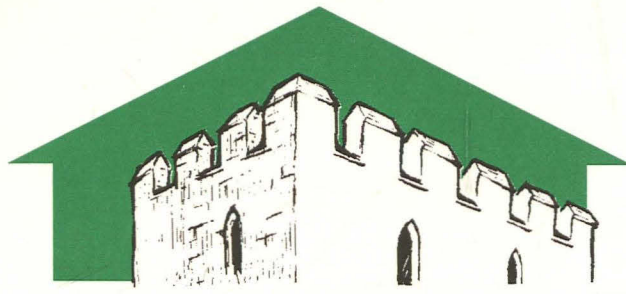


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# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;  
PLOT 3, LEGSBY ROAD,  
MARKET RASEN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 1136 8846  
SITE CODE: LGMR01  
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2001.445





Event LI2849

negative

LI 6770

Source LI7523  
LI7524

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Report prepared for  
Leen Valley Designs  
by Chris Clay  
December 2001

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## CONTENTS

<b>List of figures</b>	
<b>List of plates</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0 Site location and description</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0 Planning background</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.0 Archaeological and historical background</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.0 Methodology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.0 Results</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.0 Discussion and conclusion</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8.0 Effectiveness of methodology</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9.0 Acknowledgements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10.0 References</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11.0 Site Archive</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Colour plates</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>List of archaeological contexts</b>	<b>10</b>

### **List of Figures**

**Fig 1:** Site location (scale 1:25,000)

**Fig.2:** Location of Plot 3, (scale 1:500)

**Fig.3:** Plan of Plot 3 foundation trenches, showing the location of drawn sections and photographs (scale 1:100)

**Fig.4:** Representative section drawing of stratigraphic sequence (scale 1:20)

### **List of Plates**

**Plate 1:** General shot of the site, looking south-west

**Plate 2:** Representative shot of stratigraphic sequence

### Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Leen Valley Designs during groundworks for Plot 3, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.*
- *Prehistoric enclosures and field systems are known from aerial photographs in the area. The site also lies close to a substantial Romano-British pottery industry. However, watching briefs on Plots 2 and 4 did not expose archaeologically significant deposits*
- *No archaeological deposits were exposed during the monitoring of Plot 3.*



