

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT: LAND OFF KILN LANE, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: KLLO02
NGR: TF 32810 87603
Planning Ref. N/105/1346/01
Accession No. 2002.4



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Report prepared for Stuart Grant (Building Surveyor).
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Conservation
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Summary

- *A field evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Stuart Grant (Building Surveyor) to assess the archaeological potential of a sub-rectangular unit of land at Louth in Lincolnshire in advance of an application for residential development.*
- *A trial excavation has demonstrated that the site has some archaeological potential; in the form of medieval riverside deposits, which may have features cut into them, or seal earlier archaeology.*
- *These levels are buried beneath at least 1.0m of modern and Victorian made ground, which appears to have protected them from later intrusive activity, such as the digging of cellars or deep foundations.*
- *This deep layer provides a buffer between potentially significant archaeological horizons and the modern ground surface, which should be of sufficient depth to protect archaeological remains from the effects of the proposed redevelopment.*

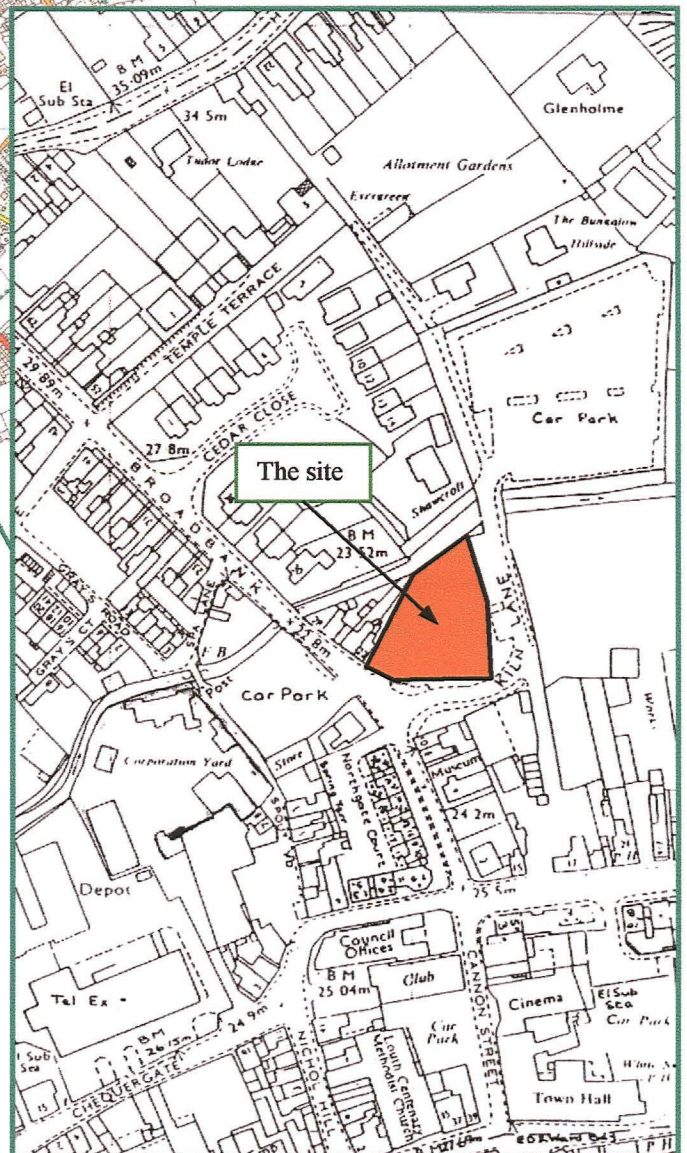
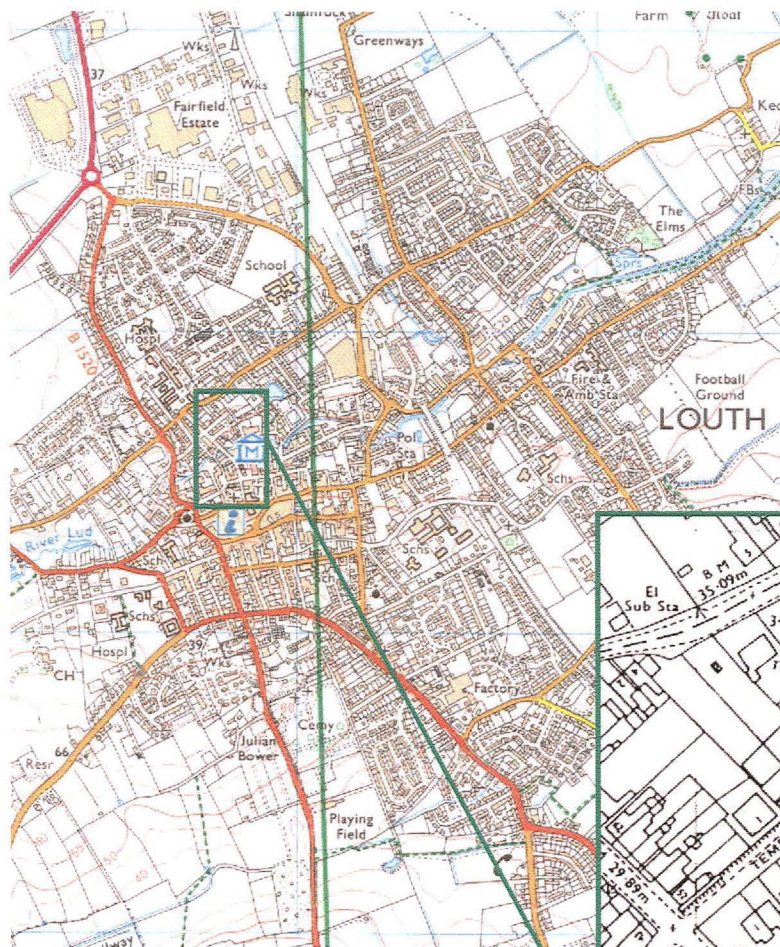
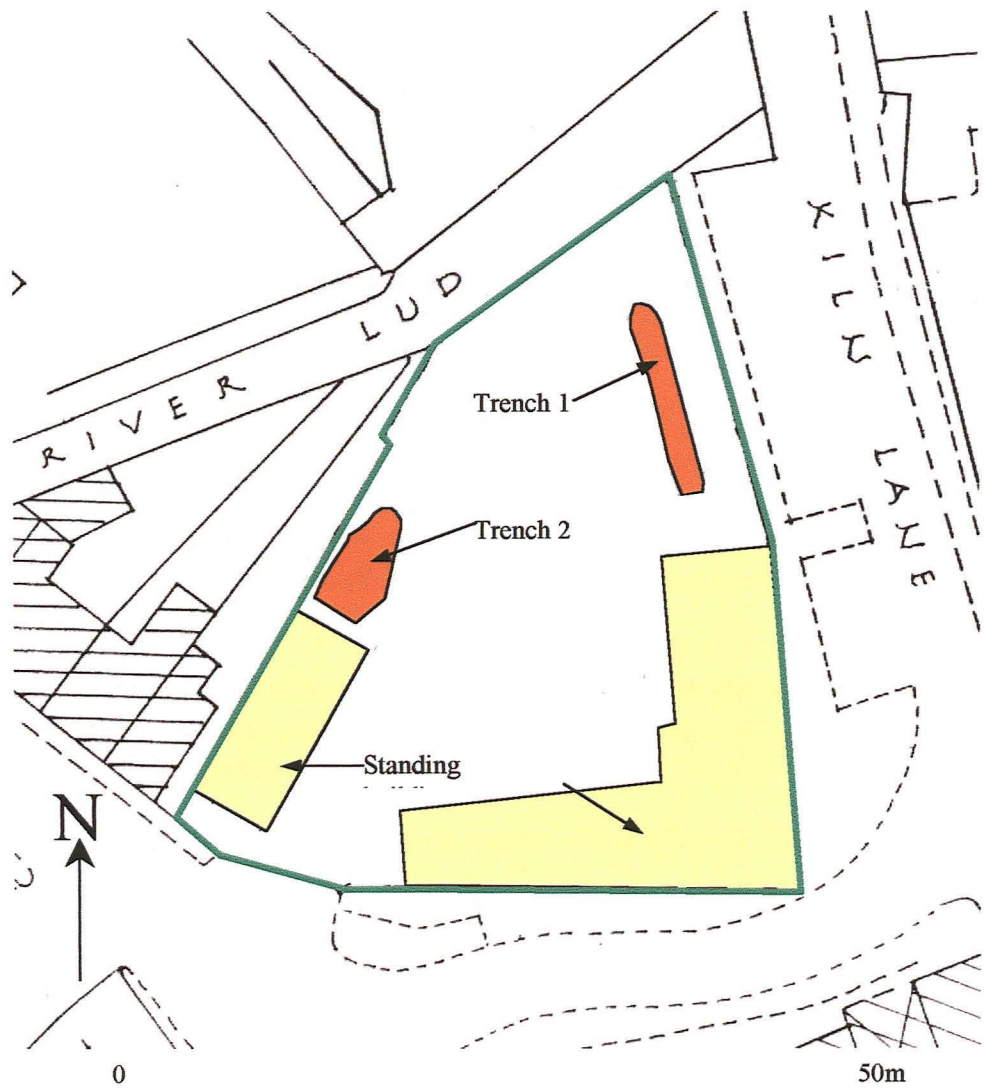


