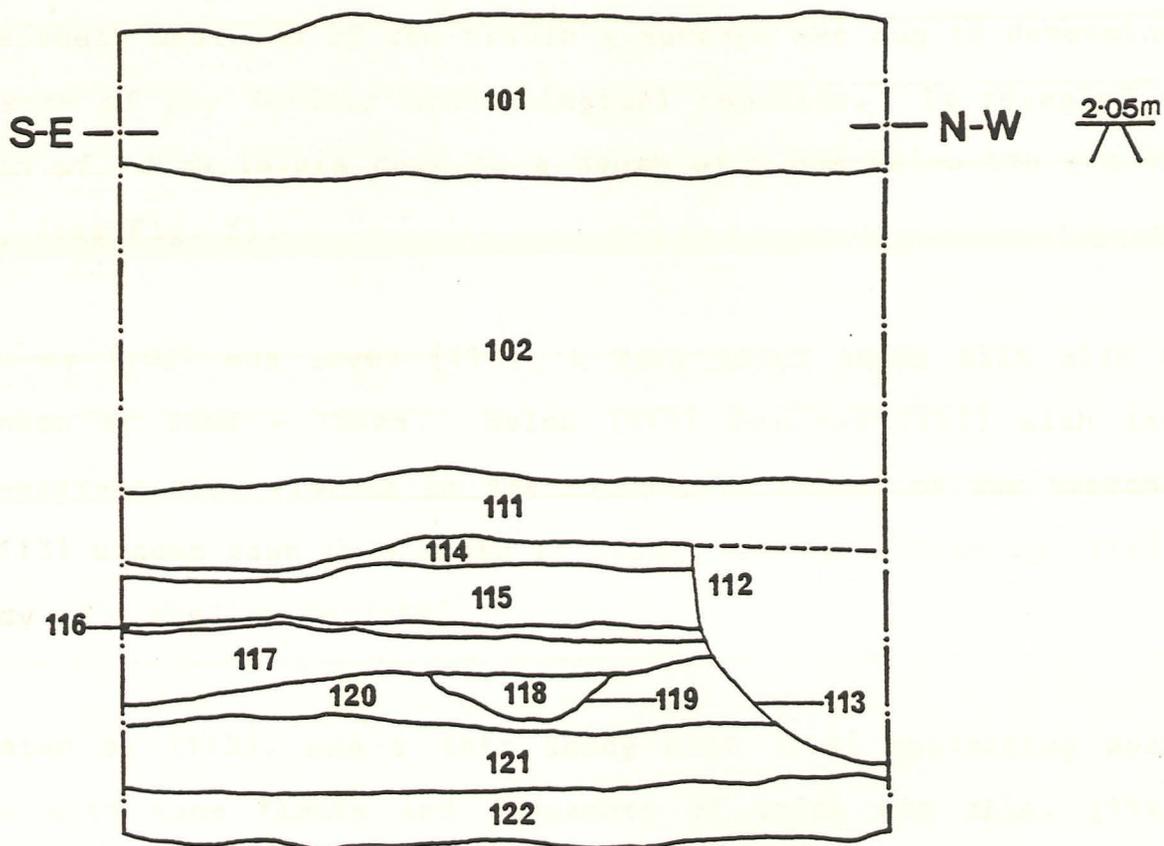
A number of features were cut into [102]. The first excavated was cut [104] with fill [103]. Lying to the north of the trench, [104] measured 1.53m by 1.00m and 0.59m deep. It contained a plastic water pipe. [103] was a sandy silt used to backfill the cut [104] following installation of the plastic water pipe.

Lying 0.30m to the south-west of [104] was cut [106], measuring 0.33m by 0.43m and 0.79m in depth. Within this cut was an upright iron tube. Filling and packing [106] was a loosely compacted silt [105].

Immediately below [106] was cut [108], a linear feature, which ran south-west to north-east across the trench. [108] measured 1.00m south-west to north-east and 0.90m south-east to north-west with a depth of 0.21m. The cut was filled with silt deposit [107].

