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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AT THE REAR OF
THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE,
MIDDLE STREET,
DUNSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 0652 6307
Site Code: RMSD09
Accession No: LCNCC: 2009.143
Planning reference: N/26/0223/08

PREPARED FOR MR. JOHN HENNESSEY

By

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Summary

- *The archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for new self-contained chalet bungalows for bed and breakfast accommodation along with an associated service trench on land at the rear of the Red Lion Public House, Middle Street, Dunston, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 20th of November and the 1st of December 2009.*
- *The mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new build footprint and the hand excavation of a service trench were the subjects of the archaeological monitoring. Over much of the area of the new build footprint, a simple sequence of a redeposited topsoil, a buried ploughsoil and the natural horizon of Jurassic sands was observed.*
- *The map regression had identified the site of a building that had formerly stood in the vicinity of the new build footprint. Material from the demolition of this building was noted in the redeposited topsoil and also within an overlying made ground deposit towards the eastern area of this footprint. It was apparent that this building had stood to the immediate east of this new build, and that following its demolition, the site had been cleared and levelled (in some places down to the level of the underlying natural sands), and then backfilled with this material with the made ground and redeposited topsoil horizons.*
- *The monitoring of the service trench identified a topsoil overlying the same buried ploughsoil horizon. No archaeological features and/or deposits or finds were identified in either monitored area.*

1. Introduction

Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. John Hennessey to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for new self-contained chalet bungalows along with associated services on land at the rear of the Red Lion Public House, Middle Street, Dunston, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 0652 6307. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 30th of November and the 1st of December 2009.

The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and acting on the advice of Ms Liz Mordue, Assistant Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the LPA. This is in accordance with the principles established in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the client, Ms Liz Mordue (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of North Kesteven District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and the Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

The development site is situated at the eastern frontage of Middle Street, within the north eastern portion of the village of Dunston and also within the historic core of the settlement, at National Grid Reference TF 0652 6307, and at a height of approximately 15mAOD. Dunston is located approximately 12km to the south-east of the City of Lincoln and some 18km to the north of the town of Sleaford, in the parish of the same name and within the administrative district of North Kesteven, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1 and 2].

The development site is located on the easternmost fringes of the Jurassic limestone escarpment that traverses Lincolnshire from south to north. The development site is also situated on deep coarse loamy soils of the Curdrige Series, which have in turn developed on Jurassic sands and clays [BGS, 1973; Soil Survey, 1983].



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)



Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:2,500 (Extract from Architect's Plan). The site boundaries are shown in red.

3. Planning Background

A planning application for the proposed erection of new self-contained chalet bungalows on land at the rear of the Red Lion Public House, Middle Street, Dunston, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: N/26/0223/08) has been submitted to and granted consent by North Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, as the proposed development is situated within a perceived archaeologically sensitive area and within the historic core of the village of Dunston, a condition (No. 9) was attached to this consent which stated that:

No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an agreed specification that sets out a programme of work to archaeologically monitor groundworks during development. The specification should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The programme of work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the agreed specification. A final report of the archaeological findings will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within six months of the completion of the development, or such longer period as may be agreed by the Local Planning Authority.

A specification for the archaeological monitoring was submitted to and approved by Ms Liz Mordue, Assistant Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site works.

4. Aims and objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the excavation of foundations and services for the self-contained chalet bungalows for bed and breakfast accommodation.

The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

As the development site was situated within the historic core of the village, the specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, artefacts, structures and/or deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Dunston.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 1km radius of the centre of the development site. The Heritage Gateway website was also consulted for additional data.

There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the environs of Dunston. This comprises the findspot of a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead that was found to the north of Dunston Fen Lane in 1992 (HER 60452) and a second findspot of a tanged and barbed flint arrowhead found in a garden in the Lincoln Road in 1933 (HER 61834).

There is similarly limited evidence for Romano-British occupation in this area, which consists of the find of a single sherd of contemporary pottery that was found in a field to the south-west of Dunston in 1992 (HER 60453).