Fig. 1 Site location.

1:25,000

(Insert at 1:2,500)

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Scale.

Fig. 2 Trench location
1:500

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared for Stuart Grant (Building Surveyor) to advise an application for residential development on a unit of land at Louth in Lincolnshire. Its purpose is to advise both the commissioning body and East Lindsey District Council of archaeological constraints which may exist, and which may warrant future protection and/or further investigation in advance of/during development of the site.

The land (hereafter 'the site') has been evaluated for its archaeological potential using an agreed strategy of trial excavation, the results of this excavation are presented below.

The report follows current national guidelines (IFA, 1994), the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998), and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

2.0 Site Location and description

Louth is in the administrative district of East Lindsey at the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The settlement rests over post-glacial deposits, consisting mainly of chalky boulder clay, between 22m and 30m OD.

The site of proposed redevelopment is situated towards the north-east of the town and comprises a sub-triangular unit that falls within the angle of Kiln Lane and Broadbank. It is currently derelict and incorporates a former abattoir and concrete hardstandings.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 32810 87603.

Street level outside the site is approximately 22.80m OD.

3.0 Planning background

A planning application has been submitted for a residential development; comprising flats and associated parking areas. In response to this application, East Lindsey District Council has requested that the developer should provide further information. This information will form the basis of any decision relating to archaeological matters, and is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The place-name derives from the River Lud, and the origins of the town can be traced to the Anglo-Saxon period: it is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle that, in the year 790AD, Abbot Aethelheard of a monastery at Louth (*Hludensis monasterium*) was elected Archbishop of Canterbury (Elkwall 1989, 305).

Some evidence for the early occupation of the area has been recovered in the form of pottery and cut features at the Marquis of Granby public house on Eastgate, which is approximately 200m south-east of the current site.

At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, Louth (*Ludes*) possessed a market and was held by the Bishop of Lincoln. The town prospered during the medieval period; its wealth deriving principally from the wool and clothing trades. Archaeological evidence for this period is sparse, although controlled investigations within the town have been few in number. Medieval building remains have been exposed on Eastgate, and burials have been recovered on Upgate. A watching brief to the rear of 76a Eastgate exposed a sequence of undated and post-medieval deposits and unstratified medieval pottery sherds (Albone 1997).

There is no specific information relating to the current site, which clearly falls towards the periphery of the medieval settlement. An archaeological evaluation to the west, in Spout Yard, exposed medieval features with a possible industrial function.

5.0 Methodology (Trial excavation)

The primary purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, if appropriate. The approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

To achieve the above, two trial trenches were excavated to examine a representative percentage of the land (4.6%). Trench 1 was a conventional 1.8m wide and 13.2m long, Trench 2 was irregular due to constraints on site, but was approximately 3.6m wide and 8.2m long. The trenches were located for practicality, to assess as much of the site as possible but also to allow access for plant and room for spoil storage. The location of Trench 2 was altered, given that a substantial concrete slab was encountered that the machine could not break through.

The evaluation was undertaken by a team of four experienced field archaeologists (including the author, who was project supervisor) over a period of three days, between 7th and 9th January 2002.

