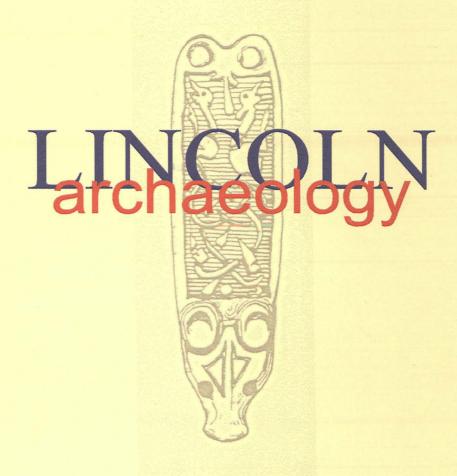
M1/04/01

A Report to the City Engineers & Surveyors Department Lincoln City Council

February 2001



Danesgate Multi-storey Car Park Danesgate, Lincoln

Archaeological Recording

LINCOLN archaeology

DANESGATE MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK,

DANESGATE,
LINCOLN

SOURCES LI 6449 L16450

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING RAS 70214 L181358
70215 L181359

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- On the 2nd November 2000 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook the recording of six small trenches within the Danesgate multi-storey car park, on behalf of the City Engineers & Surveyors Department, Lincoln City Council. The excavation of the trenches was part of an extensive building stabilisation programme carried out prior to the car parks re-opening.
- Although of limited extent, the archaeological recording of the trenches revealed that two principal periods of occupation/land-use were probably present on the site.
- Although no definite evidence for the Roman occupation of the site was found, a stone layer and associated floor recorded in one of the trenches, along with a suspected robber trench, appeared to support the presence of a Roman building at this location.
- Extensive dump deposits recorded on the site would appear to be associated with Anglo-Saxon occupation. Although the nature of this occupation was unclear, land raising and/or terracing activities would appear probable.
- No evidence for medieval or later occupation appeared to survive within the trenches investigated, this information probably having been destroyed when the car park was first constructed, its presence on the site however, cannot be fully dismissed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 2nd November 2000 a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook the recording of six small trenches within Danesgate multi-storey car park (the site), on behalf of the City Engineers & Surveyors Department, Lincoln City Council. The trenching was carried out as part of a larger programme of work designed to consolidate the car park structure prior to its re-opening. The car park was closed during the mid. 1990's due to concerns regarding its structural integrity.

2.0 SITE LOCATION (Figs. 1 & 2)

Lincoln lies over several well-defined geological zones. The city itself is situated at the point where the Jurassic limestone ridge known as the Lincoln Edge is cut by a glacial gap, through which the River Witham now flows. Geological deposits present on the site consist of Upper Lias Clay and shale (towards the north of the site) and Middle Lias Clay and shale towards the southern part of the site. The site slopes gradually down north to south.

The site lies within Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 115 *Lindum Colonia* and within the Cathedral & City Conservation Area No. 1. The site is bounded by Flaxengate to the west, Danes Terrace its north and Danesgate to the east. Crown House (government offices) form the southern boundary to the site. The six trenches (1-6) were located at regular intervals against the northern internal wall of the car park's lowest level. National Grid Reference SK 9775 7150.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following information describes a brief background to the known history and archaeology of the site.

The site lies in an area of known archaeological importance situated towards the northeast quadrant of the lower Roman walled city, approximately 150m to the east of the Roman Ermine Street (the principal north-south route through the ancient city - roughly followed by the line of the modern High Street). As such, the site is believed likely to contain evidence of Roman urban occupation and this is corroborated by the results of previous archaeological work in the immediate area.

Archaeological excavations in the vicinity (principally to the west & southwest) of the site have revealed evidence of Roman occupation from the late 1st - early 2nd century through to the late 4th century, including the remains of terracing, timber and stone buildings, and several phases of the Roman street system.

While it would appear that this area was largely abandoned during the early-mid Saxon periods, sites investigated to the west & southwest, along Flaxengate, Grantham Place and Swan Street, confirm intensive late Anglo-Scandinavian occupation. The occupation revealed included metalled road surfaces, and timber and stone structures dated to between the late 9th and early 11th centuries (Perring, 1981). To the south of the site, excavations carried out during 1973 at Silver Street, revealed evidence for early medieval pottery production (kilns). The produce from these kilns was found in quantities during the excavations at Flaxengate.

