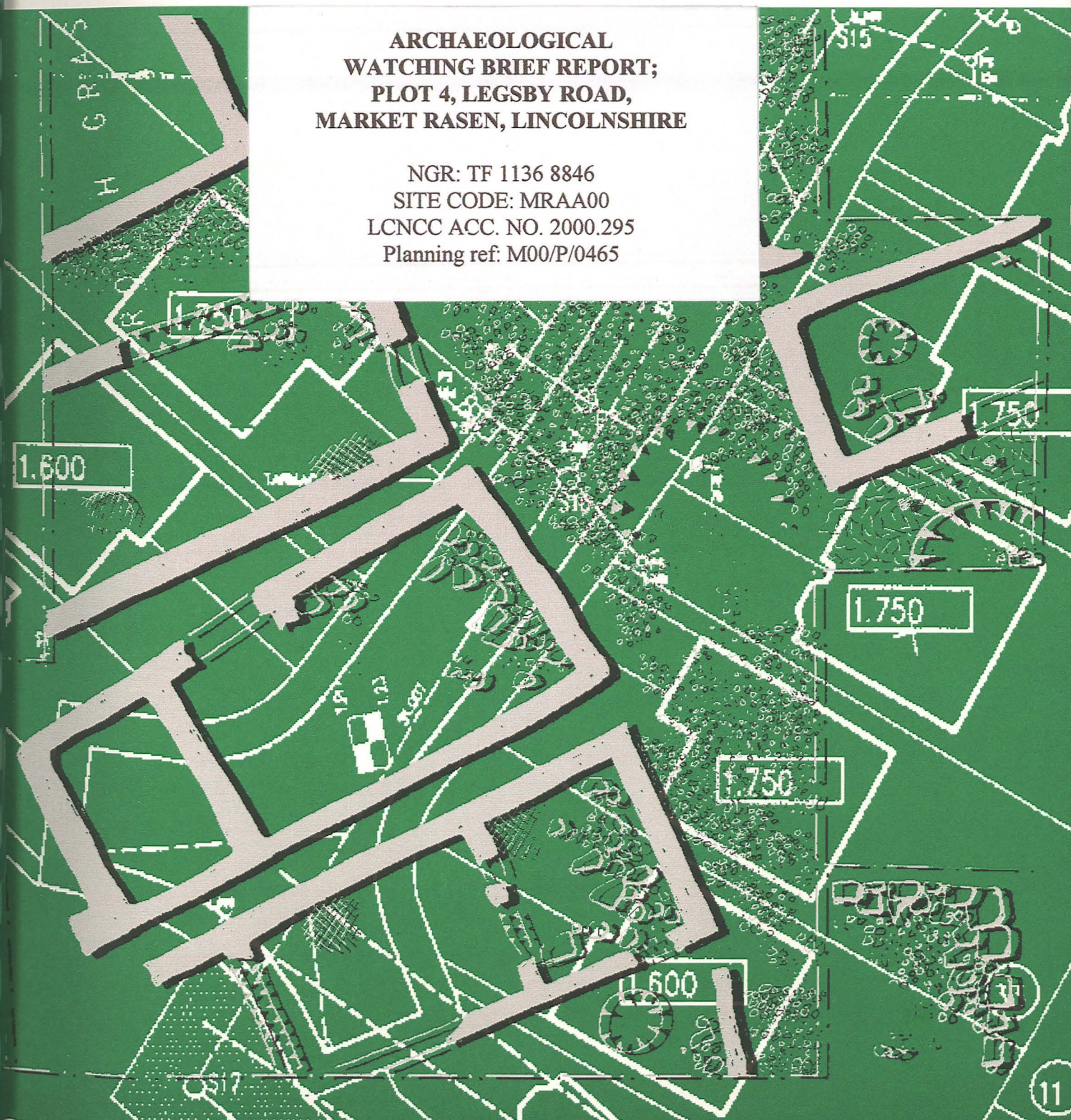


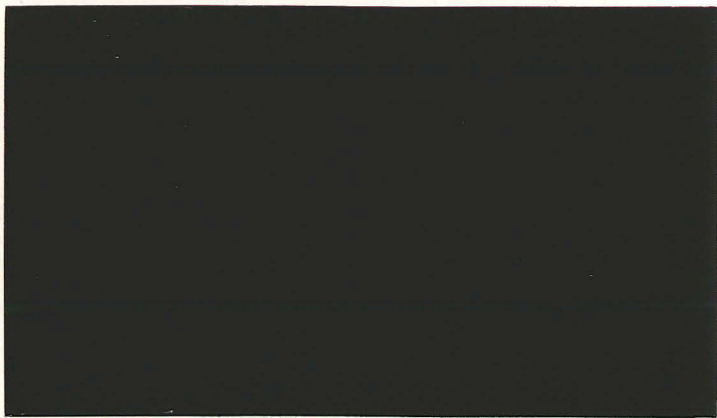
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;
PLOT 4, LEGSBY ROAD,
MARKET RASEN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 1136 8846
SITE CODE: MRAA00
LCNCC ACC. NO. 2000.295
Planning ref: M00/P/0465





Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
0 8 DEC 03

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Report prepared for
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December 2000

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a residential property off Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.
- The area surrounding the site has significant archaeological potential. Enclosures, probably of prehistoric date, and field systems are recorded on aerial photographs south-east of the development, and the site also lies close to a substantial Romano-British pottery industry.
- Despite the proximity of known resources, no significant archaeological deposits were exposed during the groundworks.

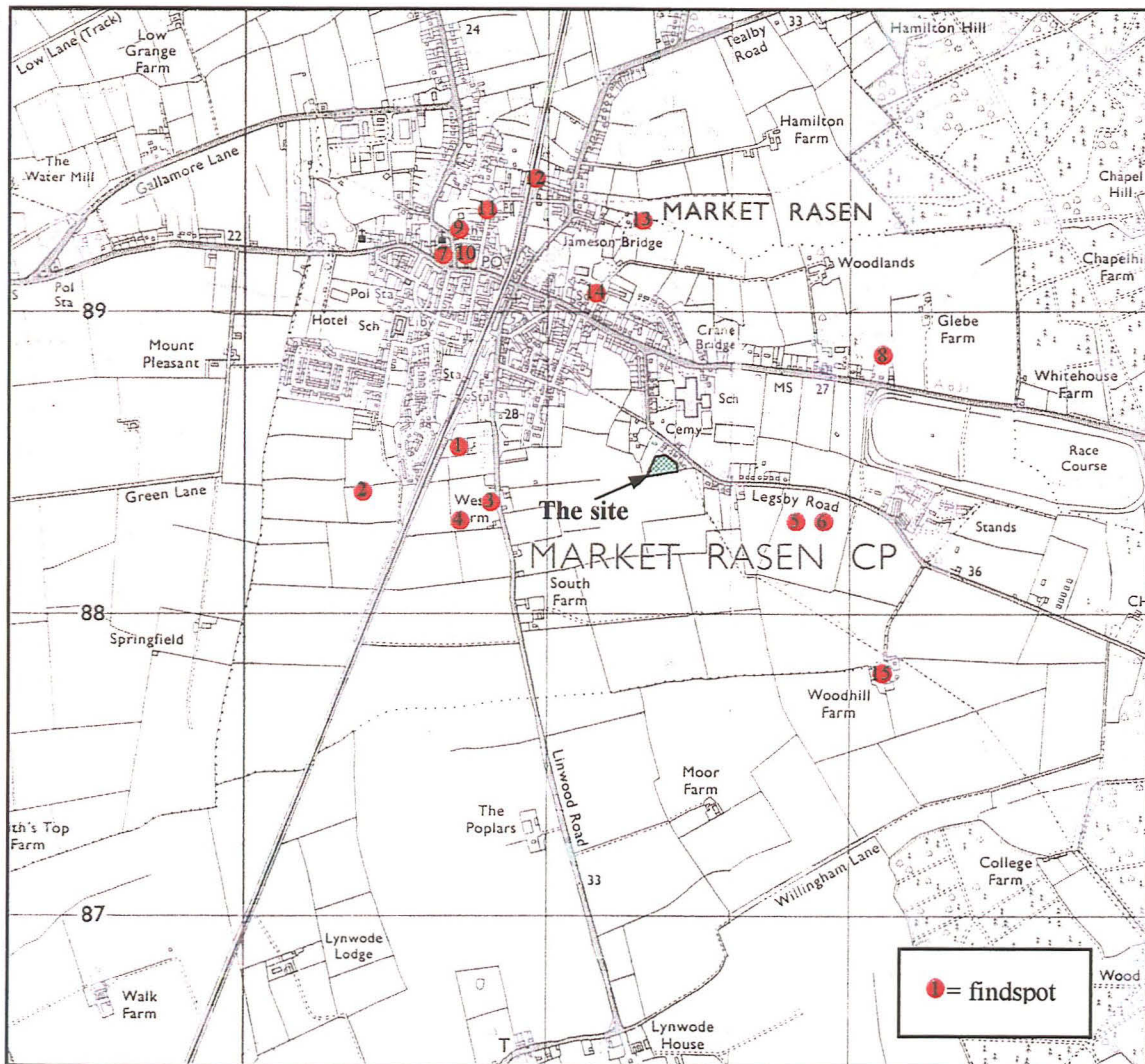


Fig 1: Site location, showing SMR findspots (scale 1:25000)

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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Mr. K. Reid to undertake a recording brief during the groundworks for a bungalow and its associated infrastructure.