**Fig.1:** General site location (scale 1:25,000)  
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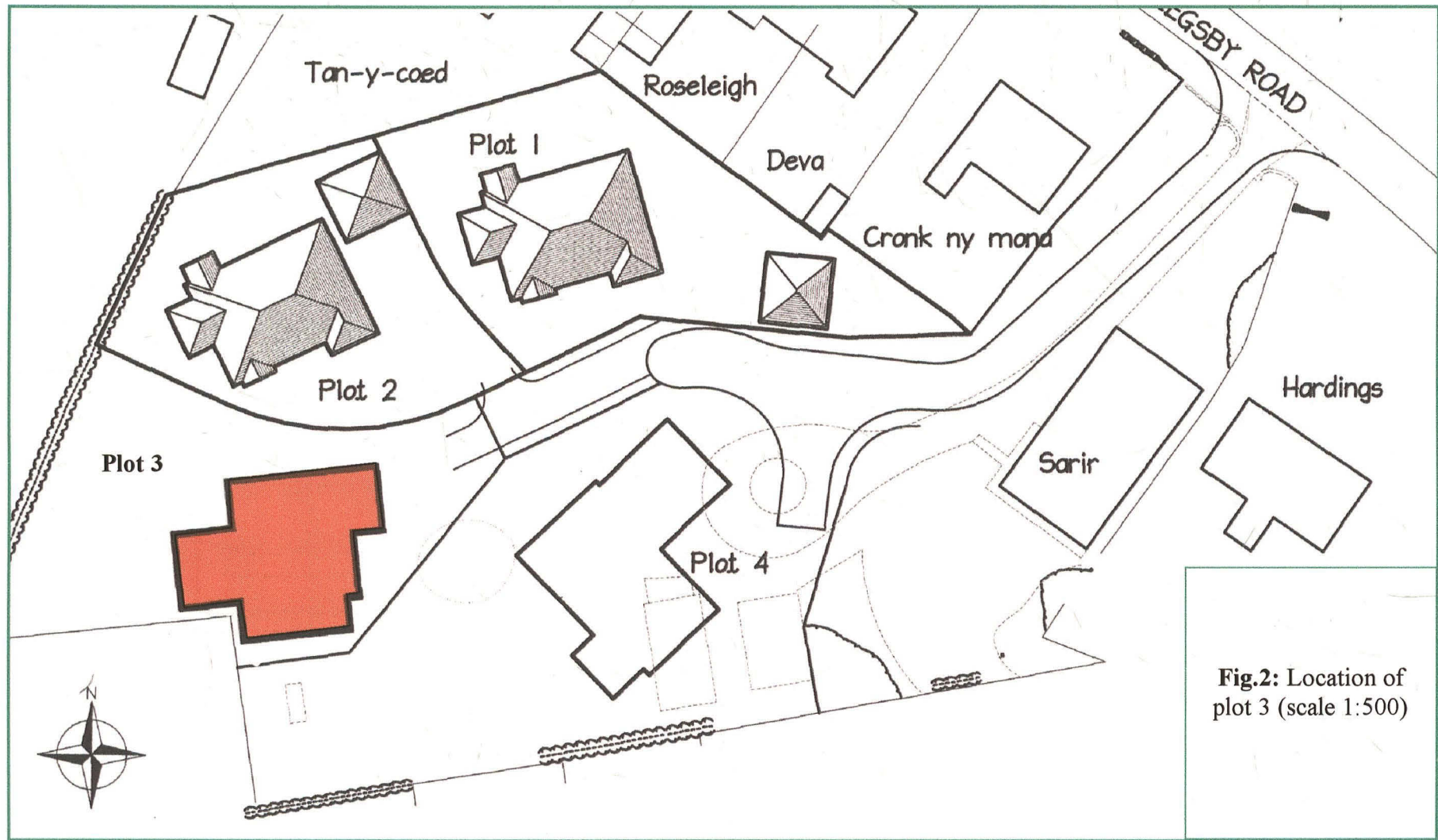
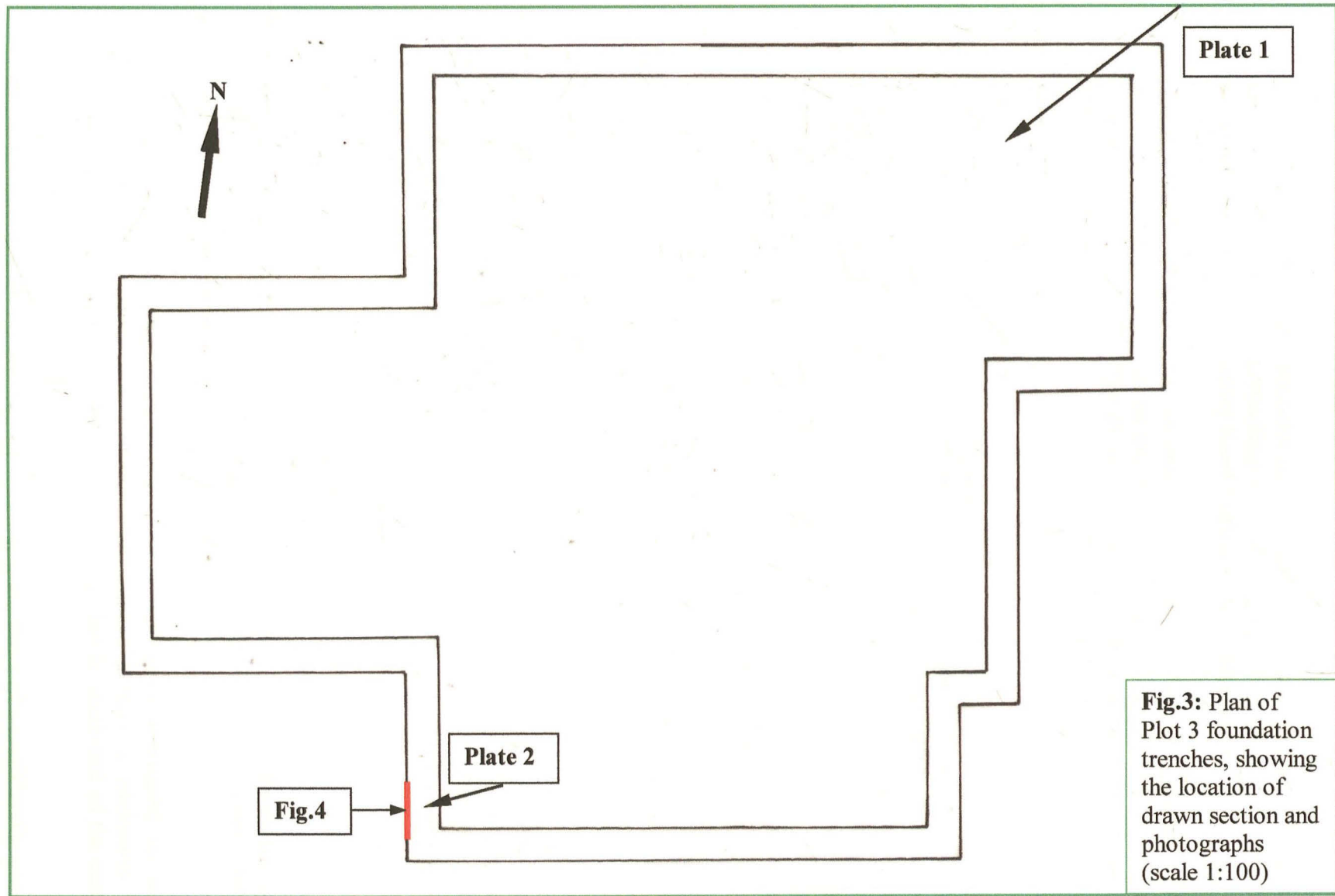