From this time onwards, it would appear that this area was continually occupied. Parts of medieval stone houses, built in the 12th-15th centuries continued in use until the 17th century, but in others, new structures were built in the 16th and 17th centuries (Jones R H, 1980). The street name Danesgate is likely to indicate that this area was part of a Danish medieval colony (Hill 1948). Small-scale excavation carried out immediately to the south of the car park on the site of a water booster station (Cullen, Danks & Jarvis, 1988) revealed a succession of dump deposits of post-medieval date containing a high proportion of late 9th to early 10th century pottery.

Further phases of demolition and rebuilding continued in the immediate vicinity through to the 19th century and the majority of the surviving buildings in the area around the site date from this period. The multi-storey car park was constructed in 1969-70.

4.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological recording was:

- A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
- B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

Extent of Archaeological Observations

Geotechnical trial trenches – six small trenches were excavated by the site contractor against the northern internal boundary wall of the lower level of the Danesgate multi-storey Car Park. An archaeologist from the CLAU recorded the archaeological deposits exposed by this work.

Archaeological Methodology

- All archaeological features and deposits were recorded, where appropriate, on CLAU pro-forma context record sheets. Scale drawings of sections and plans of archaeological features were made and a full photographic record compiled.
- All artefacts and other material recovered and retained from the investigations were packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that minimum deterioration took place and that their associated records were complete.

5.0 ANALYSIS & CONCLUSIONS (Figs. 2, 3 & 4)

For the purposes of this report, the analysis of the archaeological record is presented by trench order, followed by a concluding section presented in chronological order.

All six trenches were nominally $1m \times 1m$ in size and excavated to a depth of c.1m. Trench 1 lay at the far-eastern end of the car park and six, the west. The excavation of the trenches had already been completed before any archaeological involvement had taken place.

5.1 Analysis

TRENCH 1

The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 1 was [003], loosely compacted mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized angular limestone, oyster shell and charcoal inclusions. A single sherd of late 9th-mid 10th century pottery recovered from [003] (Lincoln Shelly Ware - LSH) was thought to represent production waste possibly derived from the kilns lying to the southeast of the site (a quantity of residual Roman tile and brick was also found). In turn, [003] was sealed by layer [002], a loose compaction, mid-light grey/brown ashy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions, including two sherds of late 9th-mid 10th century pot (Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware – LKT), 2nd-3rd century Roman pottery and tile, as well as a small quantity of animal bone. Deposit [001] forming the concrete floor and make-up material for the car park, overlay [002].

TRENCH 2

Within Trench 2, the earliest deposit encountered was [005] a deposit identical to [003] but with fewer limestone and more ash inclusions. Pottery recovered from [005] dated from the late 9th-late 10th/12th century (Lincolnshire Fine-shelled Ware – LFS). A quantity of animal bone, Roman roof tile, along with a single iron nail and a piece of stone tessera (mosaic) was also found. Sealing [005] was [004], a similar deposit to [002] but containing occasional lumps of green/grey clay as well as late 9th-early 10th century pot - LKT (some Roman 4th century pot, animal bone & tile was also recovered). This was in turn sealed by [001], the car park floor.

TRENCH 3

Only one archaeological deposit ([006]) was recorded in Trench 3 and consisted of an extensive (over 500mm thick) deposit of loosely compacted, mid brown slightly yellow sandy silt with occasional-frequent charcoal, small limestone fragments, shall and tile flecks (also animal bone & Roman tile). This was sealed by [001], the car park floor.

TRENCH 4

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was [009], a very loosely compacted, pale yellow mortar/sand with frequent inclusions of small angular limestone and occasional fragments of Roman roof tile & brick. A single sherd of early 2nd century pot was also found. Sealing [009] was [008], a firm compaction, red-black burnt clay lens, possibly a floor. This was overlain by [007], a sandy/silt identical to [006] in Trench 3. Cutting through [007], [009] & [008] was suspected east-west robber trench [010]. Its fill, a loose, mid brown ashy sandy soil with occasional mortar, small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks also contained one sherd of late 10th-early 11th century pot (Saxo-Norman Lincoln Sandy Ware – SNLS). The car park floor ([001]) overlay the aforementioned deposits and features.