For each trench, a JCB fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than

20cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section, and Ordnance Datum heights were entered on each class of drawing. Levels were calculated from an Ordnance Survey bench mark at number 10 Broadbank, at 23.13m OD. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (see Appendix 1).

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (e.g. domestic pottery sherds and low numbers of animal bone). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for specialist appraisal (pottery).

6.0 Results

The uppermost deposit in each trench was a raft of concrete over a make-up layer of brick rubble and other demolition debris. This layer was between 0.20 and 0.40m thick and was clearly of modern origin. It was recorded in the section drawings as (+).

6.1 Trench 1 (See Figs. 3-6)

Following the removal the modern slab and rubble, two very similar deposits were exposed, (101) and (102). Both comprised of greyish brown silty clay, with inclusions of charcoal and building rubble, which became increasingly frequent towards the bottom of (102). The pottery from these deposits appeared to be of Victorian or early modern date. These layers were make-up deposits, used to raise and stabilise the ground prior to building.

Beneath the above was a compact layer of dumped rubble (110), which lensed out approximately 5.50m from the southern end. The lower 100mm of this deposit was made up of compacted limestone fragments. This layer did not contain any dateable finds, but it seems very likely that it is part of the same phase of activity, the consolidation of this area. The total thickness of these three deposits was between 0.75 and 0.90m.

Beneath (110) was (111), the uppermost of a series of fluvial deposits, which lensed out about 7.50m from the southern end. It was composed of firm dark grey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and a few fragments of animal bone. This deposit may represent the foreshore that was in existence prior to the deposition of the dumped deposits that are described above. The charcoal and bone is perhaps indicative of casual dumping into the edge of the watercourse that deposited this material. A single sherd of 15th to mid 16th century 'Toynton Ware' pottery which was overfired or otherwise burnt was recovered from this context, which had a number of features cutting into the top of it.

The latest of these were two post holes, [105] and [109]. [105] had two fills (see Fig.5), the latest was a deposit of firm brownish orange clay (103) which had been used as packing around a post: represented by a post pipe of soft grey silt (104), at the bottom of which fragments of decayed wood survived. Cut [105] was an irregular ovoid shape, 0.67m N-S and 0.45m E-W, with sharp breaks of slope and a flat base. It was 0.28m deep.

The other post hole [109] was larger and deeper, at 0.80m E-W and 0.67m deep. The fill (108) was orangey brown silt, with brick, tile and limestone rubble used as packing around the remains of a wooden post approximately 150mm in diameter.

Given the stratigraphic position of the post holes directly below a Victorian layer, and the presence of brick fragments of a similar date in fill (108) it is likely that these posts were still in use in the 19th century.

[105] was cut through the fill of a shallow square sided feature, [107]. This was 3.00m N-S and 0.70m wide to (the limit of excavation), 0.17m deep, with concave sides and a flat regular base. The fill (106) was firm mid brown silt, with cockleshell and animal bone inclusions, which indicate domestic dumping as this fill was forming. No dateable finds were recovered from this feature, and its interpretation is unclear.

The fluvial deposit (111) sealed [113], a large E-W linear cut-feature approximately 2.5m wide and running E-W across Trench 1. This had a sharp break of slope at the surface and steep sides, which in places were undercut. The exposed fill (112) was a mixed clayey deposit, composed of light and dark blue slightly silty clays. The colour and texture of this material is indicative of deposition by slow moving water. The top darker portion was extensively stained with manganese that had formed in root channels left by marsh plants or reeds growing in shallow slow moving water. It would seem that this fill represents a later stage in the life of this feature, as the water it was transporting deposited the clayey material that would eventually fill it. Given the proximity of the current course of the Lud to the north it seems possible that this is a previous channel, although whether natural or canalised it was impossible to say from such a limited sample. It was not possible to excavate to the bottom of this feature on grounds of health and safety, therefore this interpretation is to some extent speculative.

The above channel was cut into a natural layer of brown clayey silt (114). Excavation in trench 1 was terminated at this point.

