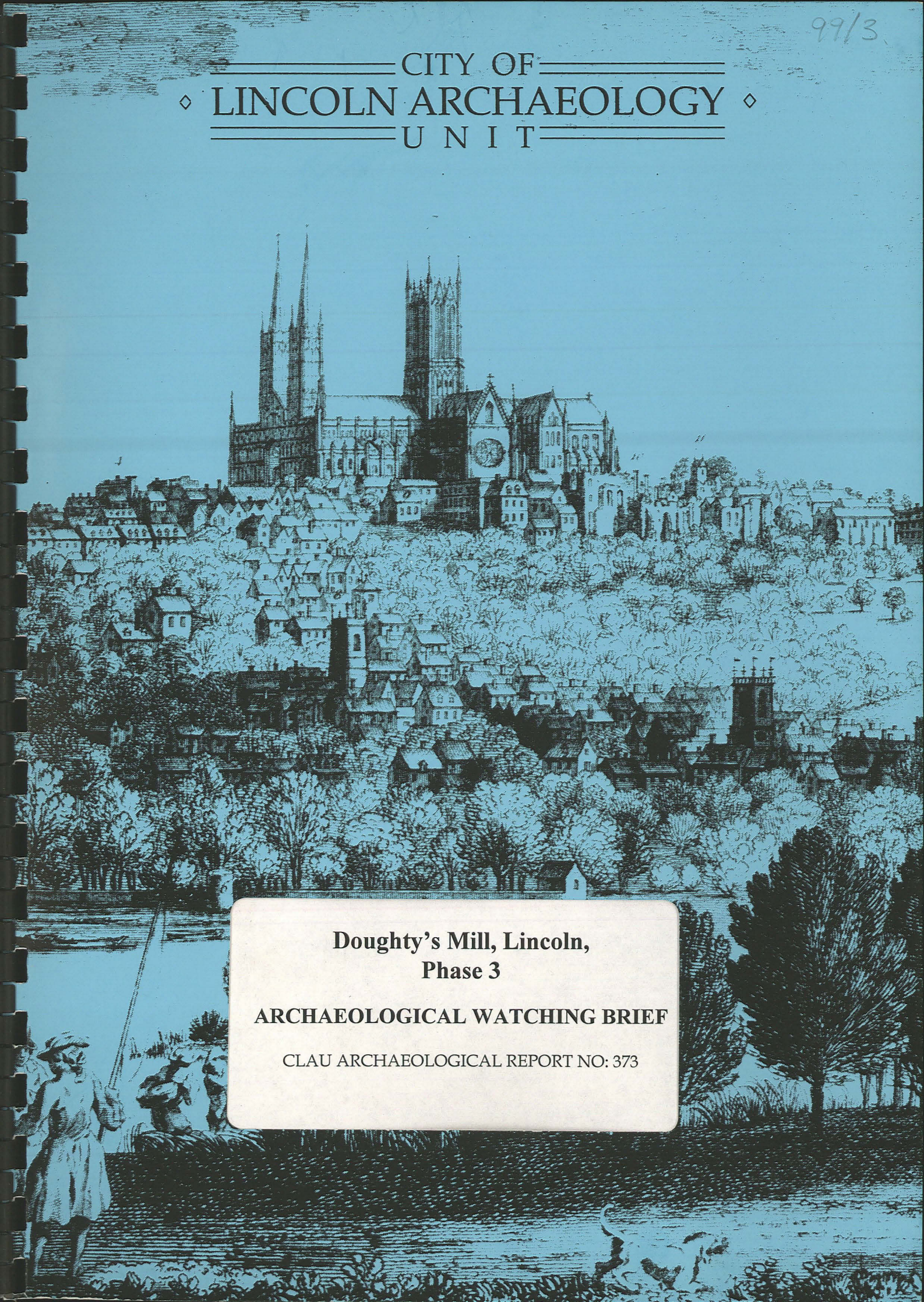


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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



**Doughty's Mill, Lincoln,
Phase 3**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 373



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
22 FEB 99
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Event 42711
Source 41420
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A
Report to
Longhurst Housing Association

February, 1999

Prepared by

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
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Doughty's Mill, Lincoln,
Phase 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 373

**DOUGHTY'S MILL,
LINCOLN,
PHASE 3**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**DOUGHTY'S MILL,
LINCOLN,
PHASE 3**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between 22nd December 1997 and 25th September 1998, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook a watching brief for Focus Consultants (UK) Limited on behalf of Longhurst Housing Association, during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing mill buildings in to flats at the above site location. The site is situated on Waterside South, on the southern bank of the River Witham, on the east of Melville Street and north of Newton Street (Pelham Street). National Grid Reference SK 6983 7110.