TRENCH 5

The only deposit encountered in Trench 5 (below floor [001]) was [011], a firm-moderate compaction, mid-dark brown slightly clayey silty soil with frequent small limestone fragments, lumps of a pale brown mortar, charcoal and shell flecks. Residual finds from [011] included, late 1st-early 2nd century Roman pot, tile & mortar, as well as a small quantity of animal bone. One 12th century potsherd recovered from [011] (Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly – LEMS) was believed to be intrusive.

TRENCH 6

A loosely compacted, light-mid grey/brown ashy sandy/silt [013], with shell, charcoal and small limestone inclusions constituted the earliest deposit encountered in Trench 6. This was sealed by [012], a 500mm thick clayey silt layer identical to [011] in Trench 5 and containing animal bone and early-mid 2nd century pot. The car park floor ([001]) overlay deposit [011].

5.2 Conclusions

Although limited in scope, the archaeological recording of the trenches has revealed that at least two periods of occupation/land-use are probably present on the site.

1) Romano-British Period (1st-4th century AD)

No definite evidence for the Roman occupation of the site was found, however, the stony layer and associated floor recorded in Trench 4, along with the suspected robber trench (present within the same trench), may indicate that a Roman structure of indeterminate form & function lay here. The site's location within the lower Roman city and the frequency of Roman pottery, brick and tile found on the site also corroborates the presence of Roman levels below those reached by the excavation of the trenches.

2) Anglo-Saxon & Anglo-Scandinavian Period (5th-11th centuries)

Many of the deposits recorded on the site would appear likely to be associated with this period of the site's occupation. Although the exact nature of this occupation was unclear, it would appear to be of a similar date to the Anglo-Saxon deposits found immediately to the west & southwest of the site, during earlier excavations. The robbing of stone from the suspected Roman structure recorded in Trench 4 would appear, from the available dating evidence, to also have occurred during this period. Much of the pottery recovered from the trenches appears to be production waste, the sources of which are known. LKT is derived from the kilns excavated during 1973 at Silver Street, to the south of the site (Miles, Young & Wacher 1989). LSH is possibly associated with a kiln recorded during evaluation work at the Sessions House to the southeast of the site (Jarvis, 1998).

3) The Medieval - Modern Periods (late 11th-20th centuries)

No direct evidence for medieval or later occupation appears to survive within the trenches investigated (this information may have been destroyed when the Danesgate multi-storey car park was constructed in 1969-70).

In conclusion, the localised programme of archaeological recording has revealed only glimpses of occupation/land-use activities present on the site, and was due, in part, to the limited scope of the works. Roman occupation on the site would appear to be undefined but is probably of an urban, domestic, nature. Anglo-Saxon land-use was also unclear. Extensive dumps of soil are not uncommon and many activities involve the mass movement of soil (e.g. land levelling prior to construction & terrace formation – activities known to have been carried out on the hill-slope). Whilst no evidence for medieval or later occupation was noted, its presence cannot be fully dismissed. This information will be of value in future decision making with regard to the management of the archaeological resource in this important area of Lincoln.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the City Engineers & Surveyors Department, Lincoln City Council, for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to the site contractor for their assistance, co-operation and enthusiasm throughout the duration of the archaeological programme of investigation. Acknowledgement is also made of Mr M J Jones – City Archaeologist, Lincoln City Council for his advice & guidance during the archaeological works.

Maps contained within this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Lincoln City Council. Licence No. LA 078433.

Fig. 2 of this report is based upon Carley Daines & Partners Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers Drawing No. 00.B.6241/1 A.

Project Team

CLAU Specialists

Michael Jarvis

Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)

Jenny Mann

Registered Finds/Ceramic Building Materials

Graham Eyre-Morgan

Projects Manager

External specialists

Barbara Precious Roman Pottery (Freelance)

Jane Young

Post-Roman and later pottery (Lindsay Archaeological Services - LAS)

Jane Young

Roman and later ceramic building material (LAS)

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NOTE

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.

