

**A Report to Asher Construction on behalf of the  
Veterinary Hospital**

July, 2000



**LINCOLN**  
archaeology

**The New Veterinary Hospital, Newport,  
Lincoln**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*By R Trimble*

Report No.: 423

**LINCOLN**  
archaeology

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negative

# THE NEW VETERINARY HOSPITAL, NEWPORT, LINCOLN

Site Code: VET99  
LCCM Accession No.: 292.99  
Planning Application No.: 99/484/F  
NGR: SK 9763 7273

25 JUL 02

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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# THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL, NEWPORT, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### *SUMMARY*

In response to an archaeological condition of planning consent by Lincoln City Council, CLAU was commissioned by Asher Construction on behalf of The Veterinary Hospital, Lincoln, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the construction of the new Veterinary Hospital on land formerly occupied by the Broadway Service Station, Newport, Lincoln. Fieldwork was completed during the period 18th November, 1999 to the 24th May, 2000.

The main components of the development consisted of a Hospital building - located in the western part of the site and mostly within an area of previous disturbance through quarrying (see below), and car parking space between the building and the site boundary to the east. Associated groundwork entailed relatively shallow ground reductions over the footprint of the Hospital building, and the excavation of a combined services trench running between the building and a mains waterpipe running north-south along the centre of Newport.

The above works revealed predominantly recent deposits, some layers of indeterminate date, and natural subsoils (mostly limestone brash). Although the site is known to contain inhumations associated with the Church of St John the Baptist, the watching brief produced no evidence for human remains.



# THE NEW VETERINARY HOSPITAL, NEWPORT, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In response to an archaeological condition of planning consent by Lincoln City Council, CLAU was commissioned by Asher Construction on behalf of The Veterinary Hospital, Lincoln, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the construction of the new Veterinary Hospital on land formerly occupied by the Broadway Service Station, Newport, Lincoln. Fieldwork was completed during the period 18th November, 1999 to the 24th May, 2000.

The main components of the development consisted of the Hospital building - located in the western part of the site and mostly contained within an area of previous disturbance through quarrying (see below), and car parking space extending from the new building to the eastern site boundary.

Groundworks associated with the development entailed:

- the removal of surface vegetation, residual foundations, and floor slabs of previously demolished structures, and the importation of stone hard-core to establish a uniform site formation-level, thereby raising existing ground levels by up to 200mm over much of the site.
- excavations for groundbeams to depths not exceeding 500mm from site formation level.
- the excavation of a combined services trench to a depth of approximately 1.5m.
- the excavation of trenches for other buried services to depths of not more than 800mm with localised excavations to depths of not more than 1.0m for gullies and inspection traps.

In view of the projected rise in ground level across the site, excavations for ground beams were expected to have a slight impact upon archaeological deposits, and only in locations not affected by quarrying.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Lincoln City Council 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 Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

### 2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

Centred upon National Grid Reference SK 9763 7273, the site is situated immediately west of Newport on land most recently occupied by the Broadway Service Station (Fig.1). Underground fuel tanks associated with the service station were removed in 1994 and the derelict garage buildings subsequently demolished to ground level. However, the foundations of these buildings are believed to remain *in-situ*.

Stone quarries depicted on 19th century maps (i.e. the 1887 Ordnance Survey map of Lincoln) have been located and plotted through archaeological evaluation of the site. They are present over much of the western part of the site - approximately conforming to the footprint of the new veterinary hospital building.

The site lies on a geology of Lincolnshire Limestone (as shown on the Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey Map, Sheet 114, 1968) forming part of the Jurassic limestone ridge known as the Lincoln Edge.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies immediately to the west of Newport (formerly Ermine Street), which roughly follows the line of the Roman Road from Lincoln to York. Previous trial trench evaluation of the site (Trimble, 1994) has revealed evidence for Roman occupation. One trench (TT2), excavated within the former garage building, revealed a clay surface, the possible remains of a hearth, Roman brick/tile building material including two fragments of box or flue tile and a *tegula* (roof) tile, and pottery dated to the mid to late 3rd century. Further evidence for Roman occupation has come to light during recent investigations along the line of a Transco gas pipeline, under the pavement immediately east of the site. Here, the finds included a burnt layer sealing a large flag-stone, and a sizeable assemblage of Roman pottery (Trimble, report forthcoming).