One of the primary archaeological objectives of the watching brief was to try and establish the nature of occupation in this area of the medieval suburb of Thorngate. Human remains, considered to be Medieval in date, were discovered to the east of the site in 1977 (their precise location is not known) and a possibility existed for the uncovering of further remains.

The watching brief revealed that large parts of the site have been subjected to extensive post-medieval to modern remodelling, resulting in the destruction of much of the buried archaeological resource. Although the full extent of surviving deposits on the site is not known, those deposits recorded during the watching brief indicate extensive reclamation of the site in the early 13th century. Stone buildings, probably representing private dwellings, were constructed during the latter part of the 13th century, close to the northern, (River Witham) frontage of the site. The building appears to have been abandoned and probably robbed away by the 15th century. Between the 15th and 17th centuries a further reclamation of the site appears to have taken place. Later occupation was primarily associated with the use of the site for milling and other industrial activities.

DOUGHTY'S MILL, LINCOLN, PHASE 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between 22nd December 1997 and 25th September 1998, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook a watching brief for of Longhurst Housing Association, during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing mill buildings on the site, into self-contained flats (Planning Application No. LF31/0149/97).

The site is located at SK 9758 7068 in the "Thorngate" area of Lincoln, lying adjacent to the south bank of the River Witham on Waterside South, immediately to the east of Pelham Road (Fig. 1). The name of "Thorngate" is derived from that of the medieval suburb fronting a street running along the south bank of the river to the east of Thornbridge (Cameron 1985, 104). The area of Thorngate relating to the site, is bounded by the River Witham to the north, lying within the loop of land between the River and Sincil Dyke, the western boundary being the present line of Pelham Street/Newton Street.



Plate I: View looking north, showing the excavation for the removal of buried obstructions (in this area concrete up to 1.80m thick was encountered) to the south of Building One. Previous remodelling to the mill buildings had severely disturbed archaeological deposits across much of the site.

Lincoln lies over several well-defined geological zones. The City itself is situated at a gap in the Jurassic limestone ridge (known as the "Lincoln Edge") which contains the course of the river Witham. The Witham valley contains a complex sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene gravels, silts and clays. Reclamation has taken place along the banks of the Witham probably since the Roman period. The majority of Thorngate lies on a subsoil of river terrace sand and gravel, giving way to alluvium near to the river. The area is very low-lying.

Summary Archaeological and Historical Background

There has been little opportunity so far to investigate the origins of settlement in the area of the site and little is known of the prehistoric period in Lincoln apart from slight traces of late Iron Age settlement. Within a decade or so of the Roman invasion of AD 43, a hilltop fortress was established by Legio IX Hispana. Some evidence of early activity (early tombstones and cremations) has been discovered to the west of the site, in the suburb of Wigford (m82) and although the focus of settlement at this time was the fortress, a large area to the south would have been required for grazing, industrial activities for provisioning the military, and probably a small civil settlement. The frontier moved further north and the fortress was abandoned; Lincoln then gained 'Colonia' status in the late 1st century and major public building works had begun by the beginning of the 2nd century. Outside the walled Colonia, to the south, reclamation of the marshy ground alongside Ermine Street enabled the development of the suburb, with commercial properties fronting the street from the late 2nd century onwards. Urban life in Wigford disappeared in the late or very late 4th century. The area of the site would have been uninhabited at this time as the area was almost certainly very waterlogged and low-lying, and probably within the river.

Occupation of Thorngate probably began at some time during the post-Conquest period, probably from the late 12th or early 13th century. Archaeological investigations in the area of the site have been few, and as a result, little is known of the nature of its occupation. Buildings, including the houses of wealthy merchants were known to lie on the north side of the River Witham, north of the site. The street of Thorngate is known to have existed on the south bank of the river and several charters show landholdings extending from this road south towards Sincil Dyke (Hill F, 158). In the thirteenth century merchants had property there, in the Parish of St. Swithin.

Post-medieval use of the site was primarily associated with industrial use, the existing mill buildings, testament to its relatively recent importance.

A geotechnical borehole investigation of the site was commissioned by Ward Cole Consulting Engineers in 1997. Archaeological observations made during this work concluded that there were no traces of human occupation on the site below a nominal depth of 1m.

2.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
- B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes. A full photographic record of the groundworks was also compiled.

Summary of groundworks

For the most part, the need to respond to foundation groundworks associated with the conversion of the mill buildings was limited. Of the primary groundworks observed during the conversion works,

piling within both of the mill buildings, piling externally to consolidate the brick facade between the two mill buildings and surface/foul water site drainage were closely monitored.

Enabling works (Figs. 2 & 3)

Prior to the excavation of external drainage trenches and associated manholes, and the formation of parking areas across the site, ground level was reduced (varying in depth across the site). For the most part this work was contained within deposits associated with the more recent history of the site. The operation revealed the presence of two large residue storage tanks. The tanks were removed by the contractor and a section of the resulting trench was recorded.



