

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**  
**47/51 EASTGATE, LOUTH,**  
**LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: ECLA99  
LCNCC Acc No. 61.99  
NGR TF 32907 87445

99/11



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1992

GRANT 413478  
SOURCES 418192 418193  
44506 483333  
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July 1999

Lincoln's County  
Archaeology Centre

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### Summary

- \* *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the conversion of three existing shops at 47/51 Eastgate, Louth, Lincolnshire into one property.*
- \* *A pit dating to the sixteenth - eighteenth century and two undated possible chalk wall foundations were identified along with sequences of undated and post-medieval deposits.*
- \* *A quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered. Some of the pottery was of an unusual fabric possibly indicating a previously unidentified local production centre.*



**Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000)**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) during groundworks associated with the conversion of three existing shops at 47/51 Eastgate Louth into a single property. The work was commissioned by Meldrum, Lee and Gilliatt on behalf of Metrobrook Ltd. to fulfil a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council (Ref. N/105/1861/98).

Copies of this report, with an ordered project archive, will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln and with the local planning authority. A short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain.

## 2.0 Location and description

Louth is located in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire at the eastern edge of the chalk Wolds. It lies on post-glacial deposits, mainly boulder clay, between 25m. and 30m. OD. The development is located in the town centre at 47/51 Eastgate at NGR TF 32907 87445.

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The place-name Louth is derived from the River Lud which flows through it (Ekwall 1989, 305). The origins of the town can be traced back as far as the Anglo-Saxon period. It is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle that, in the year 790 AD, Abbot Aethelheard of a monastery at Louth (*Hludensis monasterium*) was elected Archbishop of Canterbury (Ekwall 1989, 305; Garmonsway 1992, 54).

A small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery associated with pits was recovered from the site of the Marquis of Granby public house on Eastgate, close to the current development.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Louth (*Ludes*) had a market and was held by the Bishop of Lincoln (Morris 1986, 7:56). During the medieval period Louth prospered, its wealth coming from the wool and cloth trades. The archaeological evidence for this period is sparse, though building remains have been discovered in Eastgate and burials in Ugate. A watching brief carried out to the rear of 76a Eastgate exposed a sequence of undated and post-medieval deposits and unstratified medieval pottery (Albone 1998).

The use of two of the shops on the site in 1930 has been established; No. 49 belonged to Carter and Co. who were boot makers and No. 51 to Richard Coney, an outfitter (Kelly's 1930, 430).