Evidence for Roman settlement east of Ermine Street and almost opposite the site, was found in the grounds of Bishop Grosseteste College, during excavations by the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology between 1970 and 1977 (Rollin, 1976, 1977 & 1978), and during more recent excavations by CLAU (Wragg, 1995 & 1996). The latter project produced evidence of extensive remains including both timber and stone buildings, mortar floors, metallised surfaces, and a hearth or oven as well as burials indicating various phases of Roman occupation dating from the mid-late 2nd century through to abandonment in the late 3rd century.

There is as yet little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in the area, but traces of late 11th century activity were found during the excavations at Bishop Grosseteste College, consisting of large pits indicative of stone quarrying, a well and cess pit, as well as post holes suggesting timber structures.

The medieval suburb of Newport, which is first mentioned in documentary records of the mid 12th century, was divided into two parishes (St John & St Nicholas), and was apparently bounded by the bank and ditch now known as the Newport earthwork. The latter feature has been partially investigated during excavations in the grounds of Bishop Grosseteste College (Stanwell & Baker, 1938).

The site lies within the parish of the church of St John the Baptist whose precise location is not known; the Padley maps of 1817 and 1848, and the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, locate it immediately to the south of the site.

The graveyard of St Johns has been archaeologically investigated on several previous occasions. In 1992-93 more than 50 burials were recorded, in an 80m length of trench between Broadway and the northern limit of the service station, during watermain replacement along the east side of Newport (Wragg, 1994). Five inhumations, including four within stone cists, were recorded during the excavation of a geotechnical test pit in the area to the south of the garage building in December 1993 (Donel, 1994), while recording during the removal of disused fuel tanks from the former service station forecourt resulted in the identification of human remains in spoil, and in the trench sides. Following this, an evaluation consisting of survey by ground-probing radar and trial trenching, resulted in the discovery of yet further burials (Trimble, 1994).

During the medieval period, Newport was the site of an important market - with the market place probably extending along the line of present day Newport and including broad strips of land to either side. The full width of this market place may, it is thought, be reflected in property lines set back from the modern street frontage as shown on the 1840's Padley map of Lincoln. Houses of the period probably took the form of ribbon development along the periphery of the market place with gardens extending E-W to the lines of the Newport earthwork. The St John's churchyard appears to have stood inside the line of the market place.



#### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The project, in accordance with the provisions of an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy prepared by CLAU (dated September 1999) and a subsequent CLAU Specification (dated November 1999), was designed to comply with the requirements and particular guidance of the local planning authority; thereby ensuring, as far as reasonably possible, preservation *in-situ* of the archaeological resource. Where this could not be achieved provision was made for preservation by record.

#### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

The watching brief was carried out on an intermittent basis, with site visits timed to coincide with the contractor's main phases of groundwork. The archaeological record was secured through a combination of trench-side notes, measured drawings sketched to scale, and colour print photographs. Detailed considerations of methodology, to be followed in the event of significant archaeological discoveries, are contained in the documents mentioned in the previous section.

#### **6.0 RESULTS**

Ground reduction within the footprint of the new Veterinary Hospital building was almost wholly contained within the depth of non-archaeological overburden and produced no evidence with regard to archaeologically significant deposits (see Fig.2 & Plate 1).

Inspection of the combined services trench, at a point, immediately inside the eastern site boundary revealed a natural pale yellow-grey sand (003) at c.1.36m below the top of the concrete slab forming existing ground level. It was sealed by a natural brash (002), c.0.45m thick, comprising 50% flat limestone fragments to c.100mm in size and 50% loose reddish brown silty sand. The latest deposit (001), extending to just below the c.100mm thick concrete slab, was a loose to moderately compact, dark grey-brown silty sand containing frequent small limestone fragments.

Deposits within the remainder of the trench, extending west to the new Veterinary Hospital building, consisted of apparently recent accumulations of soil interspersed with much evidence of modern truncation for services. The extent of modern disturbance could account for an absence of evidence for burials associated with the church of St John the Baptist.

Any earlier stratigraphy in the combined services trench, running east from the site boundary to a point c.2.5m from its connection with the north-south mains towards the centre of the road, had been almost entirely removed by a series of north-south service trenches, running both under the pavement and along the kerb side of the road (see Fig.2, context 004). Less severely truncated stratigraphy was present in the trench further to the east up to the point of the connection (see Fig.2 & Plate 2). Here, a limestone brash (008) at c.0.75m below existing ground level formed the uppermost natural deposit. A c.0.35m dip to the west, forming a hollow or cut within the natural strata, contained a loose, dark grey silty sand with frequent limestone fragments (007) representing a possible archaeological layer or fill of indeterminate date. It was sealed by an undated c.150mm thick layer of loose to moderately compact, mid brown silty sand with frequent stone (006). The existing road surface and its cement and stone base (005) comprised the uppermost 600mm of stratigraphy visible in the trench side.