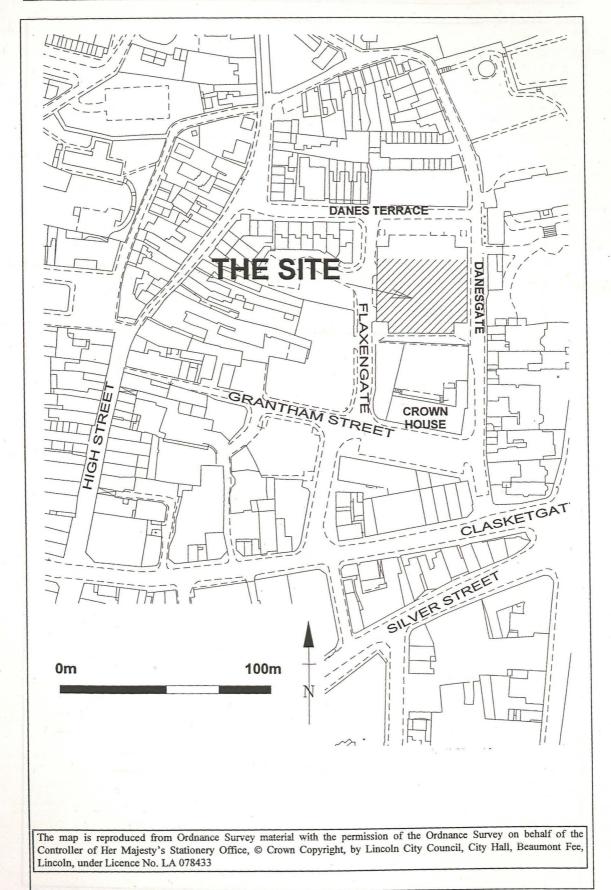


Fig. 1: Site Location Plan (not to any scale).

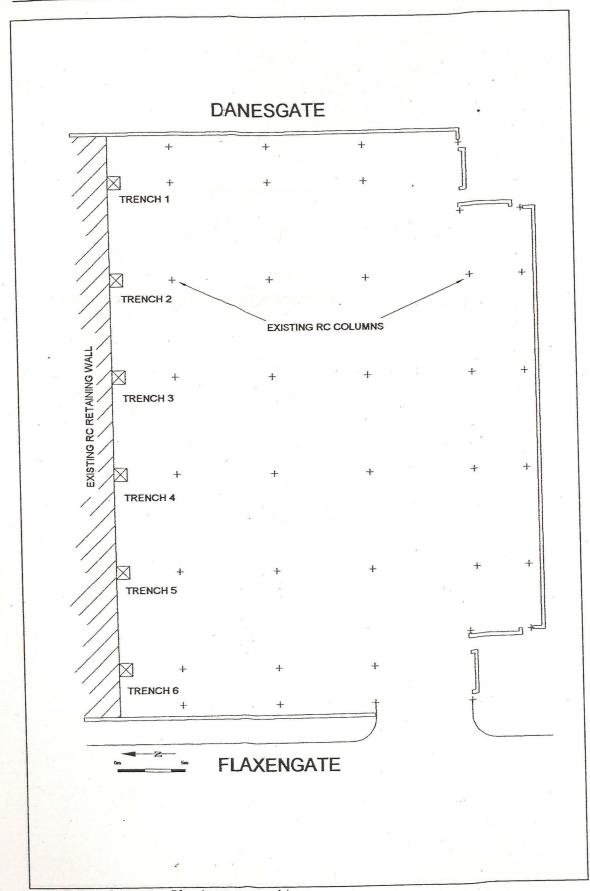


Fig. 2: Trench Location Plan (not to any scale).

