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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

# **Birch Court, Freiston Road, Boston**

NGR: T<del>E333 445</del> TF 3324 4457 Site Code:BRF00 LCNCC. Accn. No.:2000.220 Planning Application No. B/00/0271/Full

# **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report for** 

Mr J. Radcliffe

LAS Report No. 468

September 2000

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- Fig. 2 The monitored development site (based on reduced scale copies of plans supplied by the client, MLG dwg no. 14052.04). Inset a © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

## The Plates

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## Birch Court, Freiston Road, Boston Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 333 445 7F3324 445 Site Code: BFR 00 LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2000.220 Planning Application No. B/00/0271/Full

### Summary

An archaeological watching brief undertaken while groundworks were carried out at the above residential development did not reveal any features of archaeological significance. Four sherds of medieval and later pottery were recovered.

### Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Meldrum Lee and Gillatt, on behalf of Mr J. Radcliffe, to undertake an archaeological watching brief while groundworks were carried out at the development site. Three visits were made to the site, on July 24th and 28th, and August 4th 2000.

The development was a two-storey block of flats, and a double garage to the NE of the property. The watching brief was necessary to fulfil a condition of Boston Borough Council's planning permission for the site (Application Number B/00/0271/FULL).

Due to the absence of any significant archaeological deposits in the monitored trenches, it was agreed with Susan Smith, Boston County Archaeologist that continuing the archaeological watching brief on further groundworks on the site was not necessary.

#### Site Location and Description

The development site lies to the NE of Freiston Road, close to the junction with Spilsby Road, approximately 150m away from the centre of Boston (Figs. 1 and 2). Prior to the development the site was disused and overgrown with several large trees and bushes. A low, flat-topped bank was within the site, alongside the Freiston Road boundary (Pl. 1).

To the NE of the site is an open drainage ditch, aligned west-east beside low-lying meadow (Pl. 2).

### Archaeological Background

Boston was an important market, and national and international port, during the medieval period. The development site is located close to the historic core of Boston, and other developments in the vicinity have provided evidence of medieval occupation.

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## **The Watching Brief**

### Method

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these have been used in bold in the report text.

## Garage

The garage foundations were excavated using a 0.6m wide toothed bucket to depths between 0.25m and 0.5m below the existing ground level (PI. 3). The thicker material included a 0.25m thick layer of mixed hardcore, presumably spread to mitigate the damp conditions of former meadow land beside the Maud Foster Drain. Beneath the hardcore was a dark brown sandy loam **100**, suspected to have been a post-medieval topsoil, buried when the land was developed. The soil may contain alluvium from flood episodes.

A north-south aligned brick foundation, of mid/late-twentieth century date, was visible along the west edge of the garage site, buried by the hardcore but apparently cut into **100**.

## The Flats

The foundation trenches for the block of flats were machine-excavated using a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket to depths of 0.9m (in the SW) and 1.3m (in the NE) below the existing ground level (PI. 4). The site was covered by a layer of dark grey/brown sandy silt topsoil **100**, containing brick rubble. This varied in depth across the site between 0.1m and 0.3m. The low bank beside Freiston Road proved to be of very recent construction, and appeared to be from road realignment and associated landscaping for the Spilsby Road junction to the NW.

Removal of the topsoil **100** revealed layer **101** at the SW of the site, and layer **102** in the NE. Layer **101** seemed to be buried late post-medieval topsoil, incorporating brick rubble (PI. 5). A large metal sheet was visible in one section, and occasional charcoal flecks were evident. This deposit measured between 0.3m and 0.4m in depth.

Layer **102** was similar to layer **101**. It was a dark grey/brown clayey silt, varying in depth between 0.3m in the SW of the site to 0.5m in the NE and also contained frequent brick rubble. In addition, shells were visible within this deposit.

Below this lay a light grey silt with frequent iron panning **103**, thought to be an alluvial flood deposit (PI. 6). Four small sherds of pottery, dating to the late medieval to early post-medieval period were recovered from within this silt (Appendix 2). The depth at which this silt occurs varies across the site, indicating that the land formerly dipped towards the SW.