The settlement of Dunston itself is likely to have had late Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. The place name is derived from an Old English personal name *Dun(n)* and the suffix Old English *tun* or farmstead/village, hence 'Dunn's farmstead/village' [Cameron 1998; Mills, 1991].

The first documentary reference to Dunston as *Dunestune* occurs in the Domesday Survey of AD1086. Dunston was within the jurisdiction of the neighbouring parish of Nocton, within the Wapentake of Yarborough and the manor comprised part of the land holdings of Norman of Arcy:

In Dunestune, Ulfr had 12 carucates of land taxable, land... a jurisdiction of Nocton. Norman found there 3 villagers, 31 freemen & 13 smallholders, who have 9 ploughs & 6 mills 24/-; meadow, 12 acres; underwood, 83 acres; a church and a priest [Morris, 1986].

Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Dunnestuna* (AD1215); *Dunnestun* (AD1204); and *Dunnestun* or *Dunnstun* (AD1242) [Ekwall, 1991]. Dunston is not featured in the Lindsey Survey of AD1115 [Foster & Longley, 1976].

There is some evidence for shrunken medieval settlement comprising the earthwork remains of house platforms in fields to the south-west of the Lincoln Road, including finds of contemporary Stamford and shelly wares. A linear and possible medieval field boundary has also been found in this area from aerial photographic research of the RCHME National Mapping Programme (HER 60472). The report on the archaeological watching brief at The Orchard on the south side of Lincoln Road of 2002 (and detailed below) refers to former house platforms and other associated earthworks at the rear of the site *having been recently levelled by the landowner (sic. of that site)*. Medieval cultivation remains comprising ridge and furrow have also been noted in this area [Lincoln Archaeology, 2002].

The church referred to in Domesday is probably an earlier forerunner on the site of the present parish church of St. Peter (HER 61830). Apart from the west tower, north arcade, south doorway and south porch, this Grade II listed church was largely rebuilt between 1874-6 by R. H.

Carpenter [Pevsner & Harris, 1995]. Although watermills were similarly referred to in the Domesday Survey, their exact location is unknown. However, one such site – Old Water Mill Farm (HER 61846) was formerly located to the south of Dunston Fen Lane. It is featured on the 1:10,560 scale O.S. map of 1956, but no longer exists.

A 13th century lead papal bulla was found in a field to the south of Lincoln Road in 1995 (HER 60519).

The site of a former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (HER 61848) is shown on the Second Edition 6 inch scale O.S. map of 1906 and on the southern frontage of Fen Lane. It was constructed in 1869, was closed in 1960 and now no longer exists. The site of a second former Methodist Chapel (HER 61849) occurred on Middle Street, and is now a house named Chapel Lodge. This second chapel was constructed in 1884 to replace an earlier building on the site of 1832. A third Primitive Methodist Chapel and Sunday School (HER 61847) is situated on Chapel Lane, and is shown on the 6 inch scale O.S. map of 1906. The chapel is of 19th century origin and was enlarged in 1870. The Sunday School was constructed in 1925.

The site of the former mid 19th century Nocton and Dunston Railway Station (HER 61828) is featured on the O.S. maps of 1906 and 1956. The site is now occupied by a modern industrial estate.

The village of Dunston itself is situated within a designated Conservation Area. Within this setting, are a number of Grade II listed buildings of special architectural and/or historical interest. These include: the Old Vicarage (HER 61832), situated to the north of the parish church of St. Peter, which was constructed between 1827-8 by John Shaw; an 18th century cottage to the east of Brook Cottage on Front Street (HER 61840); Dunston House, also on Front Street, of mid 19th century origin (HER 61841); a pair of 18th century cottages at Nos. 6-7 Lincoln Road (HER 61842); the late 18th century Church Farmhouse on Middle Street (HER 61843) and Blue House, also on Middle Street, a late 18th century house (HER 61844).

