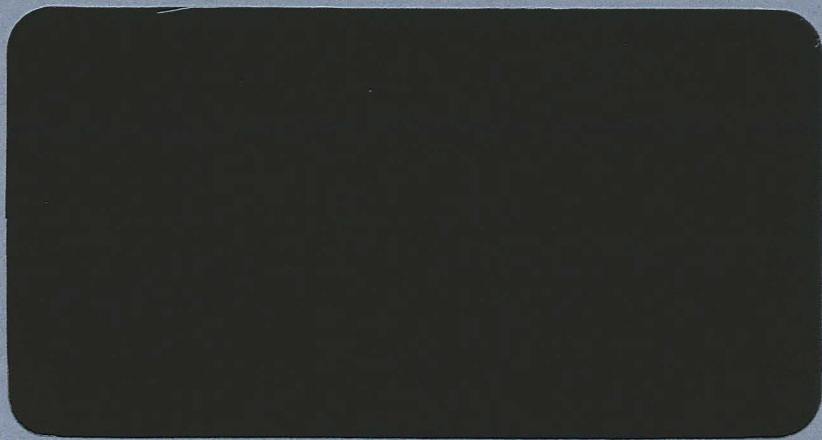


98/19

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
64 MONSON ST LINCOLN.**

Site Code: MSL98  
LCNCC Acc No. 189.98  
NGR SK 973557047-  
Planning Ref: 98/393/CAC & 98/590/RD





Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
24 NOV 98  
ack. sent 27/11  
accepted 14/1/99



EVENTS 43543 43546  
SOURCES 48272 48273  
70301 483379 MED  
70302 483381 LIX  
70303 483380 RM27  
70304 483382 UNDETE  
70156 MED

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Report prepared for Beemac Construction Ltd.  
by James Albone BSc., PIFA.  
November 1998

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## Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and description	2
3.0	Archaeological and Historical background	3
4.0	Methodology	3
5.0	Results	3
	5.1 Area One	4
	5.2 Area Two	5
	5.3 Area Three	6
6.0	Discussion and Conclusion	6
7.0	Acknowledgements	6
8.0	Appendices	7
	8.1 References	7
	8.2 List of Contexts	7
	8.3 Roman pottery report by M. J. Darling	8
	8.4 Post-Roman pottery archive by J. Young	9

## Illustrations

Fig. 1 General site location (1:12,500)

Fig. 2 Plan of the development site showing the location of the section drawings in this report (1:200)

Fig. 3 Section showing wall remains 104 (1:20)

Fig. 4 Section showing wall remains 115 (1:20)

Fig. 5 Section showing post-medieval deposits cut by pipe trench and manhole (1:20)

Fig. 6 Section showing post-medieval deposits, pipe trench and manhole (1:20)

Fig. 7 Section showing post-medieval deposits in Area three (1:20)



### Summary

- \* *An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the redevelopment of 64 Monson Street, Lincoln.*
- \* *Although a small quantity of residual Roman and medieval pottery was recovered, only modern deposits were disturbed during the development.*
- \* *The north face of the east range of St. Mary's Guildhall was exposed during the demolition of part of the existing building, and a brief photographic record was made.*



Fig. 1: Site Location (1:12500).  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of 64 Monson Street, Lincoln, to student accommodation. The work was commissioned by Beemac Construction Ltd. in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permissions for the development (refs. 98/393/CAC and 98/590/RD).