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).

2.0 Planning background

Detailed planning permission (planning ref M00/P/0465) was granted for the erection of a single storey dwelling, subject to a series of conditions. One of these conditions related to archaeology and stipulated the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all sensitive groundworks; to identify and record any archaeological deposits at risk from development.

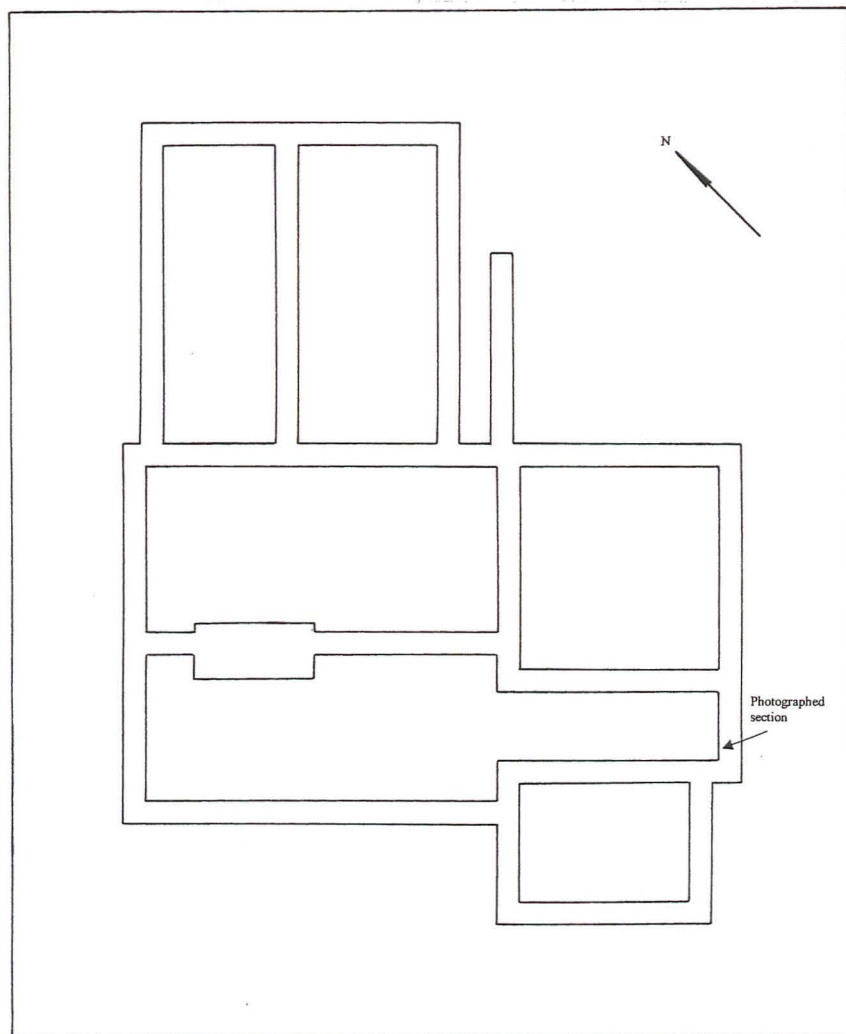


Fig.2: Ground plan of foundation trenches (Scale 1:200)

3.0 Site location and description

Market Rasen is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 18km north-east of Lincoln. The development site is to the south-east of the town, on the west side of Legsby Road. The dwelling occupies an area of approximately 112m². The site slopes gently downwards to the north and is bordered by residential properties to the south and east, and a former orchard to the north and west. It is located at grid reference TF 1136 8846.

The site is situated in the Clay Vale, west of the Lincolnshire Wolds, with an overlying drift geology of blown sand (BGS, 1999).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Surprisingly little has been published on the archaeology of Market Rasen, although the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record contains multiple entries for the area. These are listed overleaf and located on fig.1.

The earliest recorded information derives from cropmarks on aerial photographs. These are interpreted as possible prehistoric enclosures and associated field systems (SMR PRN 52748, 52749), and they lie south-east of the current site.

