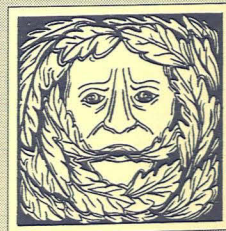


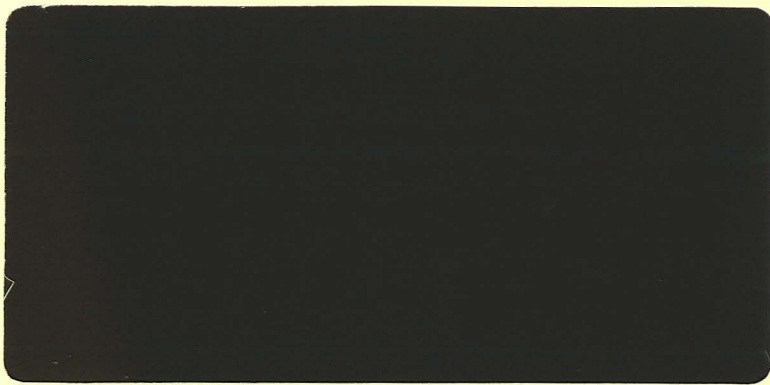
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 10 ERMINE STREET,  
ANCASTER, SKD  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(AES 99)



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Archaeology Section



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Source LI 5837  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
**AT 10 ERMINE STREET,**  
**ANCASTER, SKD**  
**LINCOLNSHIRE**  
**(AES 99)**

Work Undertaken For  
Westmoreland Windows and Conservatories

March 2000

Report Compiled by  
Joanna Hambly

National Grid Reference: **SK 983 436**

APS. Report No. **28/00**



*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered  
Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)*

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks in preparation for the construction of a conservatory in Ermine Sreet, Ancaster, Lincolnshire.*

*Ancaster is the site of known archaeological activity from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods. The present town has a Roman origin and incorporates Scheduled Ancient Monument 105, a high status, defended Roman Small Town. The site is situated within the limits of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.*

*Excavations for the development area revealed a short sequence of modern deposits associated with the construction of the bungalow in 1956.*

*The lack of archaeological remains can perhaps be explained by the shallowness and limited area of the excavations.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as *a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*<sup>1</sup> (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

On the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1999 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the erection of a conservatory at 10 Ermine Street, Ancaster, Lincolnshire.

The excavations were subject for conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, including the implementation of an archaeological watching brief. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Westmoreland Windows and Conservatories to undertake the watching brief. The work was carried out in accordance with guidelines set by the IFA.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Ancaster is situated 10km west of Sleaford and approximately 10km northeast of Grantham, in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town lies at the base of a valley formed when the river Trent flowed through the Lincoln Ridge at this point.

Located near the village centre, the site at 10 Ermine Street, Ancaster, lies just within the northwest boundary of the Roman Town, Scheduled Ancient Monument 105, at National Grid Reference SK 983 436.

Local soils are predominantly of the Blackwood Association, deep, permeable, sandy and coarse loamy soils in a glaciofluvial drift, with a finger of Ruskington Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths against a background of Elmton 1 Association which are characterised as shallow brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984,



127, 179, 304). These overlie a solid geology of Great Oolitic Limestone and Upper Lincolnshire Limestone.

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Ancaster is situated in an area of significant known archaeological activity dating from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period.

Stone artefacts of Neolithic date (3500-2000 BC), and later settlement during the Iron Age (600 BC- AD43), have been recorded in the area.

During the Romano-British period Ancaster was the site of an early temporary Roman fort, situated to the northwest of the present town. A subsequent permanent fort, located to the east of the town, was built to accommodate soldiers during the construction of Ermine Street. The site lies 40m west of Ermine Street, a major Roman road that connected London, Lincoln and the Humber Estuary. In addition, the site is located just within the northwest boundary of the Romano-British walled town, established in 280 AD. Archaeological excavations in and around Ancaster, have uncovered evidence of the town's earthen rampart and walled defences and extensive stone buildings with fragments of tessellated pavements. Coins and coin moulds, stone sculpture and inscriptions, brooches, pottery, have been found, together with a possible pottery kiln and cemeteries outside the town walls (APS 1995).