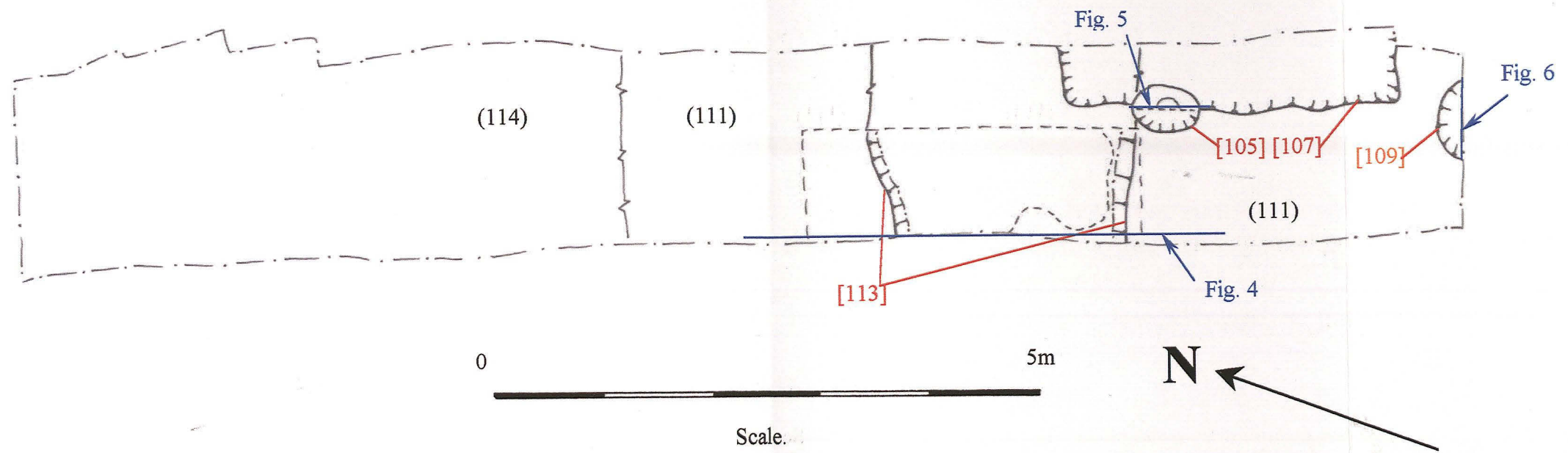


Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan.