In the Romano-British period Market Rasen was the focus of a considerable pottery production industry; located to the south of the town and west of the development site. This area has yielded large amounts of pottery and kiln debris, as well as complete single flue up-draught kilns, excavated in 1966 by pupils from De Aston School (fig.1). This pottery industry appears to have flourished between the second and fourth centuries AD, and may have extended as far as Linwood Warren, approximately 2km to the east (Whitwell, 1992). In 1998, fieldwalking was carried out on a site, the eastern boundary of which is less than 100m west of the current site. This revealed scatters of Romano-British pottery (Palmer-Brown, 1998). The latter indicates the potential for the current site to lie within the extensive zone of pottery production.

The line of the parish boundary is believed to preserve the route of a Roman road which branched eastwards from Ermine Street (PRN 51456), and would have connected the pottery industry with some of its markets (*ibid.*, 54).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the town had a mill on the River Rase, and land was owned by Roger Poitou, Alfred of Lincoln and Jocelyn son of Lambert (Morris 1986). However, in the late 11th century, the settlement did not have the status of a market town and was then known as *Resne*, meaning (place at the) plank bridge (Mills 1993).

The only surviving medieval features of the town are the Market Place and the church, which has some Norman elements (Pevsner & Harris 1989). Late Georgian

and Victorian buildings now make up much of the town's historic core (Palmer-Brown, 1998).

SUMMARY TABLE OF SMR FINDSPOTS (SEE FIG.1):

FIG.1 NO.	PRN	NGR (TF)	Description
1	51456	1213 8780	Suspected Roman road (following parish boundary)
2	52736	1070 8830	Romano-British pottery kiln
3	52737	1040 8840	Romano-British artefact
4	52738	1064 8921	15th century key
-	52739	Unlocated	Romano-British artefact
5	52740	1070 8854	Romano-British artefact
-	52741	Unlocated	Post medieval artefact
-	52742	Unlocated	Romano-British artefact
6	52747	1210 8885	Undated brick/tile works
7	52748	1180 8830	Aerial photograph: prehistoric enclosure and associated field system
8	52749	1190 8830	Aerial photograph: undated cropmarks
9	52750	1070 8920	Medieval settlement remains
10	52751	1080 8835	Medieval field system remains
11	52752	1070 8920	Post medieval settlement remains
12	52753	1078 8932	Post medieval mill
-	52754	Unlocated	Undated water mill
13	52755	1096 8940	Post medieval water mill
14	52756	1130 8930	Post medieval water mill
15	52757	1115 8905	Modern linear feature
-	52758	Unlocated	Early medieval artefact

5.0 Methodology

Prior to the watching brief, topsoil was stripped from the building footprint to a depth of approximately 0.15 - 0.2m. The foundation trenches were then excavated using a JCB fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed trenching bucket (fig.2). This work took place on Monday November 20th, and was monitored at all times by the author. Following the excavation of the foundation trenches, all plan and section surfaces were scanned and intermittently cleaned, in order to assess the presence/absence of archaeological features.

6.0 Results

The stripping of vegetation and a proportion of the topsoil from the house footprint showed the area to have been subject to considerable modern disturbance. The site had formerly been part of an orchard, which had resulted in large amounts of root disturbance and had left abundant organic material in the topsoil. A garage had formerly stood in the southern corner of the site, causing further disturbance and leaving a spread of modern building debris over much of the site.

The foundation trenches were excavated to between 0.4 and 0.9m below ground level, being shallowest towards the northern corner of the house plot. The stratigraphy within the trenches was simple and relatively uniform. The uppermost layer consisted of a very dark brown topsoil containing large amounts of roots and other organic material, as well as modern building debris. The depth of this layer was subject to small variations across the site, but on average measured approximately 0.5m from the original ground level. Below this layer was a mid to dark brown sandy subsoil, approximately 0.2m deep. The final layer noted was an orange/yellow sand, which was revealed only in the deeper areas of excavation and was interpreted as the natural drift geology of the area.

7.0 Conclusion

Despite the high archaeological potential of the area, no significant archaeological deposits were encountered during this watching brief. This development will not greatly diminish the archaeological resource in Market Rasen, and it is therefore deemed unnecessary to carry out further archaeological work at the site.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr. Ken Reid for this commission and for his co-operation during the watching brief.

9.0 References

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Whitwell J.B, 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

10.0 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.

11.0 Appendices

11.1 Colour plates



Plate 1: General working shot, looking northwest



Plate 2: Foundation trench section, looking northwest