To the east of the village and to the north of Dunston Fen Lane is an undated 'L'-shaped cropmark (HER 61850), which marks the site of a possible enclosure.

Several previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the settlement of Dunston. In 2001, a watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Manor House on Lincoln Road during the groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling (HER 61952, Site Code: DMH 01). The monitoring identified two undated ditches and a pit though did not yield any datable finds [Cope-Faulkner, 2001].

During archaeological trial trenching at Bank Farm, Lincoln Road in 2000 prior to residential development (HER 61389-90, Site Code: BFD 00), a south south west–north north east aligned linear feature was recorded. This was interpreted as a probable 19th century field boundary ditch. Two further undated features were also identified, the first of which was a possible pond by its form; whilst the second was a probable north-south orientated ditch that was truncated in turn by a modern rubbish pit [Clay, 2001].

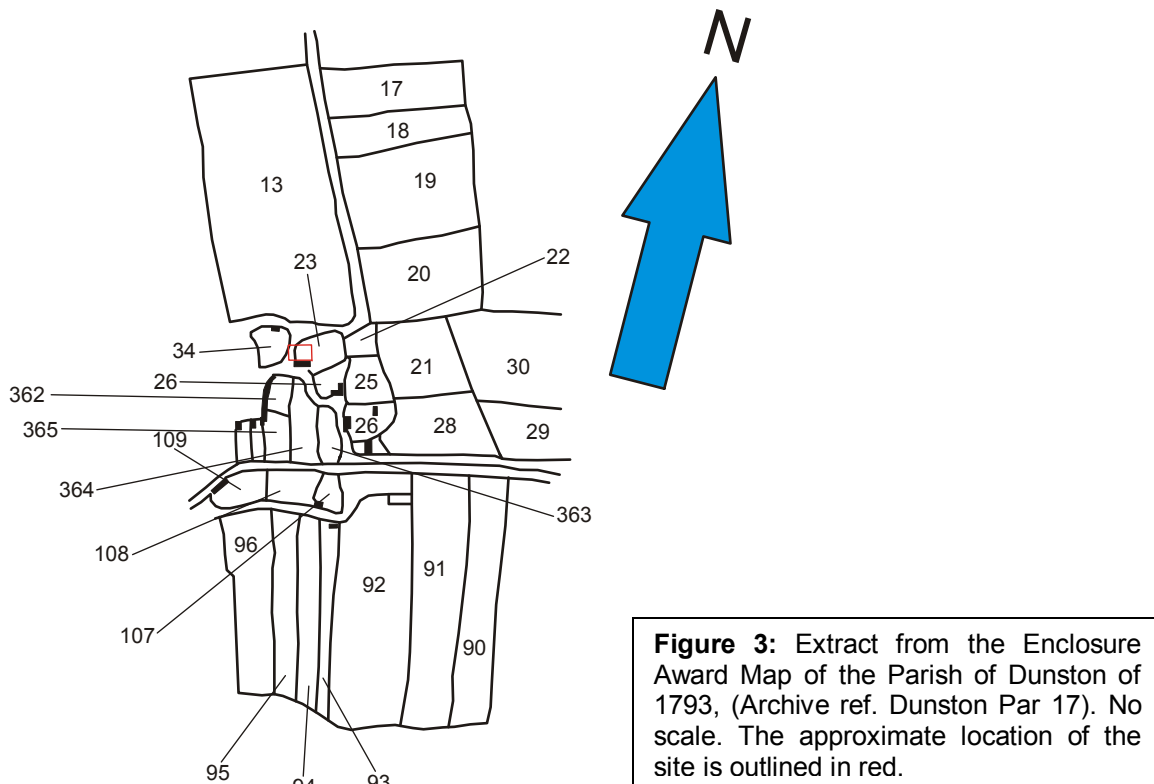
A third investigation comprised a watching brief carried out in 2002 at The Orchard, on the southern frontage of Lincoln Road. The watching brief took place during the groundworks for the construction of a new day nursery. This revealed several undated pits, which were thought to be of possible medieval origin, an undated stone built structure and a Victorian bonfire pit [Lincoln Archaeology, 2002].