Plate II: View showing excavation of pile caps within building 2 (looking south).

Piling/internal works (Fig. 2 & 3)

An extensive piling programme was implemented within the mill buildings themselves. Excavation by the main site contractor of the existing internal ground floors to both mill buildings failed to reveal identifiable archaeological deposits. Much of the upper 1m of the footprint of the mill buildings had been extensively remodelled during the mill's existence. Piling in external areas of the site, for extensions to the existing buildings and for the stabilisation of the brick facade lying between mill buildings 1 and 2, was also monitored.

Drainage Works (Fig. 2)

Site drainage, whilst extensive, was for the most part contained within the upper 1m of the site and did not disturb buried archaeological deposits.

3.0 ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief identified four primary periods of activity on the site (Figs. 2 & 3).

Period I (Pre-medieval)

The earliest deposits encountered lay in the base of one of the trenches excavated to remove a slurry tank. Here, deposit [033] was encountered. This deposit, a very dark grey-black silt, was thought to

represent river silts, belonging to the period when the River Witham was much wider. owing to the depth of the trench, the recovery of finds from this silt was not possible (c.3.5m OD).

Period II (13th century)

Deposits associated with Period II are thought to represent dump events associated with the medieval reclamation of Thorngate. In section, these dumped deposits ([005], [006], [020], [023] and [032]) were revealed to be extensive (up to 2m thick) and consisting of clayey soils containing frequent angular limestones (c.4.50m OD - c.5.25m OD).

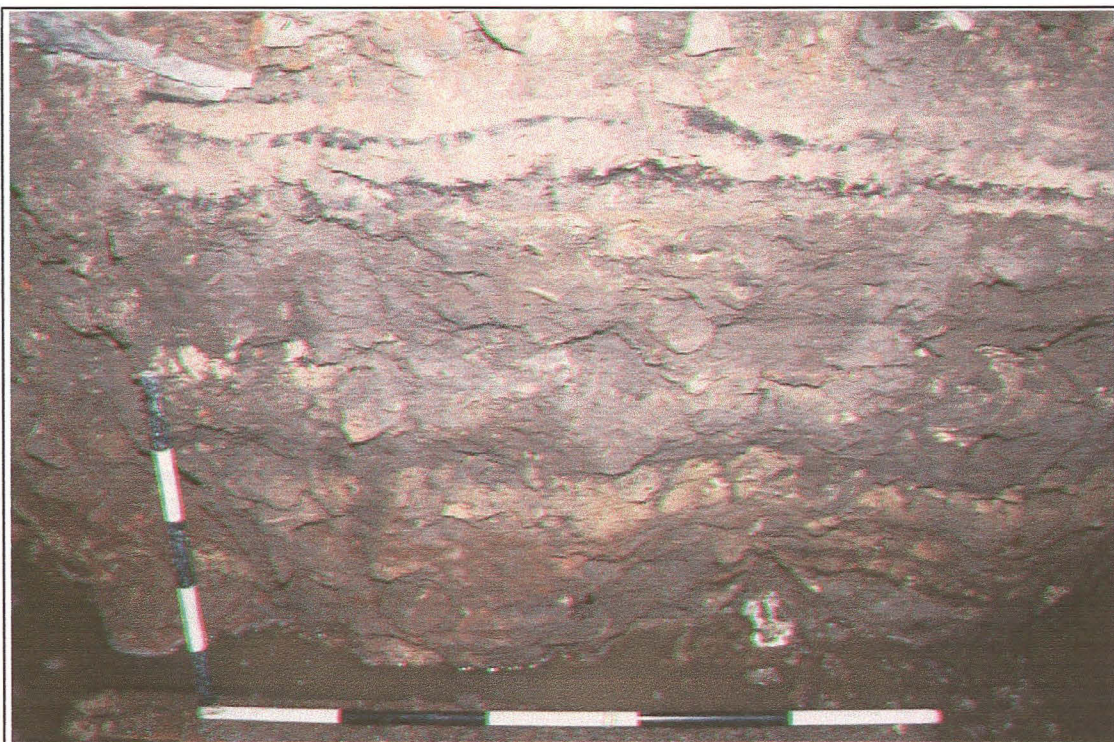


Plate III: Section 4 looking east, showing section through the medieval building (visible as different coloured bands of soil in the trench section) which occupied the northern boundary of the site.

Period III (E13th-15th century)

Period III indicates the first recorded medieval occupation on the site and was located in the northern part of the site, during the excavation of trenches for pilecaps associated with the making safe of the centrally located brick facade fronting on to Brayford Wharf South, between Buildings 1 and 2.