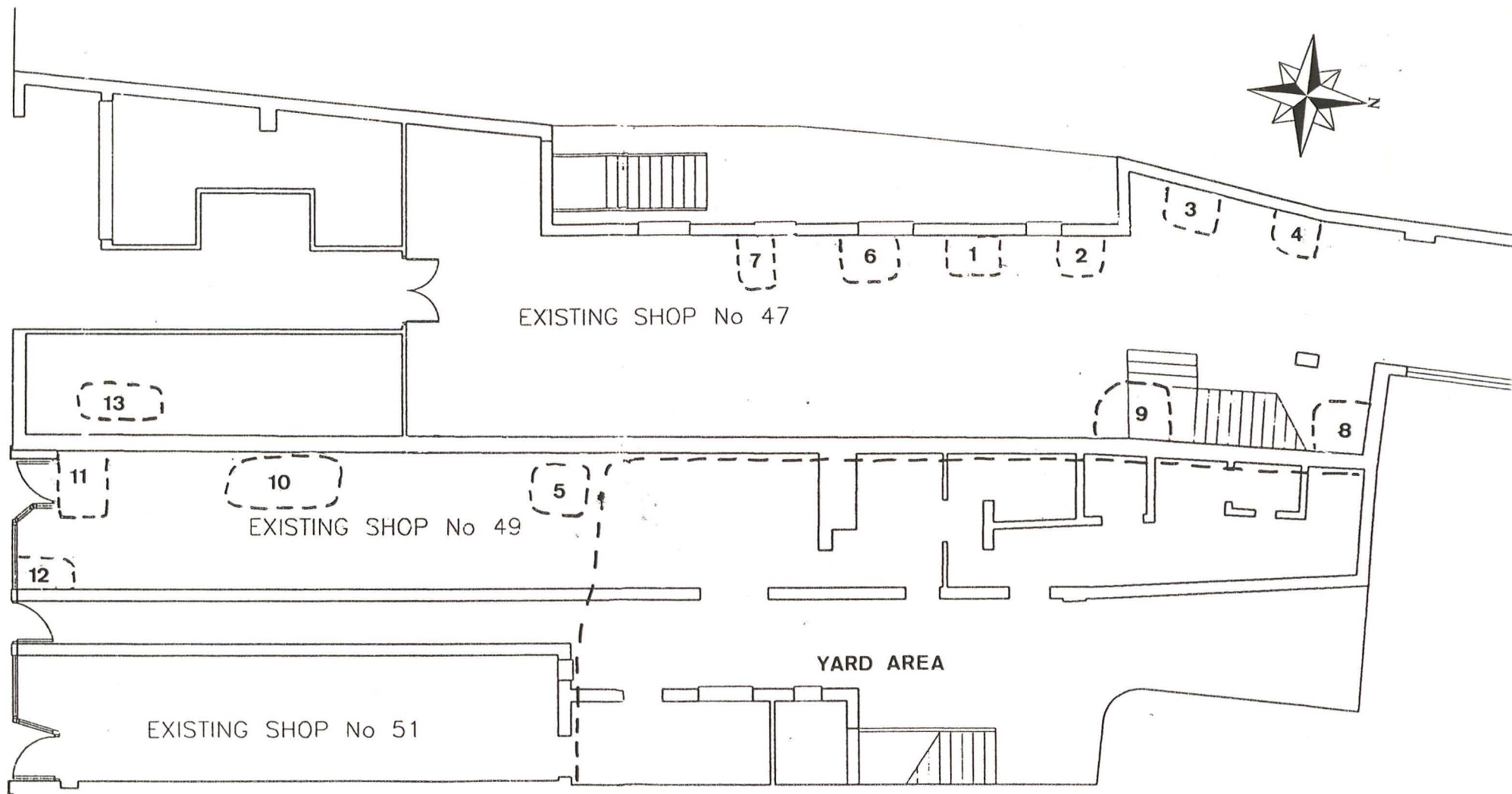


Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of the yard area and foundation pits 1-13 (1:125).

## **4.0 Methodology**

The development site lies in the centre of the town close to where Anglo-Saxon and later medieval pottery has been discovered. In view of the possibility of important archaeological remains being disturbed, the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Officer requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the groundworks for the development.

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of thirteenth small foundation pits and the removal of a layer of soil in the yard to the rear of No. 51. Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships) and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). The photographs, and the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. Medieval and post-medieval pottery and tile was recovered and a specialist report is included in the appendices.

## **5.0 Results**

### **5.1 Yard Area to the rear of No. 51**

Soil stripping in the yard area to the rear of No. 51 removed c.0.3m of disturbed dark grey clayey silt (100). Beneath this layer was a dark brown grey silty clay containing frequent small chalk fragments (110). Sherds of pottery dating from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries were recovered from both of these layers.

### **5.2 Foundation Pit 1**

Beneath the build-up deposit (100) was a dark grey brown silty clay containing occasional chalk fragments (101). These deposits sealed a layer of demolition rubble, containing chalk fragments (111). Underlying this layer was an undated deposit of mixed dark grey and mid brown silty clay (112).

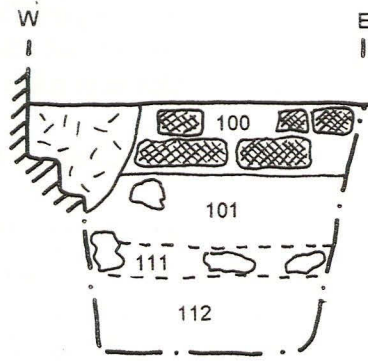
### **5.3 Foundation Pit 2**

A pit (102) filled with dark grey silty clay containing chalk fragments was identified immediately below the build-up layer (100). A large fragment of an unusual seventeenth/eighteenth century bowl and other post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature. Layers of green grey clay (103) and pinkish brown clay (104) sealed a possible gravel surface (105). Underlying this deposit was a lens of pinkish brown clay (106) which was similar to 104 and a layer of dark grey silty clay containing chalk fragments and charcoal (107). Neither of these deposits were dated in this foundation pit.

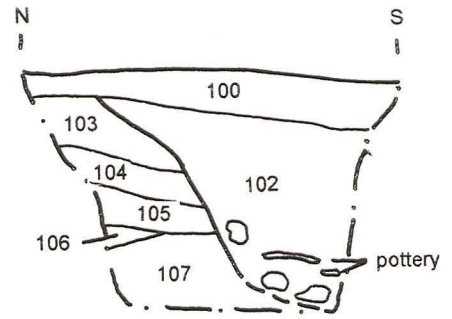
### **5.4 Foundation Pit 3**

In this foundation pit the build-up layer (100) directly sealed the pinkish brown clay (104). A fragment of nineteenth century clay pipe stem was recovered from layer 100.