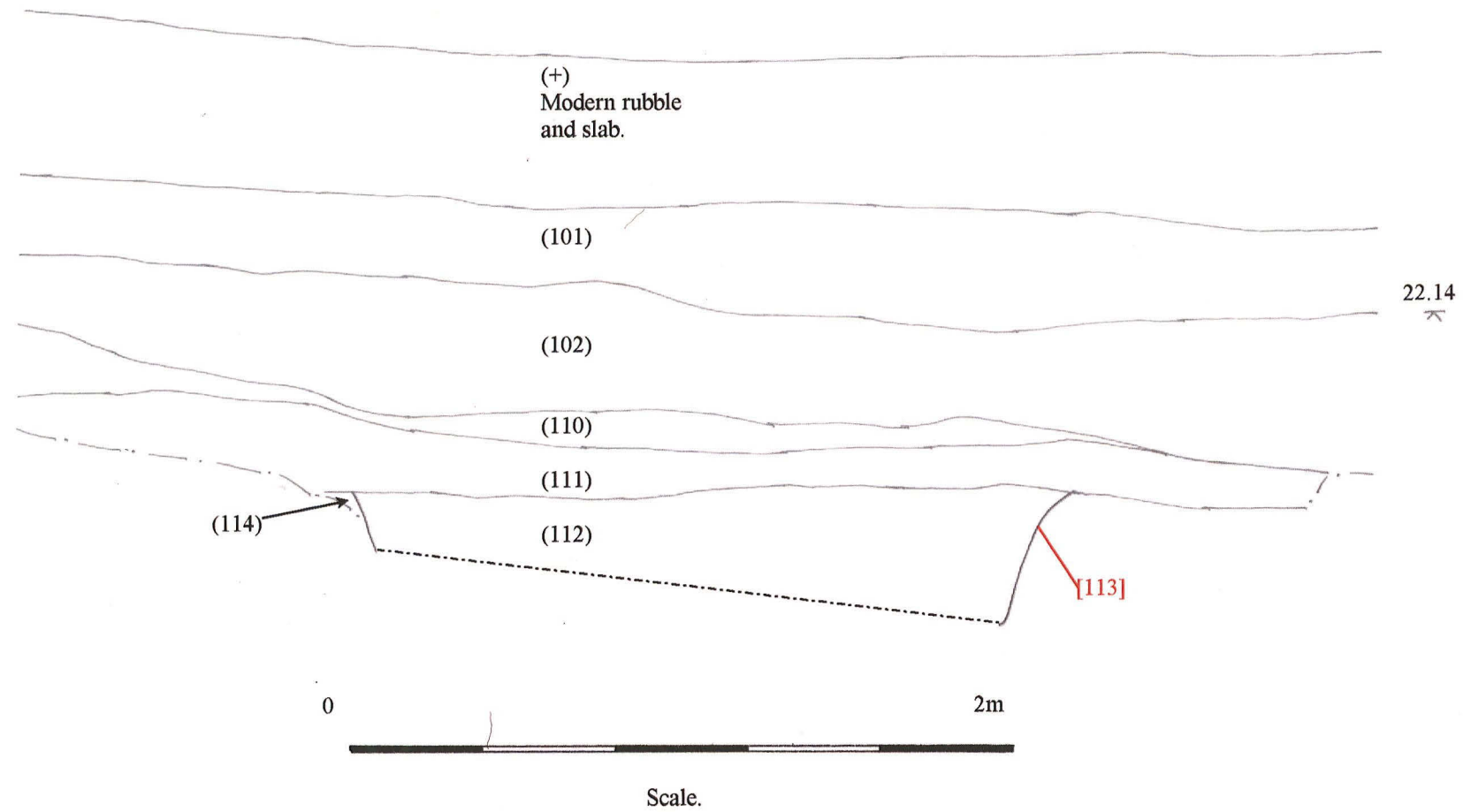


Fig. 4 East facing section from trench 1.

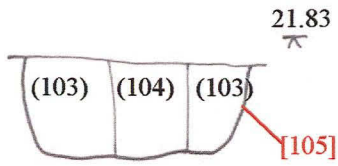


Fig. 5 West facing section through post hole.

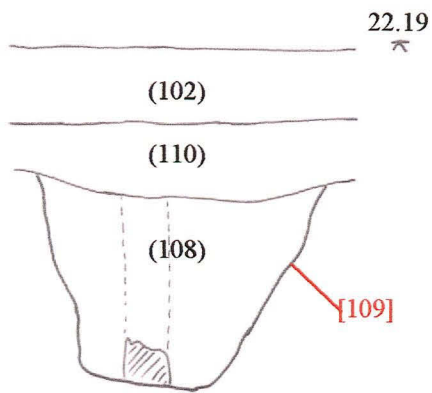
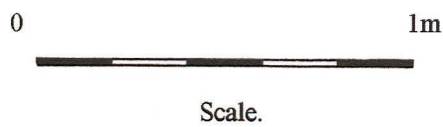


Fig. 6 North facing section through post hole.