Excavation revealed a flagstone floor [022] at 4.50m OD (remnants of clay surfaces was also present (contexts [018] and [028])). The upper faces of the floor had been heat effected due to the presence on top of tile hearth [019]. This hearth was constructed from re-used roof tiles, set on edge (tile recovered from the hearth was dated to the 13th-15th century). The tiles seem to have been bonded with mortar, which had since perished. To the south of the hearth was a series of narrow bands of sandy mortar interleaved with bands of ash, possibly representing occupation surfaces ([017]. c.4.65m OD). North of the hearth were two large, undressed limestone blocks [021]. These stones, although seen in section only, may represent an unknown structural element associated with the medieval building. A further series of floor and occupation deposits overlay the aforementioned events (contexts [013] and [024]-[027] - top of deposits 5.85m OD). This series of deposits appears to represent a second phase of building use. In this phase the flag floor, hearth and associated occupation deposits were overlain by narrow bands of sandy soil (floors). Pottery recovered from [025] in this sequence suggests a date between the early 13th to mid 14th century.

Period IV (15th-18th century)

A series of dumped deposits sealing the medieval building was also noted in areas away from this structure. These deposits, [002], [011] and [012], were believed to be associated with late/post-medieval ground levelling, possibly representing further consolidation of the land already reclaimed. Pot and tile recovered from these deposits indicate a mid 15th to mid-late 17th century date (5.10m OD).

Period V (18th-20th century)

All of the remaining deposits on the site were associated, in the main, with the construction and remodelling of the existing mill buildings. No further features and/or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

Discussion

In conclusion, although large parts of the site have been subjected to earlier disturbance, resulting in the destruction of much of the buried archaeological resource, those elements that do survive suggest that towards the River Witham, at least, medieval structures were present on the site from around the mid 13th century. Prior to this occupation the site appears to have been subjected to extensive reclamation, probably during the early part of the 13th century. The presence of floors and a tile hearth may indicate that the building recorded was a domestic dwelling, possible one of the merchants houses suggested as being in this area of Thorngate (see Summary Archaeological Background). Two phases of occupation were present in the building. The building appears to have been abandoned and useful stone robbed by the 15th century. Possibly a further reclamation event was carried out between the 15th and 17th centuries.

4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Longhurst Housing Association, for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to Focus Consultants (UK) Ltd, Ward-Cole Consulting Engineers, the main site contractor, Lindum Construction Ltd and Mr. Ian George (Lincoln City Council Archaeology Officer) for his advice & guidance.

Project Team

Michael Jarvis	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
Yvonne Rose	Finds Supervisor
John Hockley	Project Manager
Mick Jones	Editor
Jenny Mann	Registered Finds/Ceramic Building Materials
Jane Young	Post-Roman and later pottery

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Vince, Alan & Jones, Michael J (eds) 1990 (Revd edn) *Lincoln's Buried Archaeological Heritage*,
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NOTE