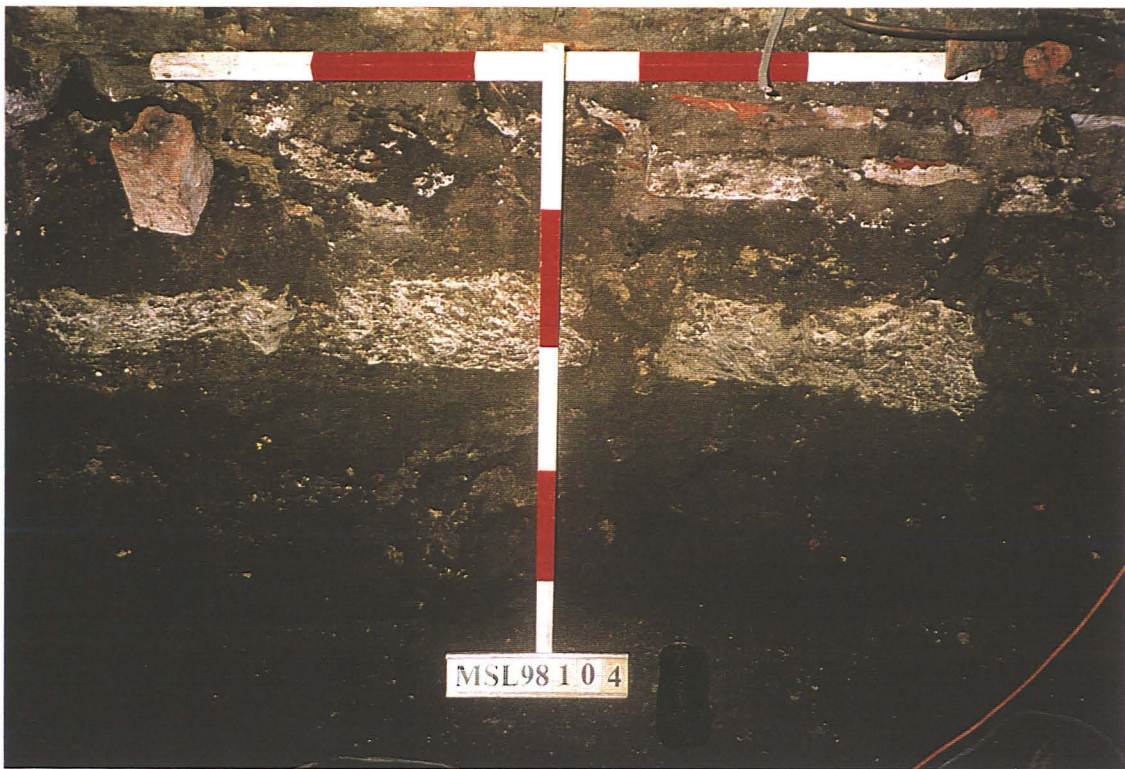
## 2.0 Location and Description

Monson Street extends eastwards from the High Street towards Sincil Bank. Number 64 lies on the south side of the street, immediately to the north of St. Mary's Guildhall at NGR, SK 9735 7047. The existing building consisted of a nineteenth century brick shop frontage and warehouse with twentieth century brick and block buildings to its rear (Pl.1).



**Pl.1:** A general view of the existing buildings at 64 Monson Street prior to the commencement of work. The nineteenth century brick shop frontage in the foreground was retained for conversion and the other buildings visible in the yard have been demolished. St. Mary's Guildhall (with the pan-tiled roof) and the tower of St. Peter-at-Gowts' church are visible to the south of the site.





Pl. 2: Stone wall foundation 104, looking east.



Pl. 3: View of the north face of the east range of the Guildhall as exposed following the demolition of the existing buildings (Compare with Pl. 1.).