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## Conclusion

No deposits of archaeological significance were discovered in the foundation trenches, although it is possible that the alluvial layer **103** seals earlier deposits. The presence of two layers containing frequent brick rubble suggests that they were levelling deposits.

## Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Meldrum Lee and Gillatt, Mr J. Radcliffe, and Susan Smith (Boston County Archaeologist). The watching brief was carried out by Geoff Tann and Claire Angus. The illustrations were prepared by Naomi Field. Jane Young identified the pottery and the report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann and Claire D Angus Lindsey Archaeological Services 13th September 2000

Archive Summary Archaeological finds: pottery, brick Specialist report: pottery Correspondence Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 00/65/9-16; 00/71/0-11 (including those used in this report) Developer's plans

# **APPENDIX 1**

Context Number	Context Type	Relationship	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Above 101	Grey/brown sandy silt	Topsoil
101	Layer	Above 102; Below 100	Dark grey/brown sandy silt	Make-up layer
102	Layer	Above 103; Below 101	Dark grey/brown clayey silt	Make-up layer
103	Layer	Below 102	Light grey silt	Alluvium

# Context Summary: Birch Court, Freiston Road, Boston (BFR 00)

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## **APPENDIX 2**

## Medieval and post-medieval pottery from Freiston Road, Boston (BFR 00) Claire D. Angus, Lindsey Archaeological Services

A small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered during a watching brief on a development site at the corner of Spilsby Road and Freiston Road, Boston.

#### Introduction

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A total of four sherds, representing four vessels, was recovered from 103, a silt layer visible across the entire site. These sherds are summarised in the table below.

### Table 1: Summary of pottery by type

Code Name	Full Name	Period	Sherds	Vessels
DUTR	Dutch Red Earthenware	Medieval to post-medieval	2	2
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	Medieval	1	1
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	Late medieval to post-medieval	1	1

# Pottery

One sherd of non-local medieval pottery dating to the 13th to 14th centuries, and three late medieval or early post-medieval sherds were recovered. Two of these were Dutch imports, the third a local ware. The medieval and Dutch imports represent domestic vessels, while the form of the Toynton/Bolingbroke sherd remains unknown.

The three latest sherds suggest that the assemblage dates to the period between the 15th and 16th centuries.

# Condition

The sherds are small to medium in size and slightly abraded.

# Discussion

The size and fragmentary nature of the sherds indicates that this assemblage is the result of secondary deposition of material.

The presence of the Dutch imports within the assemblage is not surprising as Boston was a large, successful port during the medieval period, with trading links with Europe.

# Storage and Curation

No further work is necessary on this assemblage, but the pottery should be retained for future study.