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

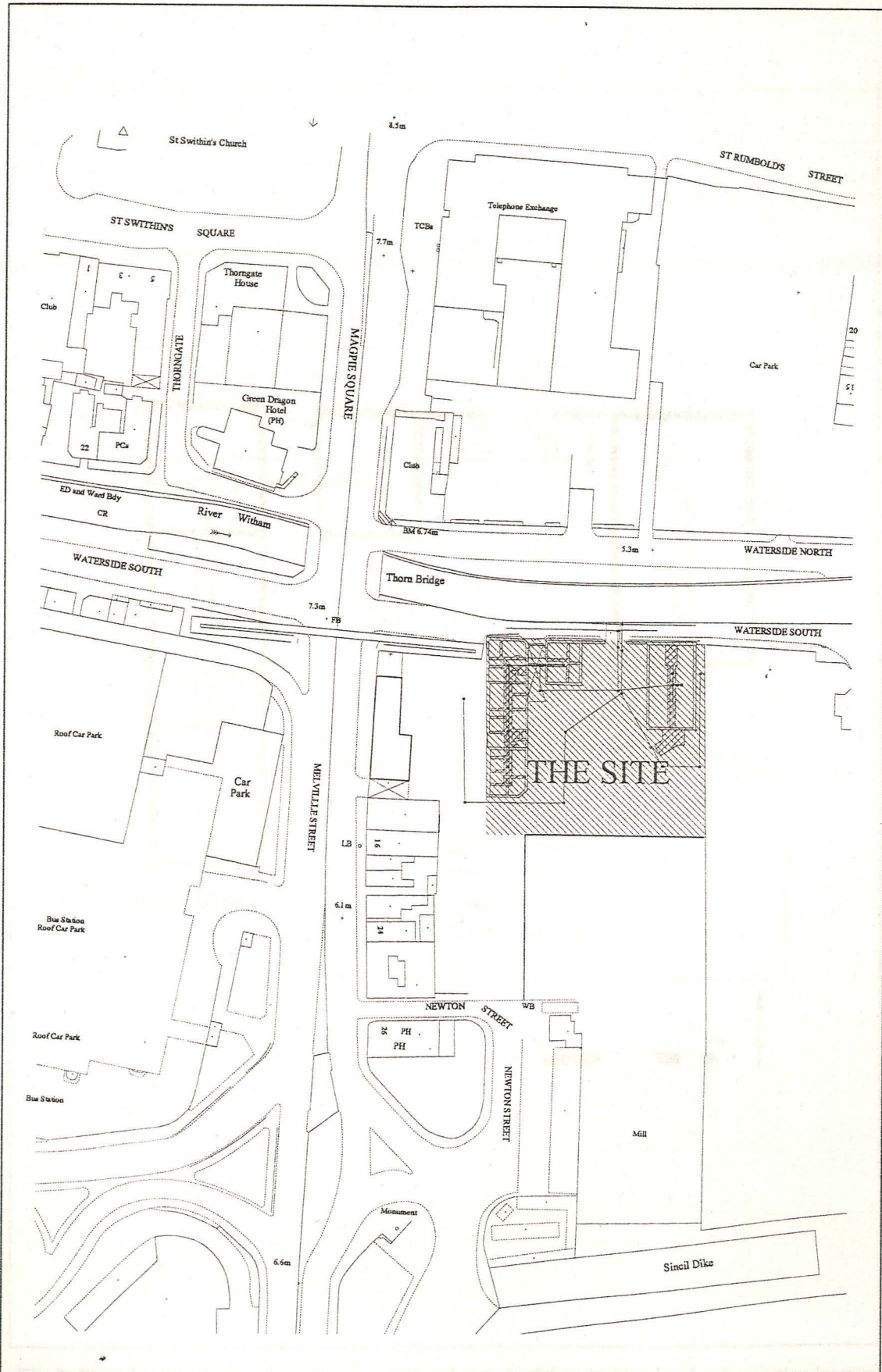


Fig. 1: General Site Plan.

