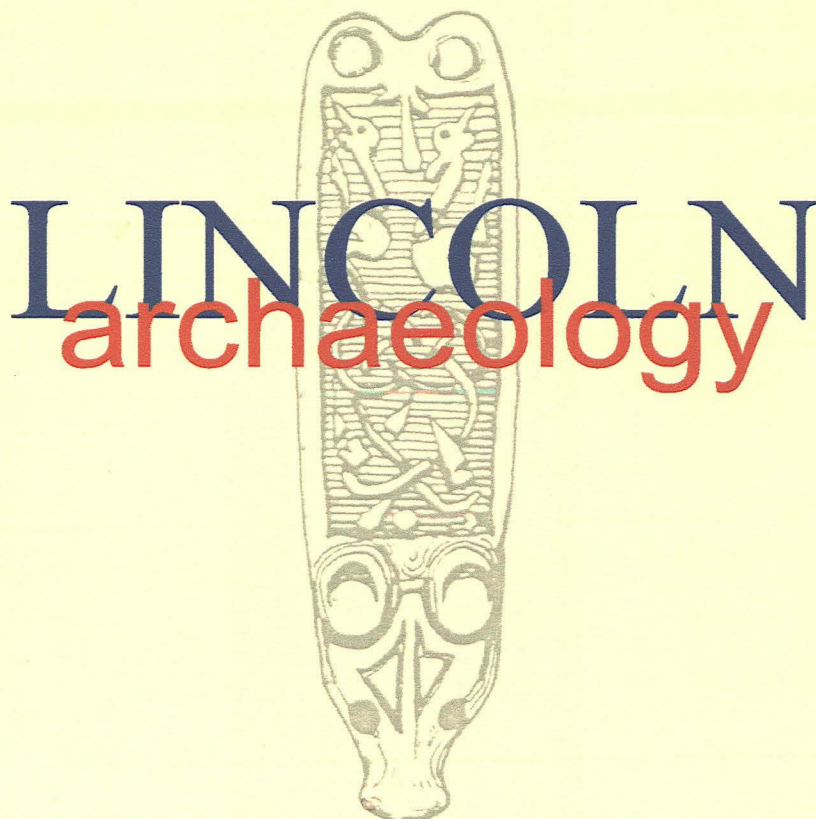


A Report to Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire Ltd)

February 2002



Bunkers Hill, Lincoln (Area 1)

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No.: 475

LINCOLN
archaeology

Conservation
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Highways & Planning
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EVENT L12965
SOURCES 4 7689 L17690
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BUNKERS HILL, LINCOLN (AREA 1)

Site Code: GBHC01
LCCM Accession No.: 2001.237
Planning Application No.:
NGR: ~~SK~~ 0003 7290
TF

Archaeological Watching Brief

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BUNKERS HILL, LINCOLN (AREA 1)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

An Archaeological Watching Brief - occasioned by a residential development at Bunkers Hill (Area 1), Lincoln and commissioned by Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire Ltd) - was undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during the period 10-14 September, 2001.

Area 1, a 60m² square block of land, previously had been investigated by geophysical survey. Anomalies located through this work were interpreted as a possible prehistoric pit alignment (or alternatively terminals of furrows within a medieval ridge and furrow cultivation pattern) and a weak negative linear, interpreted as a small ditch of probable agricultural origin.

In the light of work described in this report, the 'pit-like' anomalies were interpreted as medieval furrow ends, while the linear anomaly reflected the presence of a trench containing the ceramic pipe of a post-medieval or modern land drain.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) on a residential development at Bunkers Hill (Area 1), Lincoln. The work, commissioned by Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire Ltd), was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the local planning authority as set out by the Heritage Team, Department of Planning, City of Lincoln. Fieldwork was completed during the period 10-14 September, 2001.

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.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 & 2)

The site, at NGR TF 0003 7290, comprised a 60m² square block of formerly arable land. Covered by a light growth of vegetation, it lay within fields extending to the rear of residential properties lining Wragby Road to the north-west. The decision to proceed with further archaeological investigation in the designated area was made in the light of the results of an evaluation through geophysical survey (see 3.0 below).