Fig.2: Location of plot 3 (scale 1:500)



**Fig.3:** Plan of Plot 3 foundation trenches, showing the location of drawn section and photographs (scale 1:100)

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Leen Valley Designs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a single residential property; Plot 3, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

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 Site location and description

Market Rasen is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 18km north-east of Lincoln. The development site lies towards the south-east of the town, on the west side of Legsby Road. The site consists of a single house plot, with associated garage. It was formerly part of an orchard, although, at the time of the watching brief, the ground cover consisted of low grass and weeds. There is a gentle downward slope from north to south, and the site is bordered by Plot 2 to the north, Plot 4 to the south and east, and residential properties to the west. The site centres on NGR TF 1136 8846.

The solid geology of the area consists of Kimmeridge Clay, with an overlying drift deposit of wind blown sand (BGS, 1999).

## 3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of a single private dwelling with associated access roads, services and garages. This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring of all groundworks that were likely to impact upon the archaeological resource in the area; primarily aspects of the known Romano-British pottery industry.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Relatively little information relating to the archaeology of Market Rasen has been published. However, the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record contains multiple entries for the area. These are listed in the table below.

The earliest recorded information derives from cropmarks discovered by aerial photography. These have been interpreted as possible prehistoric enclosures and associated field systems (SMR PRN 52748, 52749), that lie south-east of the current site.

In the Romano-British period, Market Rasen was the focus of a considerable pottery production industry; this was 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, and more recently by Lindsey Archaeological Services. This pottery industry appears to have flourished between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 that branched eastwards from Ermine Street (PRN 51456), and this may have connected the pottery industry with some of its markets (Whitwell, 1992).