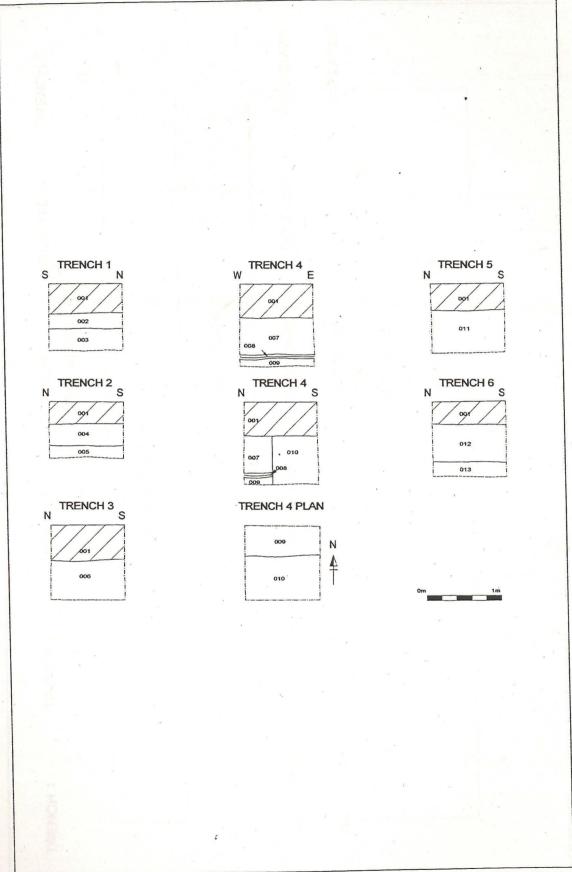
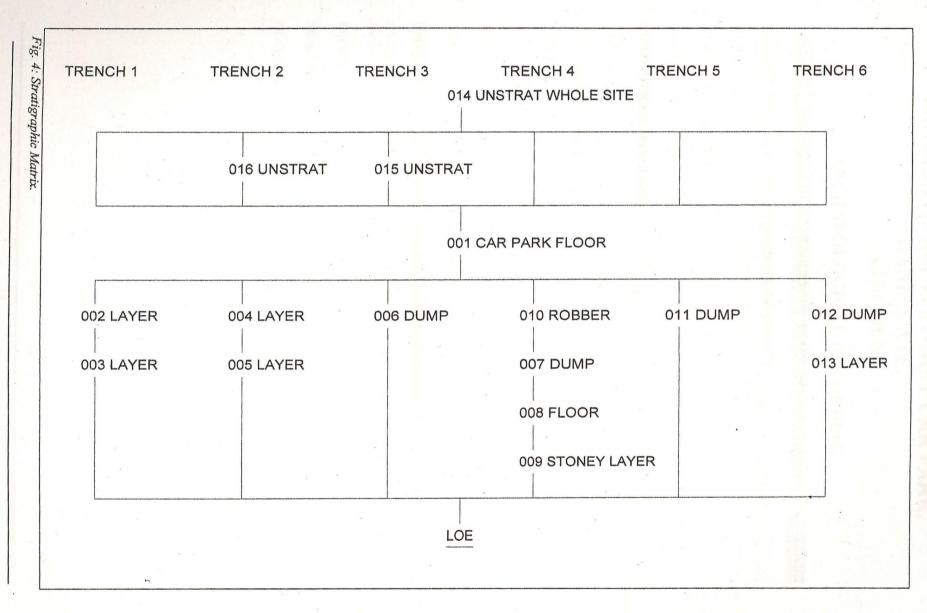


Fig. 3: Trench Plan & Sections (1:50).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

APPENDIX 1 - LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: DCP00

CLAU REPORT No.: 448

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 9775 7150

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No .: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 2nd November 2000

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: City Engineers & Surveyors Department, Lincoln City Council

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.: 2000.264

ACCESSION DATE: -

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

APPENDIX 2 - CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Area	Description
001	TP's 1-6	Concrete & stone sub-base (floor of car-park)
002	TP 1	Loose compaction, mid-light grey/brown ashy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions.
003	TP 1	Loose compaction, mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent small-medium angular limestone fragments, oyster shell and charcoal flecks.
004	TP 2	Loose compaction, mid-light grey/brown ashy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions. Also occasional lumps of green/grey clay.
005	TP 2	Loose compaction, mid-dark brown ashy silty sand with occasional small-medium angular limestone fragments, oyster shell and charcoal flecks.
006	TP 3	Loose compaction, mid brown slightly yellow sandy silt with occasional-frequent charcoal, small limestone fragments, shell and tile flecks (same as 007).
007	TP 4	Loose compaction, mid brown slightly yellow sandy silt with occasional-frequent charcoal, small limestone fragments, shell and tile flecks (same as 006).
008	TP 4	Very firm compaction, red/black burnt clay lens – floor?
009	TP 4	Very loose compaction, pale yellow sandy mortar with frequent small angular limestone and tile inclusions.
010	TP 4	Loose compaction, mid brown ashy sandy soil with occasional mortar and small limestone fragments – robber trench fill.
011	TP 5	Firm-moderate compaction, mid-dark brown slightly clayey silt soil with frequent small limestone fragments, pale brown sandy mortar, charcoal and shell flecks (same as 012).
012	TP 6	Firm-moderate compaction, mid-dark brown slightly clayey silt soil with frequent small limestone fragments, pale brown sandy mortar, charcoal and shell flecks (same as 011).
013	TP 6	Loose compaction, light-mid grey/brown ashy sandy/silt with occasional-frequent shell, charcoal flecks, & Occasional small limestone fragments – pit fill?
014	N/A	Unstratified finds from all trenches.
015	TP 3	Unstratified finds from Trench 3
016	TP 2	Unstratified finds from Trench 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