The area is situated upon relatively high ground in a gently undulating landscape forming part of the south-east facing slope of the Jurassic scarp running north from Lincoln to the Humber. The local geology consists of oolitic limestone and clays (1973 Geological Survey map of Great Britain - England and Wales, Solid and Drift, Sheet 114).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site and adjacent land had been subjected to several stages of archaeological assessment: namely, a desk-based assessment (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994), a topsoil magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer survey by Oxford Archaeotechnics Limited (Johnson 1997), and fieldwalking by Lindsey Archaeological Services (McDaid 1997).

The decision to proceed with further archaeological investigation in the designated area (Area 1) was made primarily in the light of the results of the gradiometer survey. This work indicated a row of pit-like anomalies, each around 3 - 4m in diameter and spaced *c.* 8m apart (centre to centre), running north-west to south-east across the south-western corner of the area. Comparatively weak linear anomalies extending to the south-west from each 'pit' were reminiscent of medieval plough furrows, leading to the conclusion that the layout as a whole represented the remains of a medieval ridge and furrow pattern of cultivation (Johnson 1997). An alternative interpretation as a prehistoric pit alignment was advanced by the City Archaeologist.

A separate anomaly comprised a weak linear, interpreted as a small ditch of probable agricultural origin.

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the present site included a trial trench evaluation and excavation on land *c.* 150m to the east. This work was centred upon the remains of a prehistoric triple-ditched boundary system running between Greetwell to the south and Grange-de Lings to the north. Pottery found as a result of the evaluation (Trimble 2000) indicated possible Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age origins, while more recent excavations succeeded in locating a break in the ditch system in association with a concentration of small pits and/or postholes possibly consistent with some form of settlement activity. Other features found in close proximity included a set of large but shallow pits, a probable prehistoric track and a curvilinear ditch (Trimble 2002).

Another substantial section of the triple-ditched boundary system, this time further to the south (*c.* 300m to the south-west), was recorded in 1999 during a large scale excavation by Lindsey Archaeology Services (Field & Armour-Chelu 2001). The excavation, occasioned by a proposed quarry extension, also produced considerable evidence for Romano-British settlement.

Wragby Road, *c.* 120m to the north-west, follows the line of an important Roman road which ran north-east from Lincoln before dividing into two: a north-east arm leading to the coast via the Lincolnshire wolds, and a south-east arm skirting Horncastle on the way to Burgh-le-Marsh (Whitwell 1970).

4.0 OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the evaluation as set out in a CLAU specification of 30 July 2001 were to:

- *produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the project groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme and particular development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeology Database (UAD).*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

In the light of discussions between the client, CLAU, and the City of Lincoln Archaeologist, it was decided that the original investigation strategy - site attendance during development groundwork - should be abandoned and replaced by a programme of limited prior investigation of the anomalies located by geophysical survey. The results of this work would determine the scope of further recording if deemed necessary.

In accordance with the revised strategy, topsoil and other non-archaeological overburden was removed at two pre-determined locations by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a *c.* 2m wide ditching bucket. These areas were then cleaned by hand prior to the excavation of selected deposits.

The site record includes plans made by EDM Total Station, section drawings at scales of 1:20 and 1:10, context descriptions on *pro form* CLAU sheets, and a series of colour photographs with appropriate scales.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1, measuring *c.* 12 x 4.5m and positioned on an approximate south-west to north-east axis, was designed to intersect with the possible ditch identified by geophysical survey (see Fig. 3).

Geological material (011), encountered across the base of the trench, comprised mainly reddish-brown/grey silt with patches of compact grey-brown clay and occasional patches of light yellow-brown silty sand.

The trench revealed no evidence for the possible ditch but a trench containing a ceramic land drain was found on the approximate line of the linear anomaly.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2, measuring approximately 12m², was sited over the row of pit-like anomalies revealed by the gradiometer survey. The geology here comprised mixed deposits (009), mostly of firm grey-blue clay (containing frequent fossilised shell), with areas of soft yellow/orange sand and very firm yellow decayed limestone.