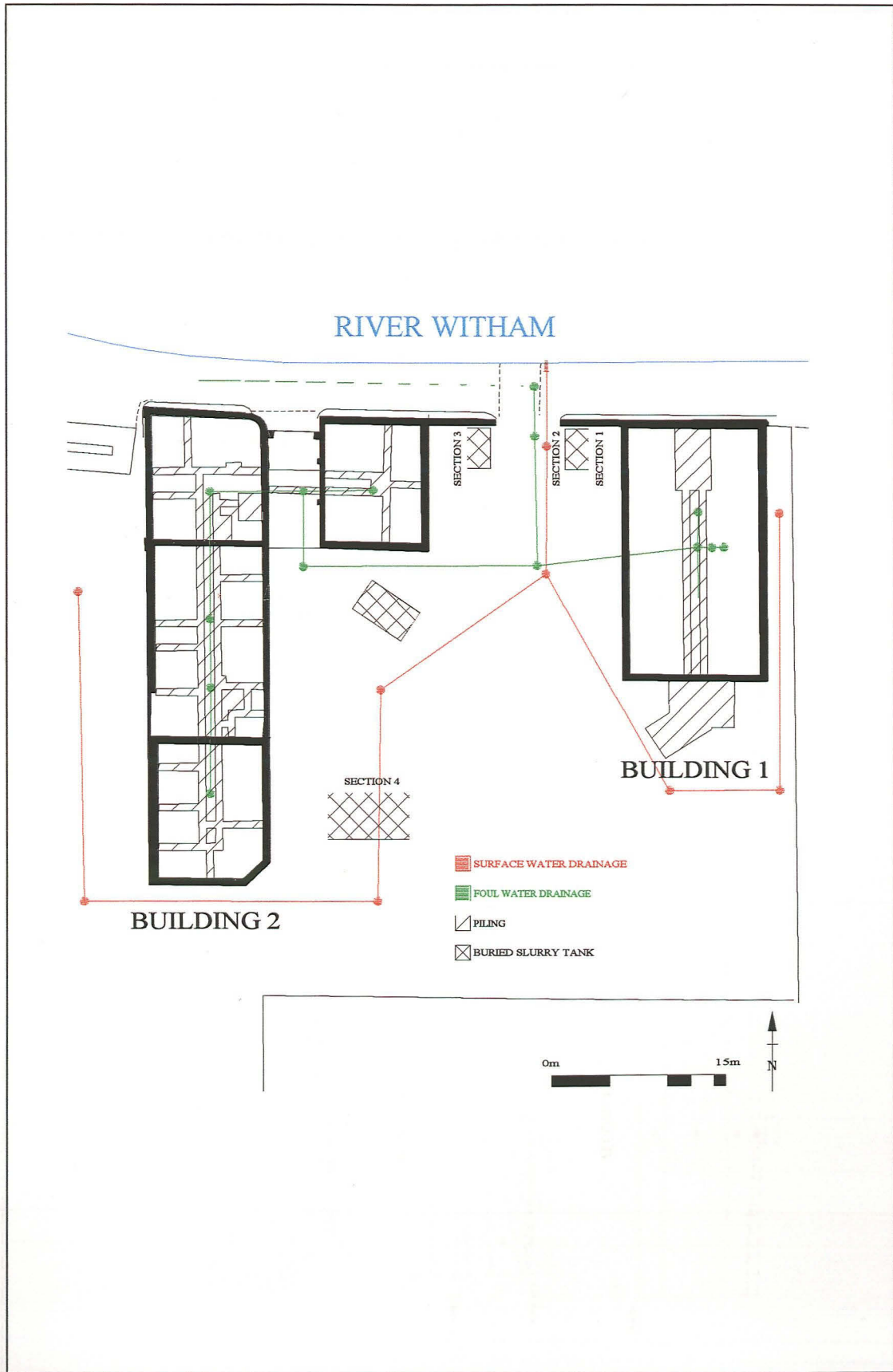
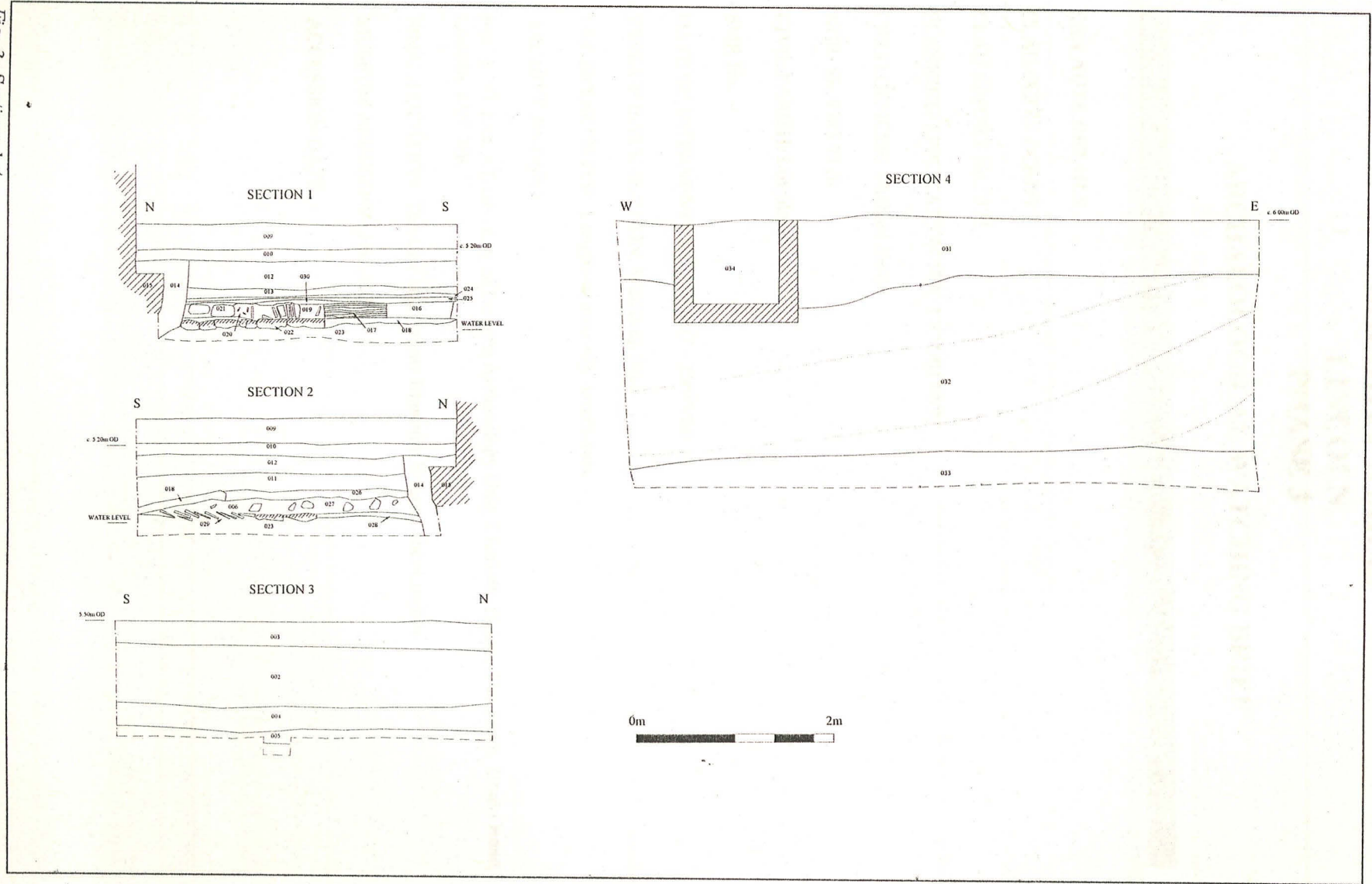


Fig. 2: Plan showing the location of areas monitored as part of the watching brief - also section locations.

