

# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

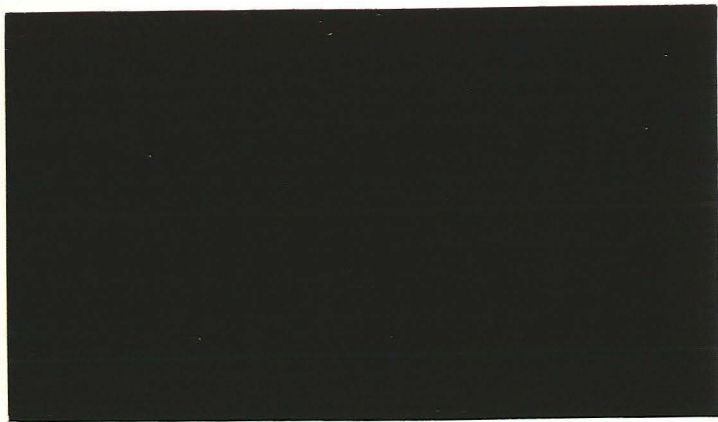
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CINDER LANE, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: TF 533021 387180  
SITE CODE: CLL'00  
LCNCC ACC. NO. 2000.192

N/105/0925/99/3







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Report prepared for  
Lincolnshire County Council  
by Chris Clay  
November 2000

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### Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out in July 2000, at Cinder Lane, Louth, Lincolnshire. It required monitoring during the demolition of a former council depot and taxi garage, in advance of redevelopment in 2001.
- The watching brief was deemed necessary due to the proximity of the site to the medieval town.
- No significant archaeological deposits were exposed during the demolition works, rendering it likely that further archaeological intervention will not be productive.



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

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during demolition and regrading work at a former council depot and taxi garage, in advance of development in 2001. This work was required to fulfil a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council.

This report details the result of the watching brief. It is written to conform to both national and local guidelines as set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

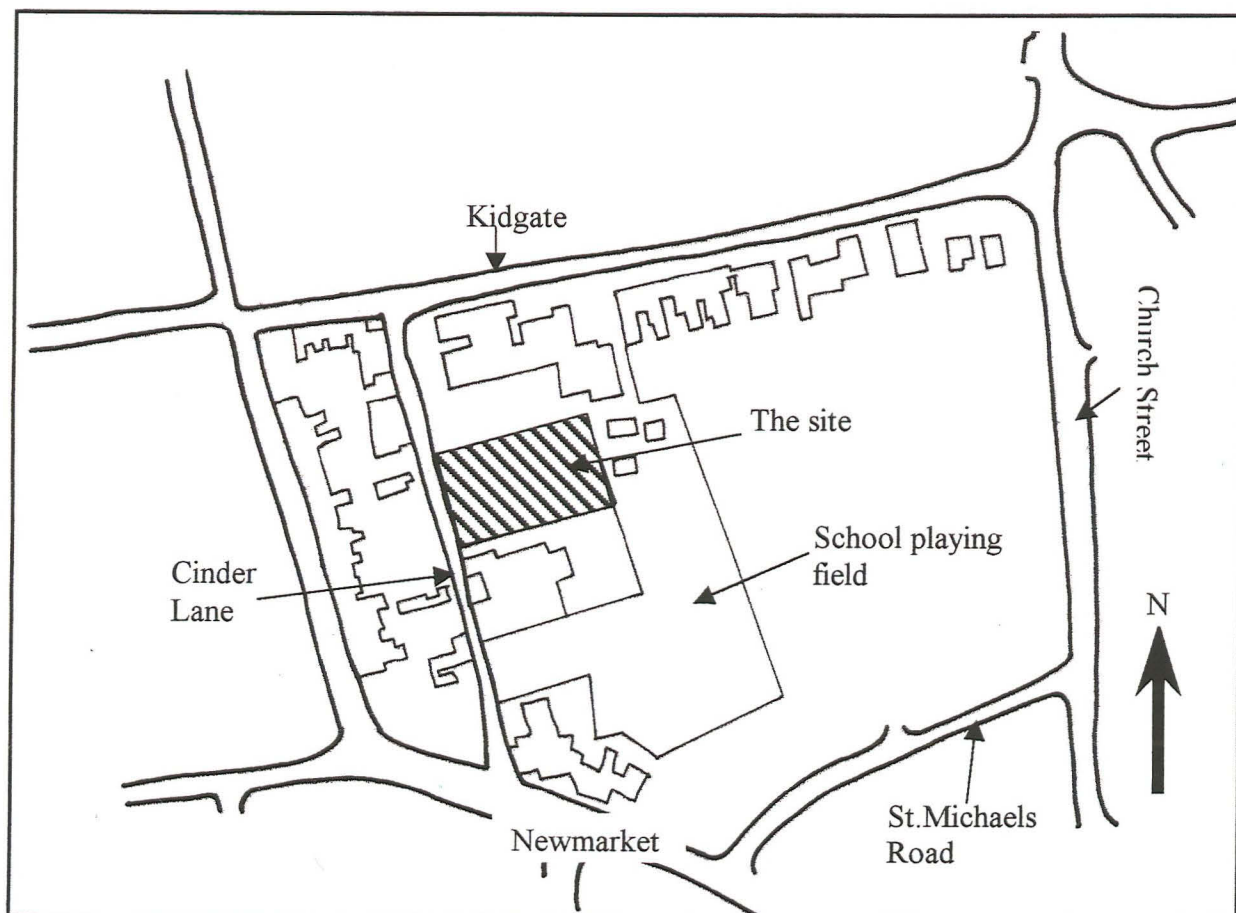


Fig.2: Site location (Scale 1:2,500)