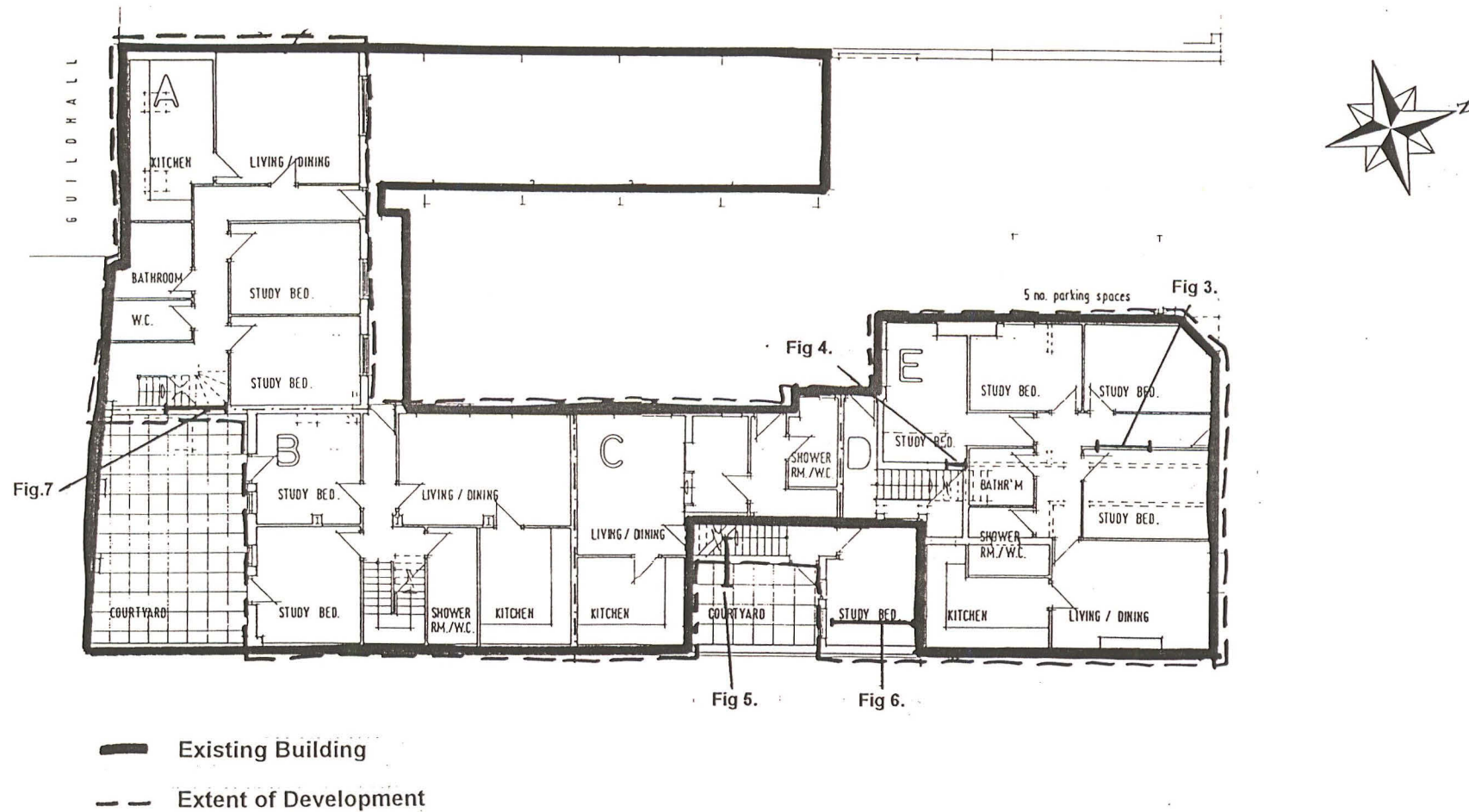


Fig. 2: Plan of the development site showing the location of the section drawings in this report (1:200).



### 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The development site lies within the medieval suburb of Wigford; an area of important archaeological remains, as has been demonstrated by the results of two excavations in the immediate area undertaken in the early 1980s.

Archaeological investigations on the north side of Monson Street, directly opposite the development site, revealed four Roman cremation burials and the foundations of a rectilinear stone building (possibly a mausoleum); all dating to the 1st century AD (Magilton and Stocker 1982; Magilton 1982). In the 19th century, Roman legionary tombstones were found in the vicinity, and the tombstone set into the west tower face of St Mary-le-Wigford church may also have originated from this cemetery, the extent of which is uncertain. In the later Roman period, the cemetery was superseded by commercial stone buildings; similar in design to those excavated at St. Mary's Guildhall immediately to the south of the site. These excavations showed that the Guildhall rests over the former Roman road, possibly the junction between the Fosse Way and Ermine Street. Commercial strip-type Roman buildings were recorded to the east of the Fosse Way (Magilton and Stocker 1982).

The Guildhall itself is of Norman construction (c. 1160 - 80) and is probably unique in the country; both in type and date. It was extensively surveyed during the 1980s and the west range still retains many of its original features (the north and south ranges are of a later date). It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

During the late nineteenth century the premises at 64 Monson Street were in use by Henry Allott, a baker and confectioner (Arkill 1881, 155).

### 4.0 Methodology

In view of the fact that the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, there was a possibility that important remains may have been disturbed during the groundworks of the proposed development.

The fieldwork element consisted of archaeological observation during the excavations and a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces. A record was made of the deposits exposed. That record included scale drawings (in plan and section), colour photography, and written descriptions of contexts (on standard record sheets).