Anglo-Saxon activity is represented by a cemetery that continued to use the site of a Romano-British burial ground to the south of the town. This suggests that occupation of the Roman town

continued into the Anglo-Saxon period, but that as yet, no settlement evidence has been recovered.

Ancaster is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, however, nearby West Willoughby is recorded as having two churches, one of which may have been located at Ancaster (Foster & Longley 1976). Ancaster is first referred to by name in a charter of Henry II (1154-1189) as *Anecastre*, which means 'the Roman fort of *Anna*' and is of Old English derivation (Ekwall 1974, 9).

The church of St. Martin has a Norman chancel and northern arcade and a possible fragment of an Anglo-Saxon window. The tower is 14<sup>th</sup> century. A medieval chapel of St. Mary stood in the field opposite (Pevsner 1989, 100).

Various 17-19<sup>th</sup> century buildings can be found in the town (*ibid.*). Ancaster became a parish in its own right in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and analyse archaeological deposits exposed.

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features exposed;
- Determine the spatial arrangements of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practical to recover dating evidence from the archaeological features recorded;
- Establish the sequence of archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 4. METHODS

Footings for a conservatory, with a total measurement of 3.30m by 4.05m, were excavated by hand. The trench was 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep. During the excavation, the trench was examined for archaeological remains. Each deposit and feature revealed was given a unique reference number, (written in brackets in the text), and recorded on a *pro forma* record sheet. The trench and surrounding area was photographed and a representative section was drawn at a scale of 1:10.

#### 5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and the recognisable relationships between them. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1	Pre-bungalow deposits.
Phase 2	Deposits associated with the construction of the bungalow.

##### **Phase 1. Pre-bungalow deposits**

The earliest deposit encountered was (003), a firm, mid grey sandy silt, containing no artefacts.

##### **Phase 2. Deposits associated with the construction of the bungalow**

Layer (003) was overlain by a loose, mid grey sandy silt (002) with small sub-angular limestone inclusions.

This was covered by a friable, dark grey sandy silt (001) that contained a

quantity of clay pipe stems, and also pottery, animal bone, metal, glass and tile.

#### DISCUSSION

The compaction and composition of (003) indicates it was a buried soil, presumably the ground surface, existing prior to the construction of the bungalow in 1956.

The nature of the two overlying deposits suggests they formed the present topsoil and possibly a subsoil. The mixed nature of the artefacts recovered from the topsoil (001) indicates it incorporated disturbed and re-deposited 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century material, although the layer itself was probably not deposited until the construction of the bungalow in 1956.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Excavations during the construction of a conservatory in Ancaster, were subject to a watching brief because of its location within the limits of a Roman Town and Scheduled Ancient Monument. However, other than modern activity associated with the construction of the bungalow in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, no obvious archaeological remains were revealed.

This is likely to be due to the shallowness of the excavations and the very limited area of the foundation trenches.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge Jeremy Westmoreland



of Westmoreland Windows and Conservatories who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor co-ordinated the work and Gary Taylor and Tom Lane edited this report. Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, provided access to the relevant parish files.

edition rev. Antram, N)

Whitwell, JB, 1970 *Roman Lincolnshire*.  
History of Lincolnshire Volume II

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Co-ordinator: Gary Taylor  
Supervisor: Tobin Rayner  
Illustration: Phil Mills  
Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
Post-excavation analyst: Joanna Hambly