Owing to the current inaccessibility of the Lincoln Central Library collections, a limited map regression exercise was also carried out of the area of the proposed development site with copies of manuscript and Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives. A tracing was made from the enclosure award plan of 1793 (Archive ref. Dunston Par 17). The

current Red Lion Public House is made up of a row or terrace of at least five former cottages, which have been converted into a single establishment. This row is shown on the enclosure map as fronting onto Middle Street, with much of the area of the present development site situated within an enclosure (No. 23). There is a lane, which occupied the western portion of this site that extended northwards from Middle Street [Figure 3].

The First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1888 shows the Red Lion Public House fronting onto Middle Street. The row of cottages shown on the map of 1793 has undergone some additions to the rear. There was a large north-south orientated building to the rear and several small outbuildings are also shown to the north-east.

The Second Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1906 shows the same site layout.



6. Methodology

The archaeological monitoring at the development site was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA on the 30th of November and the 1st of December 2009. This comprised the continual monitoring and recording of the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches for the new self-contained chalet bungalows and of the hand excavation of a service trench [Figures 4 and 5].

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at an original scale of 1:50 was made of the monitored foundation trenches and of the location of the seven representative sections (designated as **Representative Sections 1-4** and **6-8**) recorded therein at a scale of 1:20. This plan is reproduced in this report at a scale of 1:100 and the sections at the scale of 1:20 [Figure 5]. An existing architects' ground plan was used to show the existing site layout and the areas monitored (including the service trench and the location of **Representative Section 5** recorded therein), and is reproduced at a scale of 1:500 in this report [Figure 4]. A

complimentary colour photographic digital record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-17, Appendix 1**.

All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figures 4-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-17]

7.1 The New Build

The foundations for the new build had already been set out prior to arrival [**Plate 1**]. The foundation trenches were excavated under continuous archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The foundation trenches were excavated to varying lengths [**Figure 5**], to an average width of 1.0m and to depths that varied between 0.90m and 1.10m in extent [**Plates, 2-3, 5, 8, 12 and 14**]. The central and western portions of this area of new build appeared to have been relatively undisturbed. In these areas, a relatively uniform deposit sequence was recorded. This comprised a redeposited topsoil horizon (**001**), which overlay a buried ploughsoil horizon (**002**). This deposit in turn sealed the natural subsoil horizon (**003**) of sand. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Sections 1 [Plate 3], 3 [Plate 7], 6 [Plate 10] and 7 [Plate 11]**. The redeposited topsoil (**001**) contained quantities of building demolition material in its make-up, which notably increased in density to the east. This material was made up of small-large irregular limestone fragments brick and tile fragments and mortar fragments. This material had presumably originated from the building which had formerly stood to the east of the new build footprint, and which was depicted on the early edition O.S. maps noted earlier.

The eastern area of the new build footprint was conspicuous by the significant amount of demolition debris from the former building, which was encountered here. This material was contained within the made ground deposit (**004**). This sealed the deposit sequence of (**001**), (**002**) and (**003**) noted elsewhere in the area of the build footprint. This sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 4 [Figure 5, Plate 9]**. Within **Representative Section 2**, the buried ploughsoil horizon (**002**) had been truncated by the redeposited topsoil horizon (**001**) [**Plate 6**].

Along the south eastern fringes of the new build footprint, the redeposited topsoil horizon (**001**) came down directly onto the natural sand horizon (**003**). This was recorded within **Representative Section 8 [Figure 5, Plate 13]**.

No archaeological features and/or deposits were recorded in this area and no finds were made.

7.2 The Service Trench

The hand excavation of a service trench was monitored along the western side of the public house and extended into the public car park at the rear. This trench was approximately 10.5m in length, 0.3m in width and was excavated to an average depth of 0.60m [**Plates 16-17**]. This excavation revealed a topsoil horizon (**005**), which overlay a ploughsoil horizon (**006**). The latter deposit extended to the base of these excavations. This deposit sequence was recorded within the **Representative Section 5 [Figure 4, Plate 15]**. The deposit (**006**) was the same as the deposit (**002**) recorded within the area of new build.