The watching brief was undertaken between 23rd September and 20th October 1998 on an intermittent basis by Mr. M. Ridsdale and the writer.

### 5.0 Results

The results of the watching brief can be divided into three areas; Area One was inside the existing building of 64 Monson Street, Area Two in the small courtyard on the east



side of the site and Area Three was the foundation trenches for the new building on the south side of the site.

**5.1 Area One (Figs. 3 & 4)**

The remains of two stone walls were exposed beneath the brick walls of the existing building [102 & 116]. Wall 104 was aligned north to south and consisted of a single course of rough limestone blocks within a dark grey sandy silty (105). Underlying this wall were three layers (106 - 108), perhaps representing a series of demolition deposits. The uppermost of these layers (106) contained 19th century pottery.

Wall fragment 115 consisted of three courses of limestone blocks and was sealed by a dark grey sandy silt (117) which contained 18th to 19th century pottery.

The two walls may have been part of the same structure, possibly the immediate predecessor to the existing brick building on the site.

Elsewhere within this area a mixed silt deposit (100) contained pottery of later 2nd century (Roman) to 19th century date.

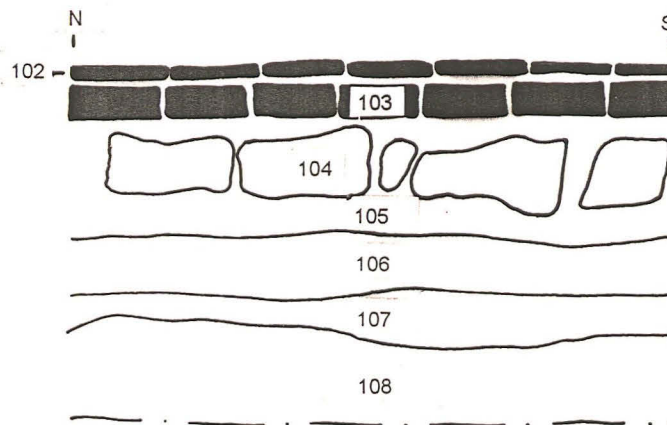


Fig. 3: Section showing wall remains 104. (1:20)

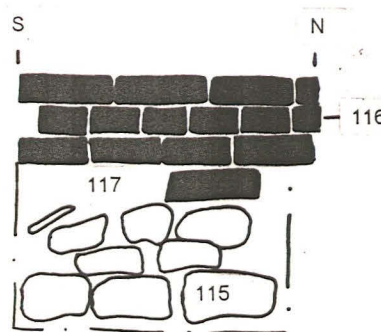


Fig. 4: Section showing wall remains 115. (1:20)



5.2 Area Two (Figs. 5 & 6)

A complex series of post-medieval deposits, extensively cut by pipe trenches [127] and two manholes [133 & 137] was exposed. Only a limited number of finds were recovered from these deposits; pottery of 3rd century (Roman) to 17th/18th century date was found in deposit 121, undated tile fragments were found in layer 130 and mid to late 19th century pottery and glass was found in layer 128. It is impossible to interpret these deposits as anything more than demolition and make-up layers.

Fig. 5: Section showing the post-medieval deposits cut by pipe trench and manhole. (1:20)