## 2.0 Planning background

Planning permission has been granted (planning ref. N/105/925/99/3) for the demolition of existing buildings; including grubbing up foundation pads, strip foundations, ground slabs and boundary walls and regrading of the site. The planning permission included the requirement of an archaeological watching brief during all sensitive groundworks.

## 3.0 Site location and description

Louth is in the administrative district of East Lindsey on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 38km north-east of Lincoln and 22km south of Cleethorpes.

The redevelopment site lies towards the south-east of the town, comprising an 800m<sup>2</sup> rectangle of land bordered Kidgate to the north, Newmarket to the south, Church Street to the east and Cinder Lane to the west.

The site lies on a geology of glacial till deposits overlying coarse-grained greenish brown sandstone (BGS, 1999).

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Louth Museum contains a small number of local finds dated to the prehistoric period. These include Neolithic stone axes, flint arrowheads, beaker sherds and items of Bronze Age metalwork (May, 1976).

The name Louth is derived from the Old English, *Hlude*, meaning, 'The loud one, the noisy stream' (Mills, 1993). The earliest mention of the town comes from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, which reports that in 790AD, Abbot Aethelheard of a monastery at Louth became Archbishop of Canterbury (Garmonsway, 1992).

Other Anglo-Saxon evidence includes an inhumation cemetery, metal detector finds of three small-long brooches (Leahy in Vince (ed), 1993) and quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery, recovered at the site of the Marquis of Granby public house on Eastgate (Tann, 1996).

In the Domesday Book, the town is recorded as land of the bishop of Lincoln (Morris, 1986), and at this time, appears to have been a sizeable town of about 600 inhabitants (Pevsner 1989), with a market and a possible mint (Sawyer, 1998).

The wool and cloth trade allowed the town to prosper throughout the Middle Ages, and was endowed with several substantial buildings, including the twelfth century church of St. James, a leper hospital and Louth Park Abbey (SMR data). After a period of decline in the seventeenth century the town enjoyed a renewed prosperity



during the industrial revolution, with the opening of the Louth navigation canal in 1770 and the railway in 1848 (Pevsner 1989).

There is no archaeological data for the immediate vicinity of the current site, although Kidgate marks the southern limit of the medieval town, and just to the north of this road were two springs, Aswell and St. Helen's, the latter of which was diverted by the monks of Louth Park Abbey for their own use (Field 1978).