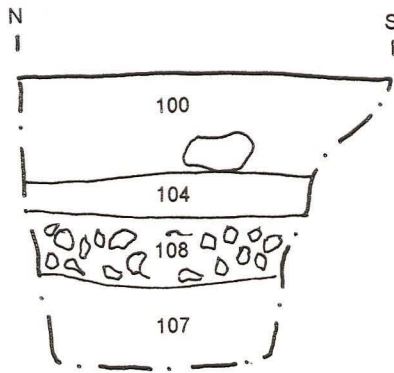




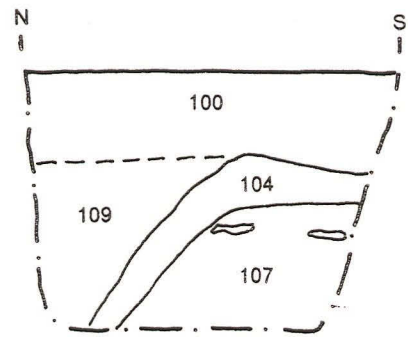
Foundation Pit 1



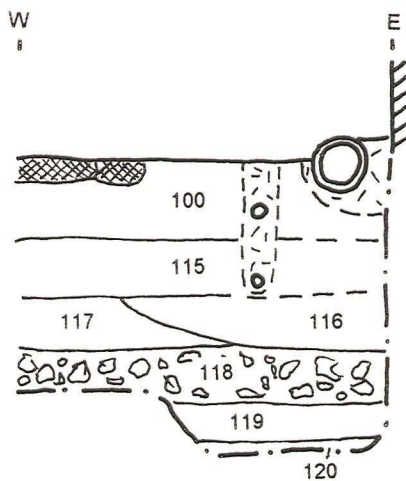
Foundation Pit 2



Foundation Pit 3



Foundation Pit 4



Foundation Pit 9

Key

 Brick

 Chalk fragments

 Modern disturbance

Fig. 3: Sections of the foundation pits (1:20).

Beneath 104, and cut into layer 107 on the east side of the pit was a band of rubbly chalk fragments (108), possibly the remains of a wall foundation. A fragment of tile of unknown date was recovered from layer 107 in this pit.

#### **5.5 Foundation Pit 4**

Although this pit was situated close to foundation pit 3 it showed a different stratigraphy. A large fragment of an unusual seventeenth/eighteenth century skillet and a fragment of nineteenth century clay pipe stem were recovered from the build-up layer (100) at the side of this pit. Below this layer was the pinkish brown clay (104) but this did not continue all the way across the foundation pit and dipped steeply to the north. It appeared that this layer was filling in a pit feature which also contained dark grey silty clay (109). A single fragment of medieval tile was recovered from the fill of this feature. Beneath layer 104 was the dark grey silty clay 107. A thin band of chalk fragments present within this layer may have been associated with wall 108, which otherwise did not appear to continue from foundation pit 3 into this foundation pit.

#### **5.6 Foundation Pit 5**

Only layer 110 was exposed in this foundation pit as the surface layer 100 had already been removed. A single sherd from a thirteenth/fourteenth century jug was recovered from this deposit. A larger quantity of pottery was found in deposit 110 just to the north of this foundation pit. The remains of up to eight, late fifteenth to mid sixteenth century Toynton/Bolingbroke Ware jugs were recovered.

#### **5.7 Foundation Pit 6**

Layers 100 and 110 were both represented in this foundation pit. A single sherd from a twelfth century jar was recovered from layer 110. Beneath these deposits was an undated layer of mid brown and dark grey clay (113) which contained occasional charcoal and chalk fragments.

#### **5.8 Foundation Pit 7**

The stratigraphy in this foundation pit was exactly the same as in the adjacent pit 6. No artefacts were recovered from any of the layers in this pit.

#### **5.9 Foundation Pit 8**

Foundation pit 8 had been extensively disturbed by building foundations on three sides and a drain running through its centre. The disturbance by the foundations extended to a depth of 0.65m below the existing floor level. Beneath the walls was dark brown-grey silty clay containing small chalk fragments (114). No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

### **5.10 Foundation Pit 9**

Fragments of an unusual seventeenth/eighteenth century bowl and a clay pipe stem were recovered from the surface layer (100) in this foundation pit. Beneath this layer was a deposit of light to mid brown clay containing sparse charcoal and small chalk fragments (115). Sherds from a sixteenth/eighteenth century jug were recovered from this layer. Sealed below this layer were deposits of dark grey clay (116) and a brick and chalk rubble deposit (117). These deposits were above a layer of chalk blocks and rubble possibly representing a foundation (118) and smaller brown-grey chalk fragments (119). A layer of dark grey silty clay containing chalk fragments (120) was exposed in the very base of the foundation pit. Fragments of medieval/post-medieval tile were recovered from this deposit.

### **5.11 Foundation Pits 10, 11, 12 and 13**

These four foundation pits were all shallow (between 0.25 and 0.40m deep) and only exposed layer 110. No artefacts were recovered.