Fig. 3: Sections 1-4.



**DOUGHTY'S MILL,
LINCOLN,
PHASE 3**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 - LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: DOM97

CLAU REPORT No.: 373

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: LF31/0149/97.

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 9783 7110

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 22/12/97 - 25/09/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Longhurst Housing Association

ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL

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

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 303.97

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX 2 - CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description
001	BLG1	unstratified finds from within Building 1.
002	TT1	friable-plastic, light yellow/brown , sandy/clay soil, with frequent tile, l/s frags and oyster shell and some pot sherds.
003	TT1	existing concrete hardstanding.
004	TT1	plastic, very light brown, clay/sand soil, with frequent tile and angular l/s frags. also shell flecks/frags.
005	TT1	plastic-firm, light yellow/brown clayey soil. very frequent small angular l/s frags and light yellow/brown, sandy mortar frags.
006	TT1	loose-plastic, dark grey sandy/silt with frequent pebbles (small-medium) and angular l/s frags. Fragments may be from [005]. - river silt??
007	TT2	unstratified finds from Trench TT2.
008	TP1	dark grey sandy/silt deposit (sampled 1) from base of trench at c.1.60m
009	TT2	concrete hard-standing and its limestone make-up
010	TT2	friable alternating bands (10mm thick) of light brown sandy soil and grey-black ashy soil.
011	TT2	Firm - friable, mid brown sandy/silt soil - occasional small angular l/s fragments, some charcoal.
012	TT2	firm-friable, light brown sandy clay soil - with small angular l/s frags, some roof tile and charcoal flecks.
013	TT2	friable, mid brown sandy soil -with frequent tile and small angular l/s fragments.
014	TT2	friable, dark brown sandy soil - very frequent angular limestone fragments and modern plastic.
015	TT2	concrete foundations to east-west facade
016	TT2	very firm, mid brown clay soil - occasional charcoal and very small l/s frags.
017	TT2	compact bands of yellow/brown sandy/mortar and alternate dark grey/brown ash soil (all c.10mm thick).
018	TT2	firm compaction, light yellow/green clay.
019	TT2	series of edge-set re-used roof tiles - many of which were removed during initial excavation of trench - no bonding to tiles, however, a red sand (perished mortar?) does lie between them - tile hearth.
020	TT2	loose-friable, reddened sand/clay soil - with very frequent tile and small-med limestone fragments.
021	TT2	two, large unhewn limestone blocks, seen in section only, no bonding - structural??
022	TT2	series of narrow (70mm x 300mm+) limestones, all were reddened and damaged through heating (hearth 019 lay above). seen in section only this feature, extending across most of the northern 2/3rds of the trench, would appear to represent a flag-stone floor.
023	TT2	This area of the trench is under water (200mm). When trench was excavated, further floors and occupation layers were noted in the section to a depth of 1.2m, when a dark grey/black silt was present
024	TT2	loose-firm, mottled mid brown top light yellow/brown sandy/clay soil - with occasional charcoal flecks and small angular l/s chippings.
025	TT2	loose-friable, light yellow/brown sandy soil (some clay) - with very frequent small-med, angular limestone fragments and tile pieces.
026	TT2	loose compaction reddy/brown sandy/ash soil.
027	TT2	loose-friable, mid brown sandy/silt soil with very frequent medium sized angular limestone fragments, also some charcoal and shell flecks.
028	TT2	firm, light green/yellow clay
029	TT2	deposit of re-used roof tile. these tiles were right on the water line and it was unclear whether they are a feature or not - no visible bonding although the

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Archaeological Watching Brief.

		tiles are pitched to the left.
030		brick built culvert
031		recently deposited materials - concrete, limestone and brick
032		extensive dumps of light brown clay soil with very frequent limestone fragments
033		very dark grey/black silt deposit

APPENDIX 3 - THE FINDS

Bulk Finds

Context	Name	Count	Comments
001	NAIL	2	-
008	BOTT	1	MOD
008	SHEL	2	1XOYST 1XCOCK DIS
008	SLAG	1	17GMS

Post-Roman Pottery Archive - Dates

Context	Earliest Horizon	Latest Horizon	Probable Date Range
001	EMH	EMH	
002	PMH4	PMH5	
007	MH7	MH9	
008	ASH7	EMH	
012	MH10	PMH2	
025	MH4	MH6	

Post-Roman Pottery Archive - The Site Archive

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
001	LPM	1	-	COLOUR
001	LSW2/3	1	?	BASE
002	BL	1	DRINK VESS	BASE;GRE TYPE
002	MP	1	?	ORANGE FABRIC PURPLE EXT SURF;INT GLZE
002	TILE	1	?	FABRIC INCL FE & CA CEMENTED SST
007	LSW3	1	JUG	-
007	LSW2/3	1	DRIP PAN	INT GLZE
008	LKT	2	JAR?	? ID
008	LKT	1	JAR?	? ID
008	MISC	3	?	OXID FABRIC; ANY DATE R-EMOD
012	TOYII	1	JAR/CIST ERN	RIM;THU STRIP UNDER
025	LSW2	1	JUG	BS

Animal Bone

Context	Count	Type
001	7	ANBN
002	3	ANBN
004	1	ANBN
006	12	ANBN
007	1	ANBN
008	8	ANBN

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Archaeological Watching Brief.