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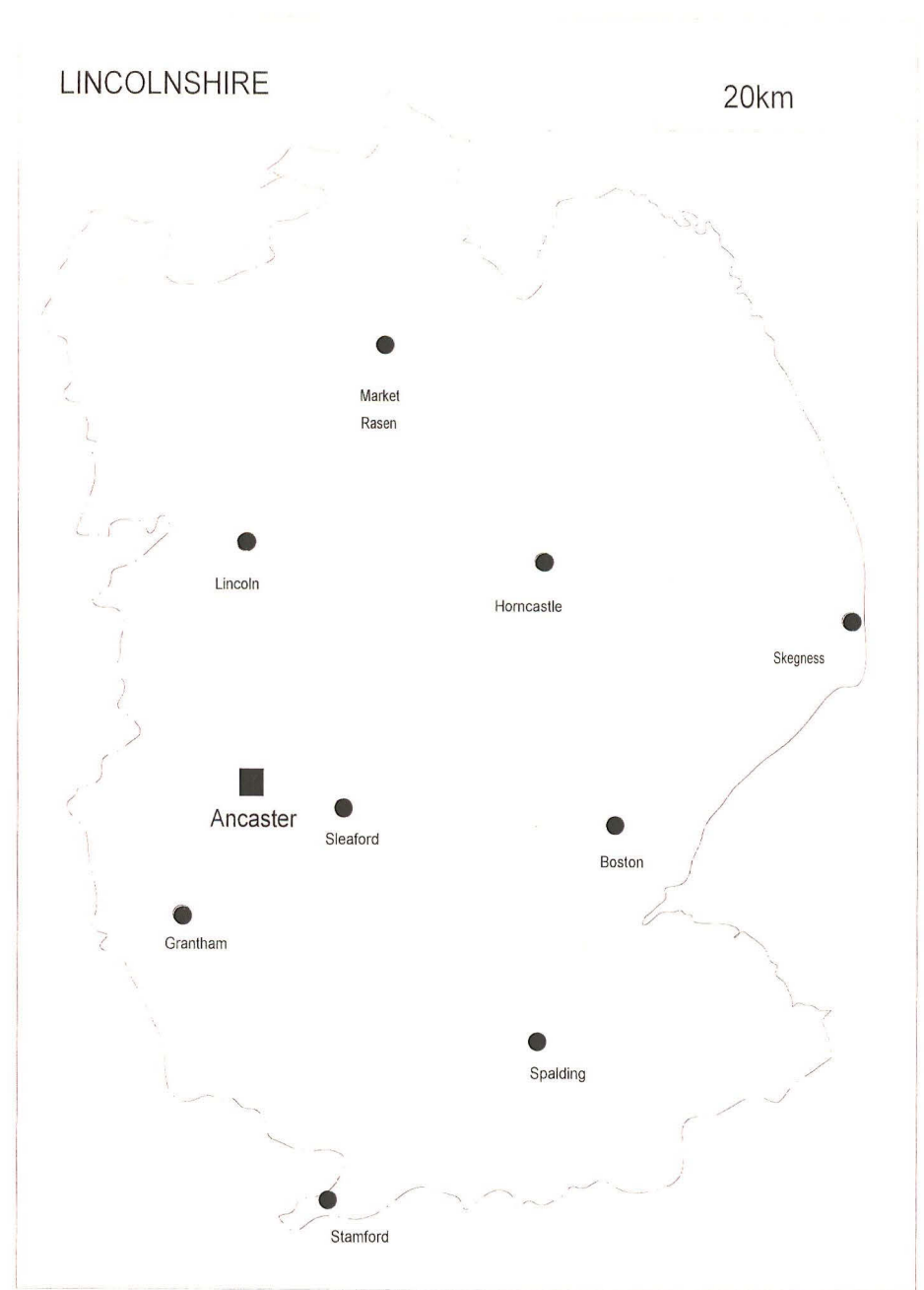