Immediately to the north-west, and truncated by [108], was a large linear cut [110]. At a depth of 0.92m below the top of cut [110] lay a large water main, just below the water table. The full dimensions of [110] are unknown as it was only partially excavated

FIG. 5
TRENCH C N-E FACING SECTION



due to the depth and the fact that the water table had been reached.

Cut [110] was filled with a yellow sand mixed with lenses of dark grey sandy silt, probably derived from [102].

At the south west end of the trench a sondage was dug to determine the depth of any further archaeological deposits. It revealed a section of dump layers down to a depth of 1.05m below the ground level, (see Fig. 5).

Sealed by [102] was layer [111], a dark brown sandy silt with a thickness of 80mm - 100mm. Below [111] was cut [113] with its south-eastern side visible in the south-west corner of the trench. Cut [113] sloped down to a depth of 0.20m, and was filled by [112], a sandy silt similar to [111].

Truncated by [113], was a thin sandy silt [114] containing much cinder with some flecks and fragments of brick and tile. [114] averaged 30mm thick.

Immediately below, and sealed by [114], was a soft fine mortar deposit [115] which contained a considerable quantity of brick, tile and mortar fragments along with some particles of coal and charcoal. [115] averaged 60mm in thickness.

Below [115] lay [116], a layer of crushed cinder with an average thickness of around 20mm.

Sealed by [116] was a deposit of silt [117] in which some flecks of brick and mortar were visible. The thickness of [117] averaged 50mm.

A small shallow feature was truncated by [117] (cut [119]). This 'hollow' had a width of 0.23m and a depth of 0.06m. It was filled with a fine silt containing some particles of brick and plaster.

A sandy silt deposit [120] lay below [119]. Measuring between 30mm in the south-east to 80mm in the north-west, this layer also included some flecks of brick, mortar and coal.

Immediately below and sealed by [120] was layer [121], a deposit of silt, some 90mm thick. Considerable amounts of coal, brick and mortar particles were evident within this deposit.

The dirty silt [121] lay above [122], a fine yellow brown silt containing some fragments of brick and tile along with some flecks of charcoal. [122] was 0.32m thick.

A small sondage was dug into and below [122] and a further deposit [123] was recorded. It consisted of a fine silt clay, again containing some fragments of brick and mortar. No further excavation took place below [123].

Conclusion

TRENCH A In the south-west of Trench A was a modern cut [003] which contained a sewage pipe [020].

Further to the north-east, two brick walls [016] and [034] were revealed (see Fig. 2). These were probably associated with each other as a mortared floor surface [026] extended up to each wall face.

Brick walls [008] and [012] are both later additions, [008] being part of rebuilt wall on top of [034] or part of a completely new building using wall [034] as a foundation base.

These structural remains can be assigned to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, dated by pottery found within the associated layers and deposits.

Below [034] lay the earliest feature within Trench A. It was a man-made gully [032], (see Fig. 3). Its true purpose cannot be ascertained with the evidence available as only a small part of the feature was excavated. It can, however, be dated to the seventeenth or early eighteenth century.

TRENCH B The only feature of any archaeological significance was the small section of a limestone and brick foundation [055], (see Fig. 4). This was dated by the pottery found within the cut [056] to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

TRENCH C In the north-east part of Trench C, the archaeology was represented by a series of modern cuts associated with the insertion of service mains. These included a water pipe [104], a water main [110] and what seemed to be a disused gas pipe [106].

The upper layers comprised the present redeposited topsoil [101] over what may have been the original topsoil [102].

The section recorded at the south-west end of the Trench (see Fig. 5) revealed a succession of deposits which show an accumulation of dumping layers from the early nineteenth century to the present day. These deposits lay on top of the earlier subsoil [122].

Recommendations

The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the boundary of medieval Boston, the Barditch does not lie under the property at 4 - 8 Union Place. No medieval deposits appear to survive in the area of the evaluation. The surviving deposits date to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Heritage Lincolnshire recommend that no further archaeological excavations are necessary within the area of the proposed development.