Tile/Building Material

Context	Form	Count	Weight	Sub-form	Fabric	Comments
001	GDRAIN	1	20	-	-	LSWA MED;13-14C
001	PNRDISC	1	40	-	-	MORTAR MED;12-13C
002	PNR	1	20	-	-	MED-LMED;15C-
002	PNRDISC	1	45	-	-	MED;12-13C
002	PNRDISC	1	15	-	-	LSWA MED;13-14C
002	PNRDISC	1	20	-	-	MED;13-15C
004	GPNR	1	105	-	-	FLAT MORTAR MED;12-13C
004	NIB	1	65	-	-	ODD? FOLDED MED;L15C?
004	PNR	1	15	-	-	LMED?
004	PNRDISC	1	165	-	-	MED;12-13C
004	PNRDISC	5	345	-	-	MORTAR MED;13-15C
004	PNRDISC	1	15	-	-	MED;13-15C
004	PNRDISC	1	75	-	-	VITR MORTAR MED;13-15C
005	PNR	1	150	-	-	MORTAR MED;13-15C
005	PNRDISC	2	180	-	-	MED;13-M14C?
006	STILE	2	4	ROOF	SLA	-
007	NIBDISC	1	235	4	-	CORNER MORTAR MLDED NIB MED;13-15C
007	NIBDISC	1	45	4	-	MLDED NIB MED;13-15C
007	PNRDISC	1	585	-	-	MORTAR OVER BREAKS MED;13-14C
008	BRKDISC	1	10	-	-	PMED-MOD
008	PANT	1	10	-	-	PMED;17C?
008	PNRDISC	2	30	-	-	MED;12-13C
008	PNRDISC	5	30	-	-	MED;13-15C
008	STILE	7	68	ROOF	SLA	-
012	PNRDISC	1	30	-	-	MED;13C
012	PNRDISC	1	180	-	-	CORNER MED;14-15C
012	PNRDISC	1	45	-	-	MORTAR MED;13-15C
013	PNRDISC	1	80	-	-	MED;14C
013	PNRDISC	5	615	-	-	MORTAR MED;13-15C
017	PNRDISC	2	90	-	-	LSWA MED;13-14C
017	PNRDISC	1	5	-	-	MED;13-15C
019	NIBDISC	1	75	4	-	CORNER MORTAR MLDED NIB MED;13-15C
019	PNRDISC	1	130	-	-	MORTAR MED;12-13C
019	PNRDISC	1	135	-	-	MORTAR LSWA MED;13-14C
019	PNRDISC	1	175	-	-	MED;13-15C
020	PNRDISC	1	35	-	-	LSWA MED;13-14C
020	PNRDISC	1	205	-	-	MORTAR;MED 13-15C
025	PNRDISC	1	20	-	-	MORTAR LSWA MED;13-14C
025	PNRDISC	2	210	-	-	MED;13-15C
029	PNR	1	175	-	-	FINE SILTY FABRIC (HUMBER?) MORTAR ALL OVER MED;13-15C

18 February 1999

Longhurst Housing Association Ltd
Friars House
Quaker Lane
Boston
Lincs
PE21 6DZ

Dear Sirs

DOUGHTY'S MILL, PHASE 3, LINCOLN
Archaeological Watching Brief
CLAU Project: DOM98 Museum Acc No. 303.97

Please find enclosed two copies of our Archaeological Report No. 373 describing the results of the watching brief carried out in conjunction with construction groundwork at the above site.

Copies of the report are being deposited with the local planning authority and the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Office. A further copy will be lodged with the City and County Museum as part of the project archive in due course. To facilitate the transfer of the archive we enclose documentation relating to the legal transfer of the finds for your completion and return to ourselves.

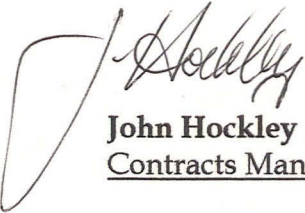
The final costs were less than our original estimate and we enclose our invoice for your prompt approval and payment.

We would take this opportunity to thank all parties concerned for their interest and co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

22 FEB 99


John Hockley
Contracts Manager

cc **County Sites & Monuments Record Office**
Mr I K George, Lincoln City Council