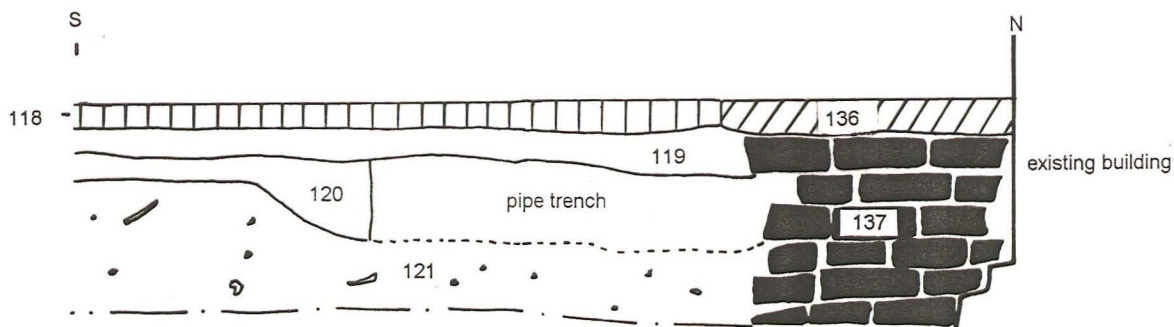
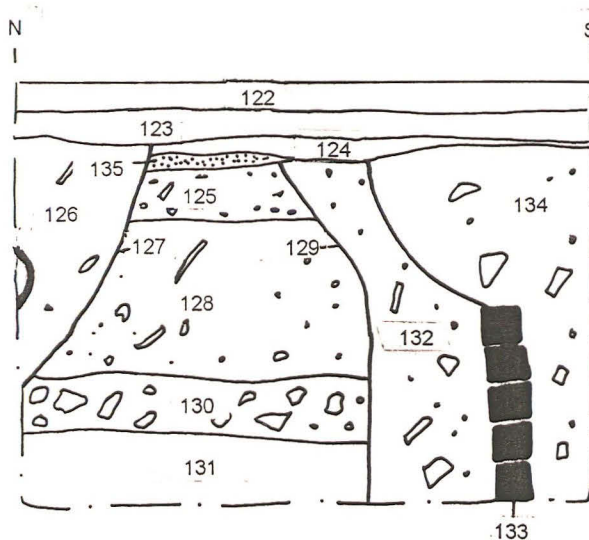


Fig. 6: Section showing post-medieval deposits, pipe trench and manhole (1:20)



### 5.3 Area Three (Fig. 7)

Beneath the brick floor of the demolished building were a series of post-medieval deposits. Fragments of 13th century tile were recovered from layer 113.

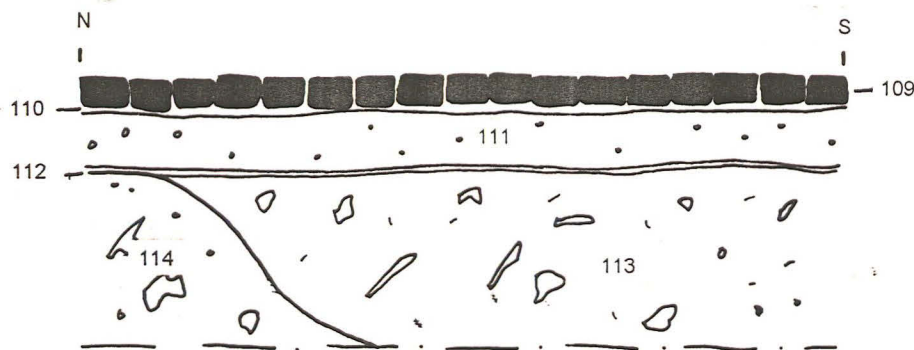


Fig. 7: Section showing post-medieval deposits in Area three. (1:20)

## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the watching brief show that the groundworks of the development have had no significant impact on the archaeological resource with only late post-medieval deposits being affected. This is principally due to the shallow nature of the trenches, which did not exceed 0.75m in depth. The presence of a small quantity of residual Roman and medieval pottery is not surprising given the important remains from these periods which are known to exist in the vicinity. The Roman and medieval pottery will have been disturbed by earlier activity on the site, in particular the construction of a cellar at the rear of the remaining building.

The demolition of the range of buildings on the south side of the site exposed the north face of the east range of the Guildhall. It was recognised that the first floor of the new development would obscure this again and a brief photographic record was made. A copy of one of these photographs is reproduced in this report (Pl.3).

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Beemac Construction Ltd. for this commission.

## 8.0 Appendices

### 8.1 References

- Arkill, C. 1881 *The City of Lincoln Directory.*
- Magilton, J.R. 1982 Monson Street, *Archaeology in Lincoln 1981-82, Tenth Annual Report, Lincoln Archaeol Trust*, 17-19.
- Magilton, J.R. 1982 St. Mary's Guildhall, *Archaeology in Lincoln 1981-82, Tenth Annual Report, Lincoln Archaeol Trust*, 8-16.
- & Stocker, D.A.