APPENDIX 3 - FINDS REPORTS

Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material By Jane Young

Introduction

A total of 13 sherds of post-Roman pottery and 33 fragments of tile were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the Roman to the Saxo-Norman period. The pottery and tile was examined visually and then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

Condition

The pottery is in variable condition with some vessels being abraded while others are in a more fresh condition. All except one of the Late Saxon shell-tempered sherds show evidence of misfiring in the form of spalled areas or decomposed shell fragments.

The tile fragments are all abraded and appear to have been reused post-breakage.

Overall Chronology and Source

Pottery

Only five different post-Roman pottery ware types were found on the site; the type and date range for each fabric is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd and vessel count.

Codename	Full Name	Latest Date	Sherds	Vessels	
LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	2	1
LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	1	1
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	7	4
LSH	Lincoln shelly ware	850	1000	2	2
R	Roman pottery	40	400	12	6
SNLS	Saxo-Norman Lincoln Sandy Ware	970	1080	1	1

The only identifiable vessel forms are jars, one of which (contexts 004 and 016) has a flat base suggesting that it dates to the period between the late 9th and early 10th centuries. The other vessels are less diagnostic although the competency of manufacture suggests that they too are of this date. Three later vessels occurred (LFS and LEMS), none of which could be closely dated. The late Saxon shell-tempered vessels (LSH and LKT) probably represent production waste.

Ceramic Building Material

Only Roman tile and brick was recovered from the site; the number of fragments and weight for each type is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight.

Codename	Full Name	Frags	Weight
IMB	imbrex	2	169
IMBDISC	imbrex (discarded)	3	125
RBRK	Roman brick	3	460
RTIL	Roman tile (undiagnostic)	2	134
RTILDISC	Roman tile (undiagnostic discarded)	22	571
TEGDISC	Tegula (discarded)	1	144

The tile is very fragmentary and most fragments appear to have been reused. Traces of post-breakage soot appear on four fragments and twenty fragments are covered in mortar. None of the material is diagnostic and could date to any time within the Roman period.

Summary and Recommendations

The material recovered represents a small mixed assemblage of limited usefulness. The Late Saxon shell-tempered vessels appear to represent production waste. Wasters of both Late Saxon gritty and sandy fabrics were recovered from previous excavations in the area (Coppack 1973). Undiagnostic tile has been discarded otherwise all of the material should be retained for future study.

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The Roman Pottery

By B J Precious

The Pottery has been recorded according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) guidelines, using codes currently in use at the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit, and sherd count as a measure.

The site produced 12 sherds from six contexts. Although the assemblage is very small it is remarkable for the wide date-range of the Roman pottery (see Table 1, below).

The most significant vessel is the rim from a Hofheim flagon in Cream ware from Context 015 (CR, FHOF - Drawing 2). This form is generally dated to the very early Roman period from c. AD 50 -70. Contexts 011 & 012 also produced early Roman pottery including an Iron Age tradition cooking pot in a shell-tempered fabric (Context 011: IASH, CPN) and a fragment from a closed vessel in the redslipped fabric associated with military occupation in Lincoln (Context: 012: RDSL, CLSD). However, the RDSL sherd is quite abraded and was found with a grey ware sherd with burnished decoration suggesting a date within the early to mid 2^{nd} century for Context 012. A sherd from a jar decorated with linear rustication from Context 009 also dates to at least the early 2^{nd} century (Context 009: GREY, JBK, RLIN?).

In contrast the pottery from both Contexts 002 & 003 is late Roman, 4th century, in date. Sherd joins between a grey ware bead and flanged bowl link the two contexts.