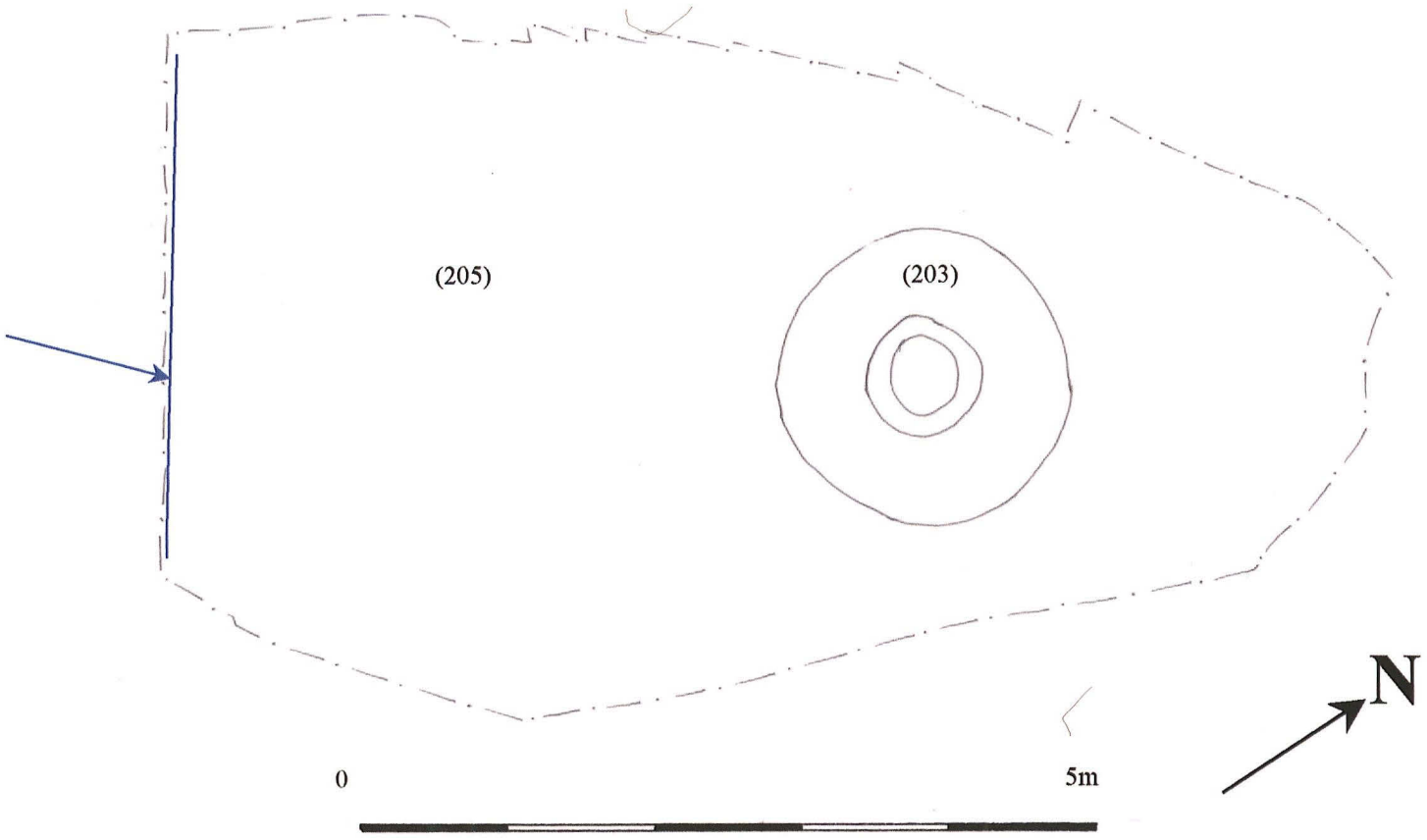
Trench 2 (See Figs. 7-8)

Following the removal of the modern concrete and overburden a series of dump deposits (similar to those excavated in trench 1) was encountered. The uppermost was (201), a firm mid brown silty clay with occasional rubble inclusions. Below this was (202), a deposit of brick, tile and mortar demolition material, which sealed a layer of black silty clay and limestone rubble, (204). Victorian or early-modern pottery was recovered from this deposit. This was the earliest of three consolidation and ground raising dumps, in total they are between 0.85 and 1.0m thick.

These three layers had been dumped over (203), a corbelled brick-built Victorian well-head. This had a number of ceramic pipes carrying ground water into it, a single overflow pipe, and a lead pipe for the removal of water from the well shaft. There was also an opening at the top, which could have been used to collect water with a bucket.

Beneath the dumps of make-up was (205), a dark bluish grey silty deposit with striations of manganese staining. It contained natural flint and limestone inclusions as well as animal bone, brick and tile. This deposit is clearly fluvial in origin. Excavation in trench 2 was terminated at this level for health and safety reasons.

Fig. 8



Scale.