### 8.2 List of Contexts

- 100 Dark grey brown silt layer.
- 101 Limestone rubble in dark grey brown silt matrix. ? Demolition deposit.
- 102 Modern tile floor.
- 103 Layer of modern bricks.
- 104 N-S limestone wall.
- 105 Dark grey sandy silt bedding for wall 104.
- 106 Dark grey silt layer.
- 107 Dark grey sandy silt. ? Demolition deposit.
- 108 Dark grey sandy silt. ? Build-up layer.
- 109 Brick floor.
- 110 Mortar bonding for 109.
- 111 Dark grey sandy silt. ? Floor surface.
- 112 Mortar surface.
- 113 Dark grey sandy silt. ? Demolition deposit.
- 114 Mid brown sandy silt. ? Demolition deposit.
- 115 Limestone wall foundations.
- 116 Brick wall of existing building.
- 117 Dark grey sandy silt deposit within wall 115.
- 118 Concrete yard surface.
- 119 Tarmac/Hardcore below yard surface.
- 120 Hardcore layer.
- 121 Dark grey sandy silt.
- 122 Concrete yard surface.
- 123 Tarmac layer.
- 124 Limestone hardcore.
- 125 Mid grey sandy clay silt make-up layer.
- 126 Pipe trench fill.
- 127 Pipe trench cut.
- 128 Dark grey sandy clay silt deposit.
- 129 Manhole cut.
- 130 Brown - grey sandy silt. ? Demolition layer.
- 131 Sandy silt deposit.
- 132 Construction trench backfill for manhole.
- 133 Brick manhole.
- 134 Very dark grey ash deposit.
- 135 ?
- 136 Stone slab. ? Manhole cover.
- 137 Brick ? manhole.



### Appendix 8.3

Report 35 on the Roman Pottery from Monson Street, Lincoln. MSL98  
by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

#### QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The pottery came from two contexts, and amounted to six sherds, 48g. The condition is fair; there are no anticipated problems for long term storage. The pottery has been archived according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. A copy of the database is attached, and the computer file will be curated for future study.

#### DISCUSSION

There is little evidence to securely date these two contexts, but the flanged bowl in 100 is likely to date to the later 2nd century. The body sherd from 121 could be from a wide-mouthed bowl on the basis of the grooves delimiting a zone, and this would suggest a 3rd century date, the range being later 2nd to 3rd century.

Excavations at Monson Street by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit in 1982 produced very little evidence for activity in the late 4th century. This paucity for the later 4th century could have arisen from the excavation method, as the site was machined down to Roman strata, but the similarity of the overall dating profiles from M82 (Monson Street) and the adjacent SMG82 (St Mary's Guildhall) may indicate a lessening of activity in this area of the suburb in the latest period.

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec+	Ves	D?	DNo	Details	Links	Shs	Wt
100	GREY	BFL	BIA		D?		RIM/WALL		1	17
100	GREY	JBK?					BS;BURNISH EXT		1	4
100	GREY						BSS;PLAIN BASE FRAG		3	11
100	ZDATE						L2 OR LATER			
121	GREY	BWM?					BS;GROOVES		1	16
121	ZDATE						L2-3			

## Appendix 8.4

## Post-Roman Pottery and Tile Archive: Ware types by context. By Jane Young

Pottery Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
100	POTT	2	bowl	rim, soot.
	POTT	1	bowl	bs
	POTT	1	?	base?
	LKT	1	jar	Fe int
	LSW4	1	jug	rim
	LSWA	1	?	prob 14th/15th C
	LSW2	1	jug	bs
	LSW3	1	jug	bs x3
	BL	2	bowl	rim 18th/19th C
	Date: 18th/19th C			
106	BS	1	-	18th/19th C
Date: 18th/19th C				
113	R	1	-	-
117	LSTON	2	jar/bottle	18th/19th C
	BL	1	bowl	18th C
Date: 18th/19th C				
121	BL	1	bowl	bs; 17th/18th C x2
	TB	1	?	int glaze
Date: 17th/18th C				
<b>Tile</b>				
100	GPNR	1	-	spot of glaze (12th/13thC)
	PNR	1	-	scrap
	NIB	1	-	moulded rib. (13th C)
101	PNR	1	-	possible hiptile (13th/16th C)
113	PNR	1	-	fabr incl occ limestone
	NIB	1	-	poor qual fabr, NIB type 3a (13th C)
130	PNR	1	-	flat, corner
	PNR	1	-	flat

**Comment**

Mixed assemblage, nothing of note. Earliest pottery (100) is of 10th C date.