Figure 1 General Location Plan

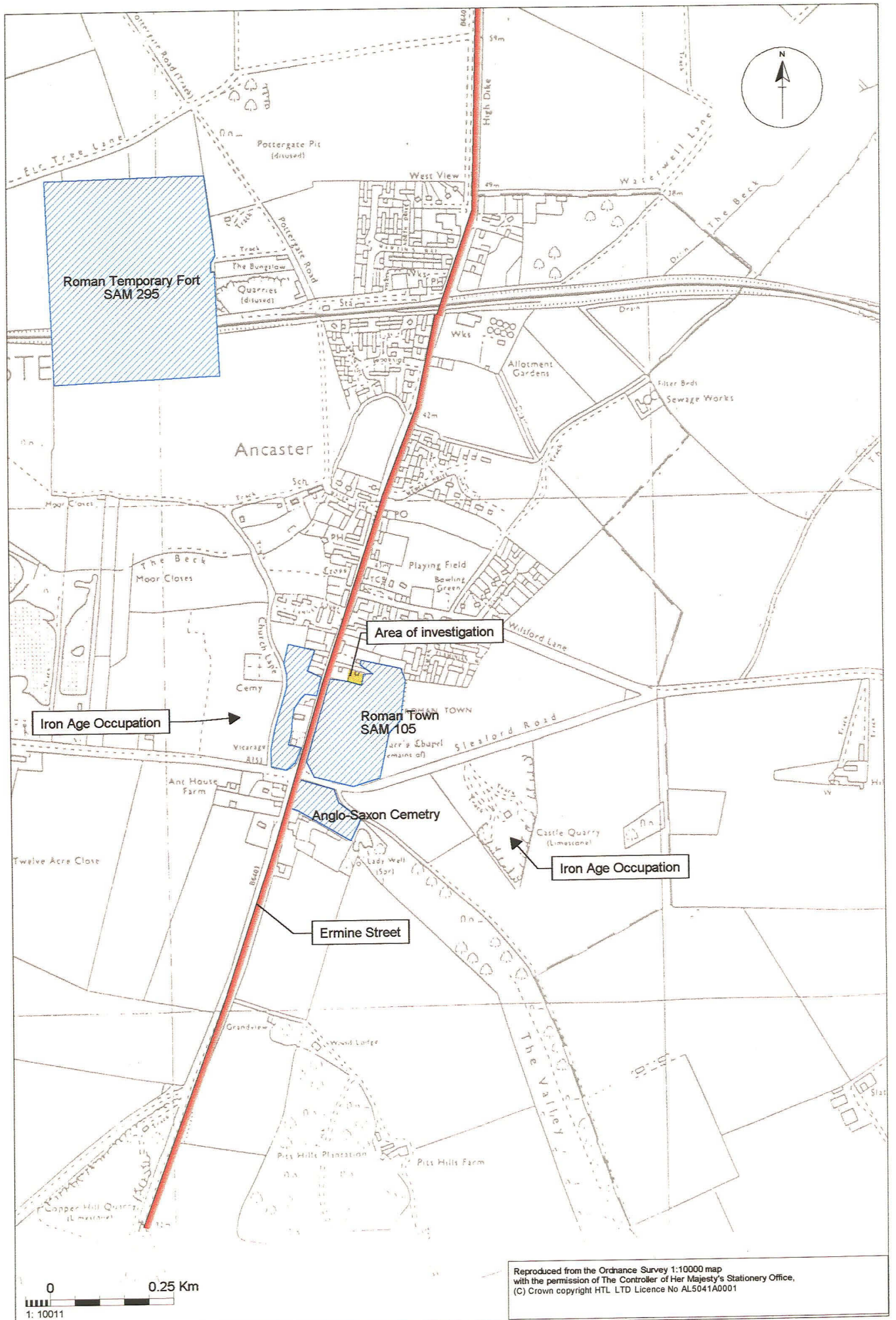


Figure 2 General site location and archaeological setting



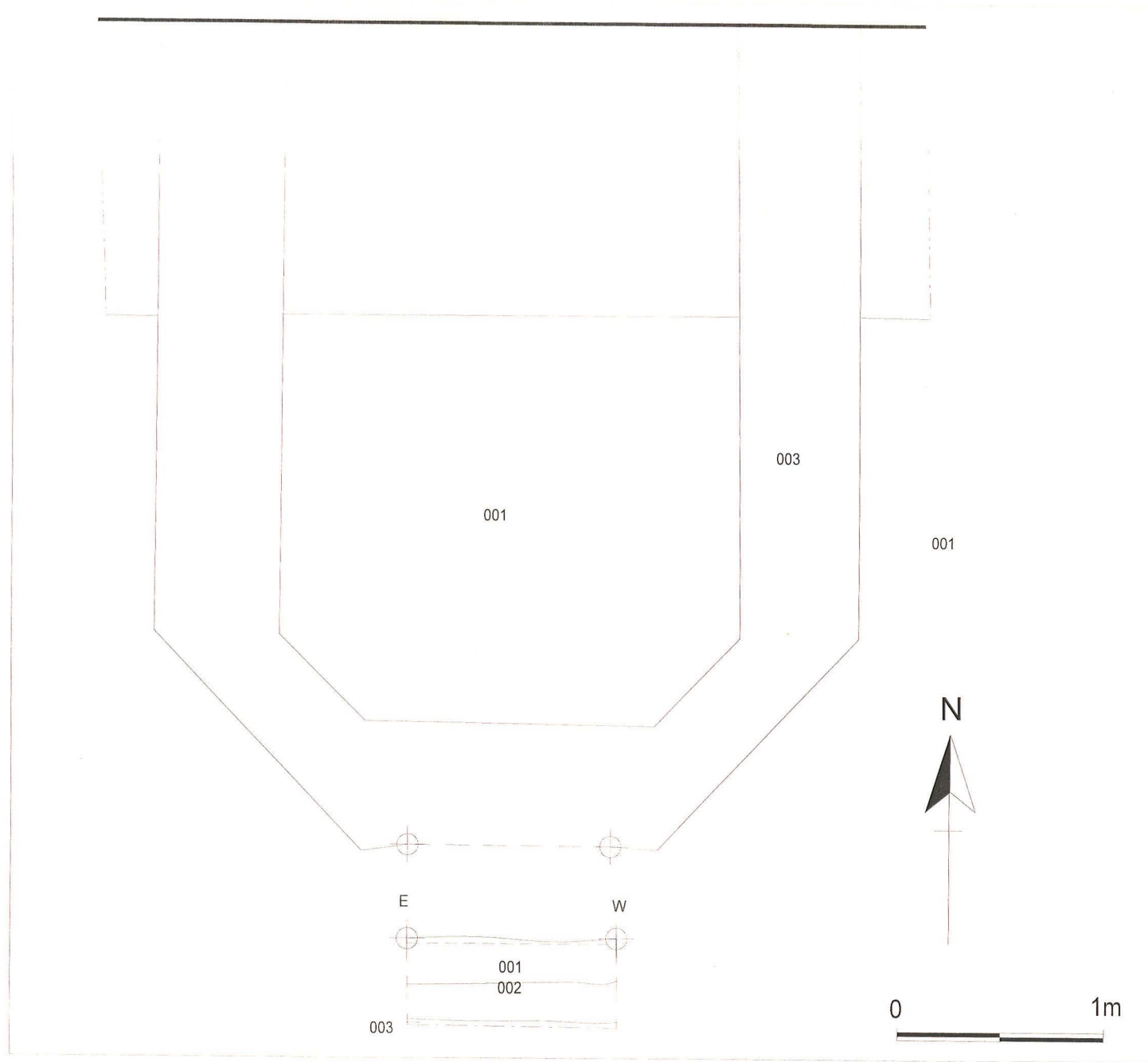


Figure 3 Plan 1 and section 1



Plate 1 General view of site looking southwest towards St. Martin's church.



Plate 2 General view of the excavated foundation trench, looking north.

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context Number	Type	Description
001	Deposit	Friable, dark grey, sandy silt. Re-deposited topsoil
002	Deposit	Loose, mid grey, sandy silt. Re- deposited subsoil.
003	Deposit	Firm, mid grey, sandy silt. Buried soil.



## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

*Paul Cope-Faulkner BA, AIFA, Hilary Healey MPhil,  
Phil Mills BSc and Gary Taylor MA*

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from a single context, a topsoil (001). The Roman pottery was probably all made in the Nene Valley near Peterborough, about 45km to the south of Ancaster. A single medieval sherd, probably made at Toynton All Saints, 45km northeast of Ancaster, was also recovered. Otherwise, most of the pottery, both post-medieval and recent, was probably made in Staffordshire in the Midlands.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables. Pottery, clay pipe, glass, tile and animal bone were recovered during the investigation. Sherds of Roman date are the earliest artefacts recovered though the major component of the assemblage is post-medieval, 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> century, date.