Apart from the sherd of RDSL and the joining, but flaked, sherds of the grey ware bowl, the pottery is in good condition. Sooting was noted on the exterior of the IASH native-tradition jar, emphasising its use as a cooking pot. It is recommended that two vessels are drawn: Drawing 1- Context 003, a grey ware, wide-mouthed jar; and the Cream ware Hofheim flagon - Drawing 2: Context 015.

Table 1: The Date range of the Roman pottery from DCP00 by Context and sherd count.

Context	Sherds	Date Range
002	a rhing	2-3C
003	5	4C
009	1	E2+
011	2	L1E2
012	2	EM2
015	1	1C

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

APPENDIX 4 – THE FINDS CATALOGUE

ANIMAL BONE

Context	Count	Comments
002	2	-
003	2	
004	4	-
005	4	- 1 2 1
006	006 2 -	
011	3	1XHEAVILY BURNT
012	3	-
014	53	-
015	10	-
016	14	-

BULK FINDS

Context	Туре	Count	Comments
005	NAIL	1	-
015	WOOD	1	CHAR (0GM) DIS

POST-ROMAN POTTERY

Context	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Part	Ref No	Description	Date
002	LKT		jar	1	1	BS		overfired; internal fe coating?	late 9th to late 10th
002	LKT		jar	1	1	base		internal fe coating?; soot over break	late 9th to late 10th
002	R			1	1	BS		ž š	
003	LSH	B?	jar	1	1	BS	1113	overfired; internal fe coating?	late 9th to mid 10th
003	R			5	1	BS	mis		2
004	LKT		small jar	3	1	base & BS	vessel	overfired; spalled; flat base; early	late 9th to early 10th
005	LSH		jar	1	1	BS		int & ext soot; burnt/overfired	late 9th to late 10th
005	LFS		jar	1	1	BS		soot	late 10th to 12th
009	R			1	1	BS			
010	SNLS		jar	1	1	rim		soot	late 10th to early 11th
011	LEMS		jar	2	1	BS			12th
011	R	7		2	1	BS			
012	R			2	1	BS			
015	R	<i>y</i>		1	1	BS			
016	LKT	9	small jar	1	1	BS	vessel 1	overfired; spalled; early	late 9th to early 10th
016	LKT		jar	1	1	BS		overfired; soot	late 9th to mid 10th

ROMAN POTTERY

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Novess	Dwgno	Alter	Comments	Join	Shs
002	GREY	BFB				FLAKED	RIM FRAG; BEADED	3	1
002	ZZZ						GREY ONLY		
002	ZDATE						4C		
003	GREY	JWM	В		D1	GOOD	RIM-NECK; V LGE SH;SPOOL		1
003	NVCC	BKSC	SC	1			BSS;LT BN FAB		2
003	NVCC	BK	ROUZ	-			V HIGH FIRED LFAB		1
003	GREY	BFB	В			FLAKED	FLANGE; B EXT; SPOOL	2	1
003	ZDATE						4C		
009	GREY	JBK	RLIN?				BS		1
009	ZZZ						GREY ONLY		
009	ZDATE				*		E2+		
011	IASH	CPN				SOOT EXT	RIM NECK		1
011	IAGR	CLSD					BS		1
011	ZDATE						L1E2		
012	RDSL	CLSD		-		ABR	BS		1
012	GREY	CLSD	L				BS		1
012	ZDATE						EM2		
012	ZZZ				-		MIX 1STC RDSL		
015	CR	FHOF		-	D2		RIM NECK		1
015	ZZZ						CR FHOF ONLY		
015	ZDATE					- ×	1C		

THE TILE

Context	Cname	Frags	Weight	Description
002	RTILDISC	1	34	vitrified
003	TEGDISC	1	144	finger swirls
003	RBRK	2	297	soot on one edge
004	RTILDISC	3	34	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
005	IMBDISC	1	56	
006	RTIL	1	54	sooted after breakage
009	RTILDISC	9	331	mortar over breaks
009	IMBDISC	1	40	mortar over breaks
009	IMB	1	74	mortar over breaks
009	RTIL	1	80	mortar over breaks
009	RBRK	1	163	mortar over breaks
010	RTILDISC	3	55	mortar over breaks
011	RTILDISC	1	43	sooted over break
011	RTILDISC	4	54	mortar over breaks
012	IMB	1	95	
015	IMBDISC	1	29	
016	RTILDISC	1	20	vitrified