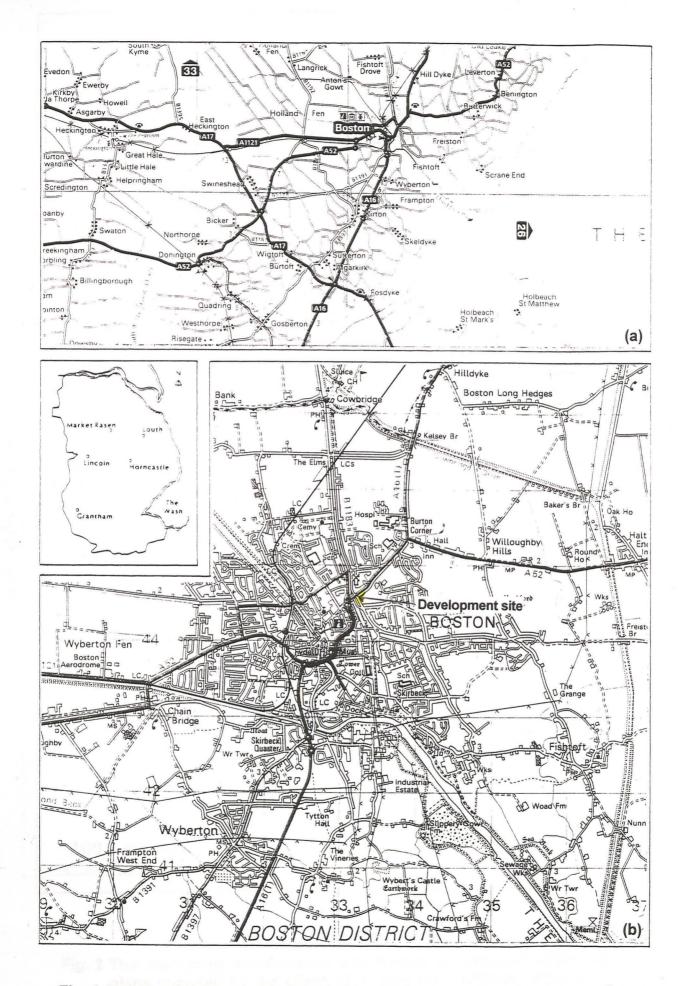
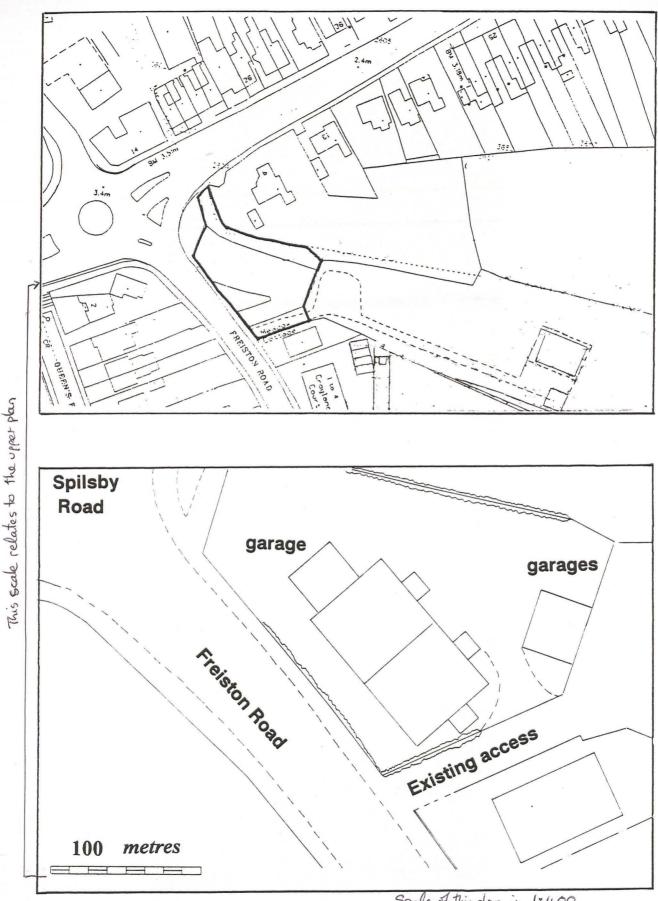


Fig. 1 Location of Freiston Road, Boston (b based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 131; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



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Fig. 2 The monitored development site (based on reduced scale copies of plans supplied by the client, MLG dwg no. 14052.04). Inset a © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



PI. 1 The development site, with pegs marking the position of the flats. Looking west, with Freiston Road (top left).



- PI. 2 Location of the new garage, with the former meadow land beyond (looking NE).
- Pl. 3 Twentieth century brick foundations exposed in the garage footing trench, above dark brown topsoil (looking north).

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PI. 4 Excavation of footings for the new flats (looking west).

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PI. 5 Trench excavated through topsoil 100, and levelling deposits 101 and 102 (with brick rubble). Below is silt layer 103. Scale divisions 0.5m.





PI. 6 Silt layer 103 at base of trench, below post-medieval levelling deposits (scale divisions 0.5m).