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 1115 the town did not have market status, being known in the Lindsey Survey as *Parva Rasa*, from the Old English *raesnum*, 'place at the plank (bridge)'. The first reference to the town with the market prefix is not until it appears as *Marketraysn* in Coroner's Rolls for the year 1358 (Cameron, 1998).

The only surviving medieval features of the town are the Market Place itself 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:

PRN	NGR (TF)	Description
51456	1213 8780	Suspected Roman road (following parish boundary)
52736	1070 8830	Romano-British pottery kiln
52737	1040 8840	Romano-British artefact
52738	1064 8921	15th century key
52739	Unlocated	Romano-British artefact
52740	1070 8854	Romano-British artefact
52741	Unlocated	Post medieval artefact
52742	Unlocated	Romano-British artefact
52747	1210 8885	Undated brick/tile works
52748	1180 8830	Aerial photograph: prehistoric enclosure and associated field system
52749	1190 8830	Aerial photograph: undated cropmarks
52750	1070 8920	Medieval settlement remains
52751	1080 8835	Medieval field system remains
52752	1070 8920	Post medieval settlement remains
52753	1078 8932	Post medieval mill
52754	Unlocated	Undated water mill
52755	1096 8940	Post medieval water mill
52756	1130 8930	Post medieval water mill
52757	1115 8905	Modern linear feature
52758	Unlocated	Early medieval artefact

## 5.0 Methodology

The groundworks were carried out using a JCB fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below the existing ground level.

During excavation, all plan and section surfaces were examined and intermittently cleaned to clarify the stratigraphic sequence. Representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and information was recorded on standard watching brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was also maintained, selected shots from which have been included in this report. The monitoring of Plot 3 was carried out by Jim Rylatt on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

## 6.0 Results

The stratigraphy was uniform throughout the plot. The uppermost deposit was a dark grey/brown topsoil, (001), with abundant root disturbance (resulting from the former orchard). This deposit had a maximum depth of 0.35m, and sealed a 0.2m thick yellow/brown sandy silt subsoil deposit, (002). This also exhibited considerable root disturbance.

Beneath (002) was a dark grey/brown sandy silt, (003), which was approximately 0.25m deep and was interpreted as a former topsoil. This sealed (004), a yellow/brown buried subsoil deposit, which in turn sealed (005), a natural wind blown sand that is common to this area. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the exposed deposits.

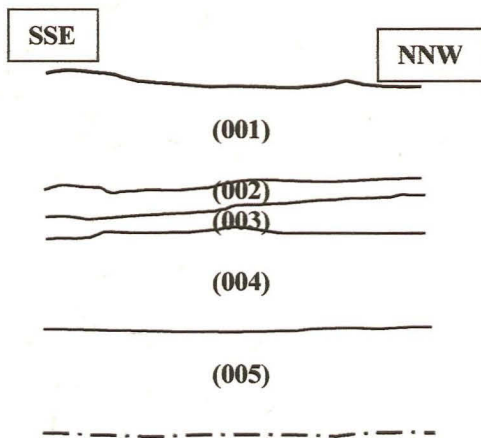


Fig.4: Representative section of stratigraphic sequence (scale 1:20)



## **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were exposed during the groundworks for this scheme of development. This accords with the results from watching briefs that were carried out on the nearby Plots 2 and 4 (Clay, 2000, 2001), which were also negative.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The methodology was appropriate to the development. It allowed a rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. A more detailed level of archaeological intervention was not necessary, as suggested by the negative result of the fieldwork.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Leen Valley Designs for this commission.

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

## 11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2001.445



**Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Colour plates**



**Plate 1:** General shot of the site, looking south-west



**Plate 2:** Representative shot of stratigraphic sequence, looking west-south-west

**Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
001	Layer	Dark grey/brown sandy silt: topsoil
002	Layer	Yellow/brown sandy silt: subsoil
003	Layer	Dark grey/brown sandy silt: former topsoil
004	Layer	Yellow/brown sandy silt: former subsoil
005	Layer	Natural wind blown sand deposit