No archaeological features and/or deposits were observed in this trench and no finds were recovered.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

The groundworks for this development were extensively monitored and recorded. Within the new build footprint, the monitoring identified a simple sequence of a redeposited topsoil, overlying a buried ploughsoil horizon and the natural horizon of Jurassic sands. Towards the eastern portion of this area, a significant increase in the amount of demolition material of limestone fragments, brick and tile fragments and mortar were noted in both the redeposited topsoil horizon and in the made ground deposit which overlay it. The map regression had identified the site of a building, which had formerly stood on this site, and it was readily apparent that this considerable quantity of material had originated from the demolition of this building. Very little trace of this former building, aside from a short section of brick floor – was noted. It was also equally apparent that this building would have stood to the immediate east of the new build footprint.

Following the demolition of this building, the site had then been levelled and cleared, in some places down to the natural sand horizon, and the redeposited topsoil and made ground deposits had then been laid down and the area backfilled with the made ground and redeposited topsoil horizons over the whole area of the new build footprint.

Within the service trench a sequence of topsoil overlying the buried ploughsoil horizon was encountered. The buried ploughsoil here being the same as that recorded in the new build footprint.

No archaeological features and/or deposits were observed throughout the monitoring and no finds were made.

Following the completion of the second day of the archaeological monitoring, in the light of the absence of any archaeological activity on the site, and following consultations between the author and Ms Liz Mordue of Heritage Lincolnshire, it was agreed that no further monitoring would be required.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the sequence of activity on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposits observed. A more detailed level of archaeological assessment and investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to ensure the absence of archaeology present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. John Hennessey for commissioning this work and to Mr. Andrew Wilding of City Designs for supplying scaled plans of the site. Thanks are also extended to Ms Liz Mordue of Heritage Lincolnshire, and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record, and the Lincolnshire Archives for their kind assistance.

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Appendix 1: Plates

New Build Footprint



Plate 1: Pre-excavation, from the south-east



Plate 2: Work in progress, from the south-west



Plate 3: Representative Section 1, from the south



Plate 4: Work in progress, from the east



Plate 5: Work in progress, from the south-west



Plate 6: Representative Section 2, from the north



Plate 7: Representative Section 3, from the north



Plate 8: Work in progress, from the east



Plate 9: Representative Section 4, from the east



Plate 10: Representative Section 6, from the south



Plate 11: Representative Section 7, from the west



Plate 12: Work in progress, from the east



Plate 13: Representative Section 8, from the north



Plate 14: Completed foundation excavations, from the east

Service Trench



Plate 15: Representative Section 5, from the east



Plate 16: Service Trench, from the north



Plate 17: As Plate 16, from the north-east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

New Build Footprint

- 001** Redeposited topsoil horizon, soft & friable, dark orange brown/grey brown sandy silt (Includes some redeposited **(002)** in its make-up. Included small-large limestone fragments and mortar fragments >40% in its make up, probably demolition material. Depth – 0.38m.
- 002** Buried ploughsoil horizon, soft & friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones & limestone fragments. Same as **(006)**. Depth – 0.36m.
- 003** Natural subsoil horizon, friable light orange brown sand with pockets of light buff sand. Depth - >0.45m.
- 004** Made ground deposit, soft & friable dark grey brown sandy silt (redeposited buried soil deposit **(002)** with small-medium angular stones & brick/tile fragments >20%. Depth – 0.26m.

Service Trench

- 005** Topsoil horizon, soft & friable, dark black brown sandy silt with small angular stones & limestone fragments, heavily root sorted. Depth – 0.22m.
- 006** Buried ploughsoil horizon, soft & friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small – medium limestone fragments. Same as **(002)**. Depth - >0.40m.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