*Table 1 :Pottery and other finds*

Context	Description	Date
001	6x blue and white transfer printed tableware, including 1 porcelain, 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x black and white transfer printed tableware, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x white glazed tableware, 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century 3x Midlands Purple-type ware, late 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century 3x red painted earthenware, black glazed, including pancheon, 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Nottingham saltglazed stoneware, 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century 3x Staffordshire slipware, 18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Staffordshire mottled ware, early 18 <sup>th</sup> century 2x Staffordshire ware, mottled externally, black glazed internally, early 18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Boston/Dutch-type red earthenware, brown glazed, very abraded, 17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century 1x plant pot, 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Nene Valley colour-coated ware, mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> -late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century 2x Nene Valley greyware, mid-late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century 1x Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, late 3 <sup>rd</sup> -early 4 <sup>th</sup> century 1x ceramic tile, post-medieval 1x glass bottle base, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x ?window glass, burnt 1x carbon/graphite rod, battery component, 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x cattle molar 2x cattle sized fragments 1x sheep humerus 1x sheep femur 1x sheep molar 1x sheep tibia fragment 1 x sheep phalange	20 <sup>th</sup> century

Although incorporating redeposited Roman material, the majority of the pottery assemblage appears to be general domestic material of late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the presence of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century objects

indicates that the broadly 18th century material is residual or redeposited.

Table 2: Clay Pipe

Context	Description	Date
001	1x bowl fragment, Mann form 140?, c. 1690-1720 2x stems, bore 4/64", 19th century 24x stems, bore 5/64", 18th century 13x stems, bore 6/64", 17th-18th century 6x stems, bore 7/64", 17th century 2x stems, bore 8/64", 17th century	19 <sup>th</sup> century

A single bowl fragment of probable Mann form 140 (Mann 1977, 21) and of late 17th-early 18th century date was recovered, though the majority of the clay pipe was represented by stem fragments. There were no obvious links amongst the 48 separate clay pipe fragments, though examination of the pieces for joins was not exhaustive. Statistical analysis of the stem bores provides a Binford date of 1725 and a Hanson date of 1724 (Oswald 1975, 92-3). However, the group is clearly mixed with residual material of 17th century date incorporated in the collection, and these pieces skewing the statistical date early. It is likely that the deposition date for the group is in the 19th century, though a significant quantity of 18th century material was incorporated. In consideration of the relatively abundant 17th and 18th century pottery also recovered from the context (see Table 1), it seems likely that an 18th century layer was disturbed and redeposited in the formation of context (001).

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. Archive storage of the material is by material class.

#### Documentation

Several archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken in Ancaster and are the subjects of reports. Roman and post-medieval pottery types, as found during this investigation, have been studied and reported both as kiln evidence and site assemblages.

#### Potential

In general, the assemblage has limited potential. Roman pottery, as found during the investigation, often occurs as residual material in later deposits within the Ancaster Roman town site. In addition, although the deposit is of 20th century date, the large quantity of 18th century material recovered would suggest the previous disturbance of post-medieval layers at the site.

#### Bibliography

Mann, J. E.. 1977, *Clay Tobacco Pipes from Excavations in Lincoln 1970-74*, Lincoln Archaeological Trust Monograph Series Vol. **XV-1** (Council for British Archaeology)

Oswald, A.. 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Reports **14**



## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3 Context sheets

Photographic record sheets for

Black and white negatives and contact prints  
colour slides

1 1:10 scale section drawings

1 1:20 scale plan

1 watching brief daily record sheet

1 section record sheet

1 plan record sheet

1 context register

This document

The digital archive consists of:

Copies of the digitised plan and section in DCAD 2000 format

Copies of the photos used in this report in JPEG format

Copies of this report in Word 97 format

All digital archives are stored at APS.

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services,

The Old School,

Cameron Street,

Heckington,

Sleaford,

Lincolnshire,

NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum,

12, Friars Lane,

Lincoln,

LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project archives, Produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: **172.99**

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: **AES 99**

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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