#### **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The current project, in conjunction with the results of previous archaeological work, has contributed towards increased understanding of the character, extent, depth, and condition of archaeological deposits in the area of the site. In particular, information obtained with regard to the presence/absence of burials across the site, could eventually help to determine the exact location and extent of the church of St John the Baptist and its graveyard. The information produced as part of the project will eventually

be incorporated into the City of Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database and will then be used to inform future archaeological resource management decisions.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Asher Construction for excellent on-site co-operation.

## **9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **10.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: VET99

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 99/484/F

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: SK 9763 7273

CIVIL PARISH: LINCOLN

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 18 November, 1999 - 24th May, 2000

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Asher Construction on behalf of the Veterinary Hospital

### **10.2 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.:292.99

ACCESSION DATE: -

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	8
Plans at Scale 1:20	-
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	-
Colour Print Photographs	17
Set of Site Notes	1



**APPENDIX A - COLOUR PLATES**

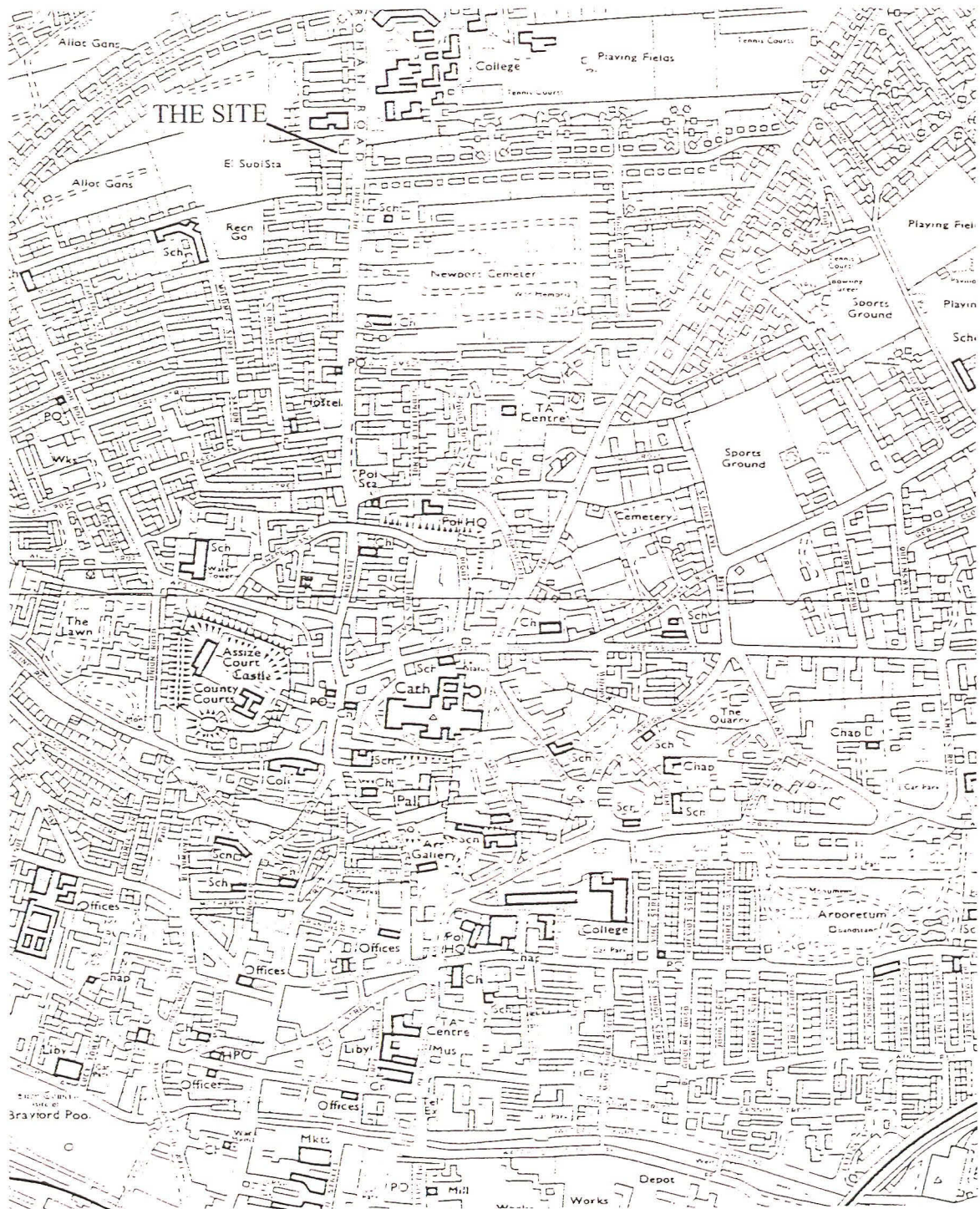


*Plate 1 - Completed excavations within the footprint of the Veterinary Hospital (looking SSE)*