## **6.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

Only a limited number of clearly recognisable archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. These included pit (102) and the possible wall foundations (108) and (118). The small size of the foundation pits allowed only keyhole observations of the archaeology to be made. It was not always possible to correlate the stratigraphy between foundation pits which were only one metre apart, so interpretation of the overall picture was not possible. The evidence from the pottery, most of which showed fresh breaks, suggested that there had been very little disturbance of the deposits after they had been laid down. The presence of only limited quantities of medieval pottery within the post-medieval layers suggested that the deposits of that date remained deeply buried and were also relatively undisturbed. This situation can be compared with the earlier watching brief at 76a Eastgate where a thick sequence of undated (presumably medieval) and post-medieval deposits was recorded (Albone 1998).

The pottery recovered is significant in its own right. Fragments of a number of unusual pottery fabrics in forms suggesting a sixteenth to eighteenth century date range were recovered (see Appendix 1). It has previously been suggested that an unidentified kiln was in operation at or near to Louth during this period. The unusual pottery found during this watching brief may be a further indication that such a production centre actually existed (Young pers comm).

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Meldrum, Lee and Gilliatt and Metrobrook Ltd. for this commission and to Mountains Building Contractors for their assistance on site. Thanks are also extended to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR and to Jane Young for the pottery report.

## 8.0 References

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- Pevsner, N., Harris, J & Antram, N. 1995 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.*

## Appendix 1

### Report on the Post-Roman Pottery by Jane Young

This is a small but potentially important group of pottery. Several of the vessels are not in familiar fabrics, although they fall within a range to be expected within the county. It is possible that these vessels are of local manufacture and this should be flagged up in any report so they could be included as part of any forthcoming surveys of medieval and post-medieval pottery in the county.

### *tile archive egla99*

<i>context</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>no frags</i>	<i>description</i>
102	<i>pit 2</i>	PNR	1	med to post-med
107	<i>pit 3</i>	PNR	1	? Date
109	<i>pit 4</i>	PNR	1	med
120	<i>pit 9</i>	PNR	3	flat; med to post-med; odd purple/red fabric

# pottery archive egl99

<i>context</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
100										
	<i>pit 2</i>									
		STMO	mug	1	1		lower handle join			late 17/18th
	<i>pit 4</i>									
		GRE	handled & spout	6	1		profile	draw	int & ext glaze; odd fabric ? Local or Bolingbroke; never seen before	17/18th
	<i>pit 9</i>									
		GRE	large bowl	2	1		rim & BS	draw	odd fabric; ? Local	17/18th
	<i>surface in yard</i>									
		BERTH	bowl	1	1		profile	draw	pale fine fabric; poss DUTR; ? Local	17/18th
		PORC	bowl	1	1	interior paint	rim			18th?
		TB	jar/jug	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	small jug	1	1		base			16-18th

<i>context</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels dec</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
102	<i>pit 2</i>	PMLOC	bunghole vessel	1	1	plain bung		odd fabric;? Local	16th?
		GRE	bowl	4	1	profile	draw	one third of vess;odd fabric;? Local;stacking scars internally;heavy trimming ext	17/18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1	BS		well worn	16-18th
		TB	small jug?	1	1	BS		scrap	16-18th
		CIST	cup	1	1	BS		scrap	late 15-mid17th
104	<i>pit4</i>	TB	jug	1	1	BS		burnt	late 15-17th
110	<i>N of pit 5</i>	TB	large jug/bungh	3	1	handle & BS		lower cordon	late 15- mid 16th
		TB	small jug	1	1	BS		interior deposit	late 15- mid 16th
		TB	large jug/bungh	8	1	handle & BS		lower cordon	late 15- mid 16th

<i>context</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
		TB	large jug/bungh	6	1		BS		interior deposit	late 15- mid 16th
		TB	jug/jar	19	1		BS			late 15- mid 16th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			late 15- mid 16th
		TOYII	jug	41	1		rim handle & BS	draw	all fresh breaks	late 15- mid 16th
		TB	small jug	1	1		BS			late 15- mid 16th
	<i>pit 5</i>									
		MEDX	jug	1	1		BS		fine quartz fabric;light firing;copper glaze	13/14th
	<i>pit 6</i>									
		LEMS	jar	1	1	pressed rim ?	rim			12th
	<i>surface in yard</i>									
		BERTH	owl	1	1		BS			17/18th
		TB	owl	1	1		rim			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	2	1		BS			16-18th



<i>context</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
		PGE	bowl	1	1		base		int & ext glaze;odd;?local	mid 16-18th
115										
		TB	jug/bunghole ve	2	1		BS		interior deposit	16-18th
u/s										
		STSL	hollow	1	1	feather	BS			late 17/18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th
		TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS			16-18th

Appendix 2.



P.1 General view of the yard area, looking north east.



P.2 View of foundation pit 2 looking south.

**P.3** Foundation pit 3 looking south, showing the chalk rubble layer 108.



**P.4** Foundation pit 9 looking north, showing chalk rubble layer 118.