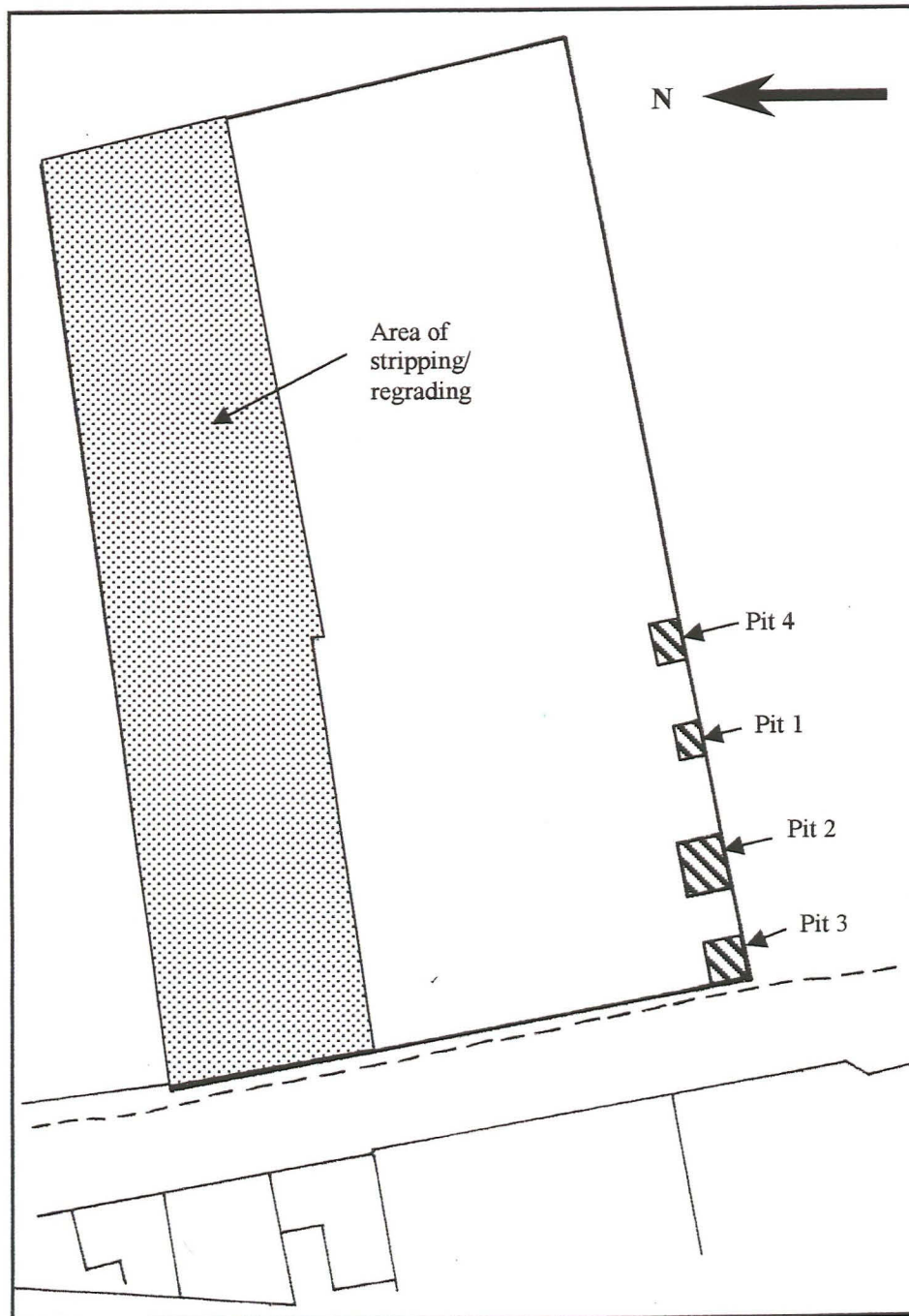


Fig.3: Location of pits 1-4 and stripped area (Scale 1:400)

## 5.0 Methodology

After the initial demolition works had taken place, all sensitive groundworks pertaining to the planning permission were monitored by an experienced archaeologist.

Four rectangular access pits for support posts were excavated using a 180° mini excavator, fitted with a 0.5m toothed trenching bucket. All plan and section surfaces exposed were examined and any archaeological features were drawn, photographed and recorded. This work was carried out by Andrew Hardwick on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

## 6.0 Results

Four rectangular access pits, of varying sizes were excavated for support posts, located in the south-west corner of the site. The dimensions of these pits were as follows:

**Pit 1:** 2m x 1.3m, 1.2m deep; subsequently extended 0.6m southwards.

**Pit 2:** 3m x 2.5m, 1.2m deep.

**Pit 3:** 2.5m x 2.1m, 1.3m deep; subsequently extended 0.6m southwards.

**Pit 4:** 2.2m x 1.7m, 1m deep.

The stratigraphy in each pit was similar. East-west brick wall foundations to a depth of 0.2m were uncovered in the north facing section of each pit. These foundations were associated with the south wall of the depot. They sat on top of a very dark brown silty clay deposit, approximately 0.45m in depth, over reddish brown clay to the limit of excavation. This was interpreted on site as an artificial ground make up layer, although the effort involved in transporting that quantity of material onto site, suggests it is more likely to be a natural deposit.

The only variation to this pattern was a layer of limestone brash noted at the base of pit 3, interpreted as a natural deposit.

The northern half of the compound, an area of 50m x 10m was machine excavated to approximately 0.75m below the present ground surface. This exposed a dark grey clay/silt layer which had been heavily disturbed and contaminated by modern activity.

The north-east corner of the area was subsequently excavated to a depth of one metre, although this work halted when large amounts of asbestos were exposed. This phase brought to a close all demolition and related groundworks.



## **7.0 Conclusion**

No significant archaeological deposits were exposed during the demolition and groundworks. It is likely therefore, that future groundworks will not expose important archaeological deposits at a depth of 1.2m or less. Stratigraphy beneath this level was not sampled as a result of the current scheme.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Lincolnshire County Council for their co-operation during this watching brief.

## 9.0 References

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- Vince, A. (ed.), 1993, *Pre-Viking Lindsey*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No.1

## 10. Site archive

The primary records for the site are currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. The paper and photographic element of this report will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months.



## 11. Appendices

### 11.1 Colour plates



Plate 1: General view of demolition area, showing pits 1, 2 and 3 (looking east)



Plate 2: Pit 1, looking east





**Plate 3:** Pit 3, looking east



**Plate 4:** General shot of stripped northern area of depot, looking south-west.



**11.2 List of archaeological contexts**

Context	Description
001	Fill of foundation cut for depot wall
002	Layer of redeposited clay - probable make up layer
003	Natural limestone brash