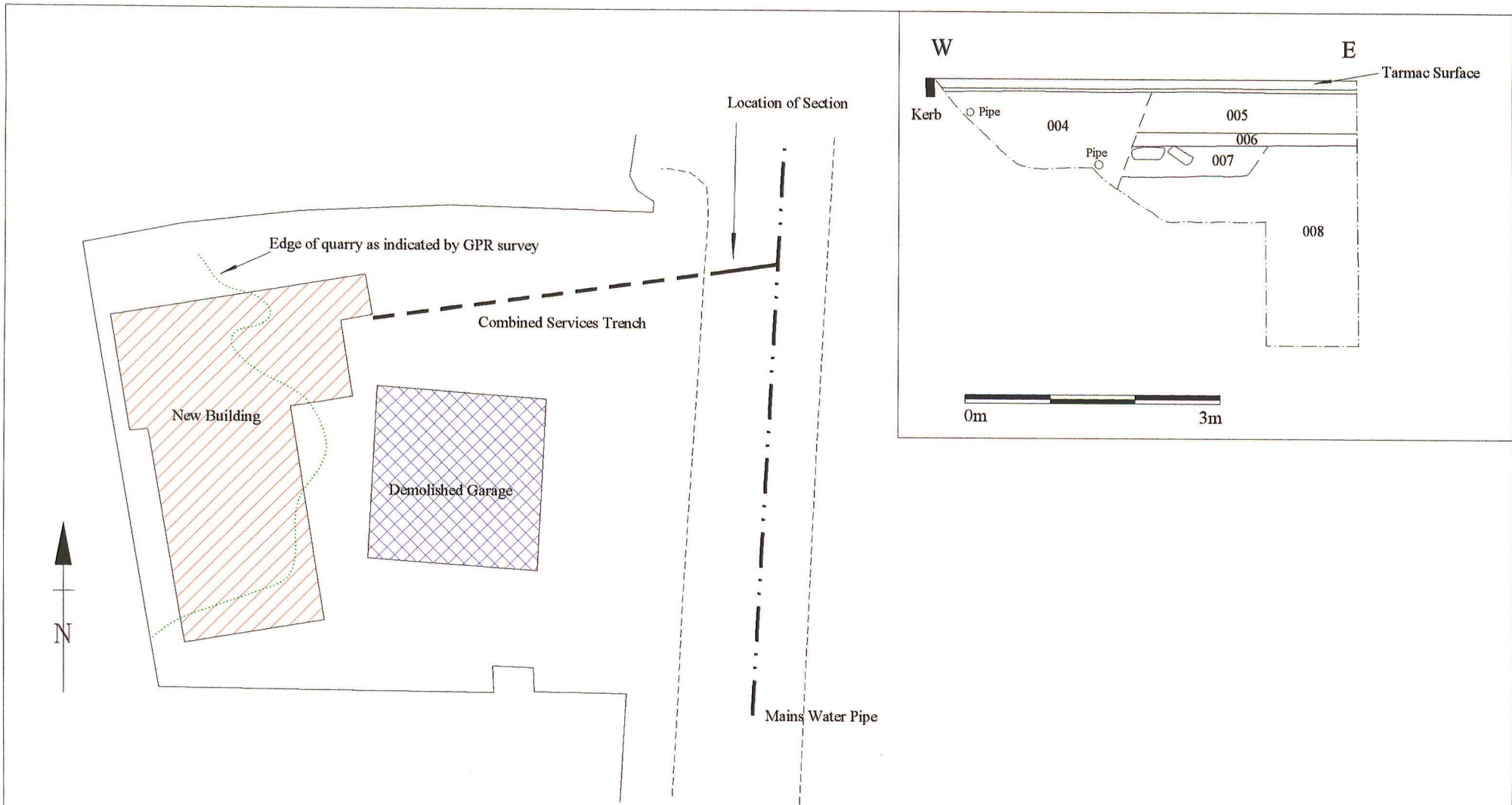
*Plate 2 - Excavations in progress along Combined Services Trench into Newport (looking W)*





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Site Location Plan - Scale 1:500