- [1017] Dark brown grey sandy silt with flecks and fragments of charcoal and building material.
- [1018] Red grey sandy silt with flecks and fragments of brick.
- [1019] Light brown clay silt with flecks of brick.
- [1020] Ceramic beverage pipe.
- [1021] Red brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [1022] Red brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [1023] Red brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [1024] Red brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [1025] Dark grey sandy silt.
- [1026] White grey silt with flecks and fragments of building material.
- [1027] Red brown silt with flecks of brick.
- [1028] Red brown silt with flecks of brick.
- [1029] White grey silt with red grey silt and mortar with flecks of building material.
- [1030] Yellow grey mortar and silt with fragments of building material.
- [1031] Dark grey silt.
- [1032] Red for gills.
- [1033] Construction cut.
- [1034] Brick structure.
- [1035] Red silt, also in organic remains with fragments of building material.
- [1036] Dark grey silt with fragments of building material.
- [1037] Red silt, also in organic remains with fragments of building material.

Trench A:

- [001] Turf and Topsoil.
- [002] Pale grey fine sandy silt.
- [003] Trench cut.
- [004] Light brown-grey fine silt.
- [005] Light brown silt.
- [006] Construction cut.
- [007] Mid brown grey sandy silt.
- [008] Brick structure.
- [009] Mid brown grey silty sand.
- [010] Construction cut.
- [011] Mid brown grey sandy silt.
- [012] Brick structure.
- [013] Mid brown grey sandy silt.
- [014] Construction cut.
- [015] Mid grey brown sandy silt with fragments of building material.
- [016] Brick structure.
- [017] Dark brown grey sandy silt with flecks and fragments of charcoal and building material.
- [018] Mid grey sandy silt with flecks and fragments of brick.
- [019] Light brown clay silt with flecks of brick.
- [020] Ceramic sewerage pipe.
- [022] Mid brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [023] Mid brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [024] Mid brown grey silt with flecks and fragments of ceramic building material.
- [025] Dark grey sandy silt.
- [026] White grey silty mortar with fragments of building material.
- [027] Mid brown grey silt with flecks of brick.
- [028] Dark grey silt with flecks of brick.
- [029] White grey mottled with mid grey silt and mortar with fragments of building material.
- [030] Whitish grey mortar and silt with fragments of building material.
- [031] Dark grey silt.
- [032] Cut for gully.
- [033] Construction cut.
- [034] Brick structure.
- [035] Grey silt, rich in organic remains with fragments of building material.
- [036] Dark grey silt with fragments of building material.
- [037] Grey silt, rich in organic remains with fragments of building material.

Trench B:

- [051] Cinder and flint pebbles.
- [052] Light brown fine silt.
- [053] Entirely made up of building material.
- [054] Mid grey brown silt with flecks of brick and tile.
- [055] Brick and limestone structure.
- [056] Construction cut.
- [057] Black cinder with some sandy silt.
- [058] Light yellow brown fine silt.

Trench C:

- [101] Turf and Topsoil, (light brown silt).
- [102] Dark grey silty sand with fragments of cinder, flint and pebbles.
- [103] Dark grey fine sandy silt
- [104] Cut for service trench.
- [105] Dark grey black silt.
- [106] Cut for service trench.
- [107] Dark grey black silt with fragments of shell.
- [108] Cut for service trench.
- [109] Yellow sand.
- [110] Cut for service trench.
- [111] Very dark brownish red sandy silt .
- [112] Very dark brownish red sandy silt.
- [113] Cut for post-hole.
- [114] Dark grey sandy silt with frequent cinder.
- [115] Pale cream soft fine mortar.
- [116] Mid dark grey crushed cinder.
- [117] Light brown silt.
- [118] Light brown fine silt.
- [119] Cut for shallow feature.
- [120] Light yellow brown fine sandy silt.
- [121] Mid brown silt with flecks of coal and mortar.
- [122] Light yellow brown fine silt.
- [123] Fine silty clay.