Fig. 7 Trench 2 plan

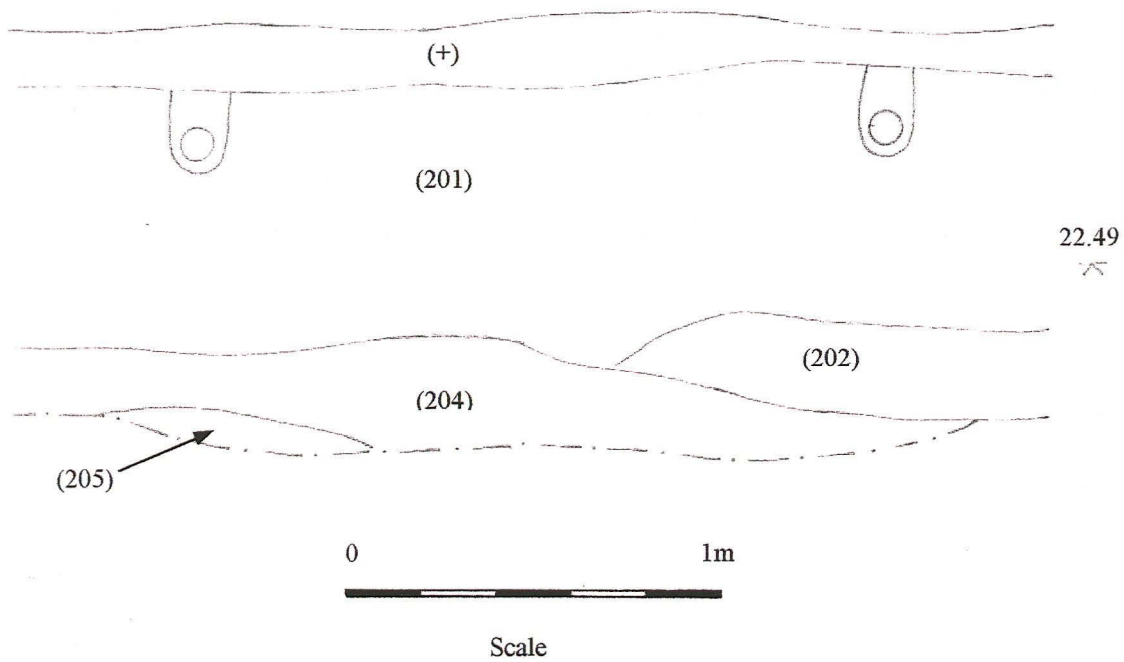


Fig. 8 North east facing section from trench 2

7.0 Summary and conclusions

The two trenches exposed a very similar series of deposits, the uppermost of which consisted of substantial Victorian or early-modern dumps; used to raise the ground surface, dry it out and make it suitable for building. In Trench 2, these dumps were over a brick well head, which had clearly been constructed just prior to raising the ground surface, no doubt as part of the same Victorian-period development of the area. The base of these make-up dumps was at between 1.0 and 1.2m below the modern ground surface, at 21.66 to 22.04m OD.

These make-up deposits were dumped onto a series of fluvial deposits, sloping downwards towards the river Lud, which now runs immediately to the north of the site. It seems likely that before the phase of ground raising, the Lud flowed on a flood plain which was periodically inundated, as indicated by deposits (111) and (205). In Trench 1, where this layer was partially removed, a cut feature was exposed which may represent an earlier, possibly canalised, course of the river.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from one of the fluvial deposits in Trench 1 and this suggests that they are of some antiquity. Although no archaeological features were found from this period, the presence of this horizon and the protective layers of dumping over it raises the possibility that there may be medieval or earlier remains surviving in the area.

Given the thickness of the Victorian and later material, it would appear unlikely that the proposed development, which is expected to have a formation level approximately 800mm below the present ground surface, will have any significant impact on the potentially archaeological horizon discussed above (Stuart Grant, pers comm.).

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed the presence/absence and the depth of archaeology to be determined in the two trenches excavated, and by inference across the whole of the site.

9.0 Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Stuart Grant for commissioning this work, and for help with levels and other information during the fieldwork, and to Beryl Lott from Lincolnshire County Council for her advice. Thanks are also due to David Grantham for providing facilities on site, and of course to the excavation team, Kate Bertenshaw, Aaron Chapman and Adam Thompson, and the groundworkers, Graham and Alec.

10.0 Bibliography

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11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at Lincoln City and Council Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2002.4.

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



Pl. 1 Trench 1. Alluvium (111) in foreground



Pl. 2 East facing section from Trench 1. Shows Victorian dumps.



Pl. 3 Palaeochannel [113].



Pl. 4 Trench 2. Shows section and well head (203).

Pottery Archive KLLO02

Jane young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	decoration	part	description	date
111	TOYII	Toynon Late Medieval ware	jug	1	applied pressed strip	BS	burnt/overfired glaze;ridged body	15th to mid 16th