A broad but shallow linear cut (004), interpreted as a medieval plough furrow, extended in a north-easterly direction from the south-western corner of the trench, leading to a terminal of hemispherical plan, *c.* 1.5m from the north-eastern trench side (see Fig. 3). The feature (see Fig. 4, Sections 2-5), which had been severely truncated towards the centre of the trench by machine excavation, displayed a broad, slightly concave profile in section and had a maximum surviving width of *c.* 4.0m and depth of 80mm (max.). It was filled by a soft, mid to light yellow/brown clay/silt with occasional limestone fragments (003).

Another linear cut (006), also interpreted as a furrow (possibly relating to the development of 004), lay almost parallel with, but on a slightly different alignment to 004, on its north-east side (see Fig. 4, Section 1). It extended beyond the limit of excavation in each direction while gradually merging and becoming indistinguishable from 004 to the south-west. The cut had a width of *c.* 2.15m (max.) and depth of 200mm (max.) and displayed a broad and concave profile. It was filled by a soft mid to light yellow-brown sandy clayey silt (005) containing occasional fossil shell fragments.

Overlying 005 was a soft, mid yellow-brown silty sandy clay (008) with frequent small limestone fragments. The deposit, which averaged 200mm thick and extended throughout the trench, became more compact at its upper levels and was interpreted as the upper extent of relict ploughsoil contained within furrows 004 and 006.

A pair of ceramic land-drains traversed Trench 2 in a north-northwest – south-southeast direction. These were sealed by a *c.* 0.26m depth of soft, mid brown soft clay/silt topsoil (002) extending throughout the upper levels of the trench.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

As a result of this project, it has been established that the 'pit-like' anomalies located by the geophysical survey are in fact the terminals of furrows within the medieval (and post-medieval?) ridge and furrow pattern of arable cultivation. The remains of ridge and furrow represent a common survival from the open field system associated with the medieval village. Where levelled by subsequent ploughing, the furrows often survive as broad but shallow hollows cutting into the natural subsoils.

Further fragments of ridge and furrow were revealed during recent excavations on land c. 150m to the east (see 3.0 above).

The linear anomaly in Trench 1 appears to have been caused by the cut for the ceramic pipe of a land drain.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report, on behalf of CLAU, would like to thank Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire Limited) for their interest and cooperation in ensuring the successful completion of the project. Thanks are also due to Darren Pullen for his contribution towards the successful completion of fieldwork.

9.0 PROJECT STAFF

CLAU Unit Manager	G Eyre-Morgan
Finds Officer	J Mann (CLAU)
Finds Supervisor	Y Rose (CLAU)
Post Roman pottery and tile	J Young (LAS)
Roman pottery	B Precious
Site staff	R Trimble, D Pullen

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Armour-Chelu, R J 1998 *Land at Greetwell, Lincoln. Proposal for Quarry Extension*. Lindsey Archaeology Services Report.
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- McDaid, M 1997 *Land at Bunkers Hill, Greetwell, Lincoln. Archaeological Fieldwalking and Geophysical Survey*. Lindsey Archaeological Services Report 264
- Trimble, R 2000 *Bunkers Hill, Lincoln. Archaeological Evaluation*. CLAU Report 426
- Trimble, R 2002 *Bunkers Hill, Lincoln (Area 5). Archaeological Excavation*. CLAU Report 476
- Whitwell, J B 1970 (revised edition 1992) *Roman Lincolnshire. History of Lincolnshire, II*

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: GBHC01

PLANNING APPLICATION No.:-

FIELD OFFICER: R. Trimble

NGR: TF 0003 7290

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 10 – 14 September, 2001

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire) Ltd

11.2 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.: 2001.237

ACCESSION DATE: -

The Archive Consists of:

Context Records	13
Plans at Scale 1:20	-
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	2
Colour Print Photographs	16
Set of Site Notes	1
EDM Trench plot	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive, in accordance with current published requirements, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

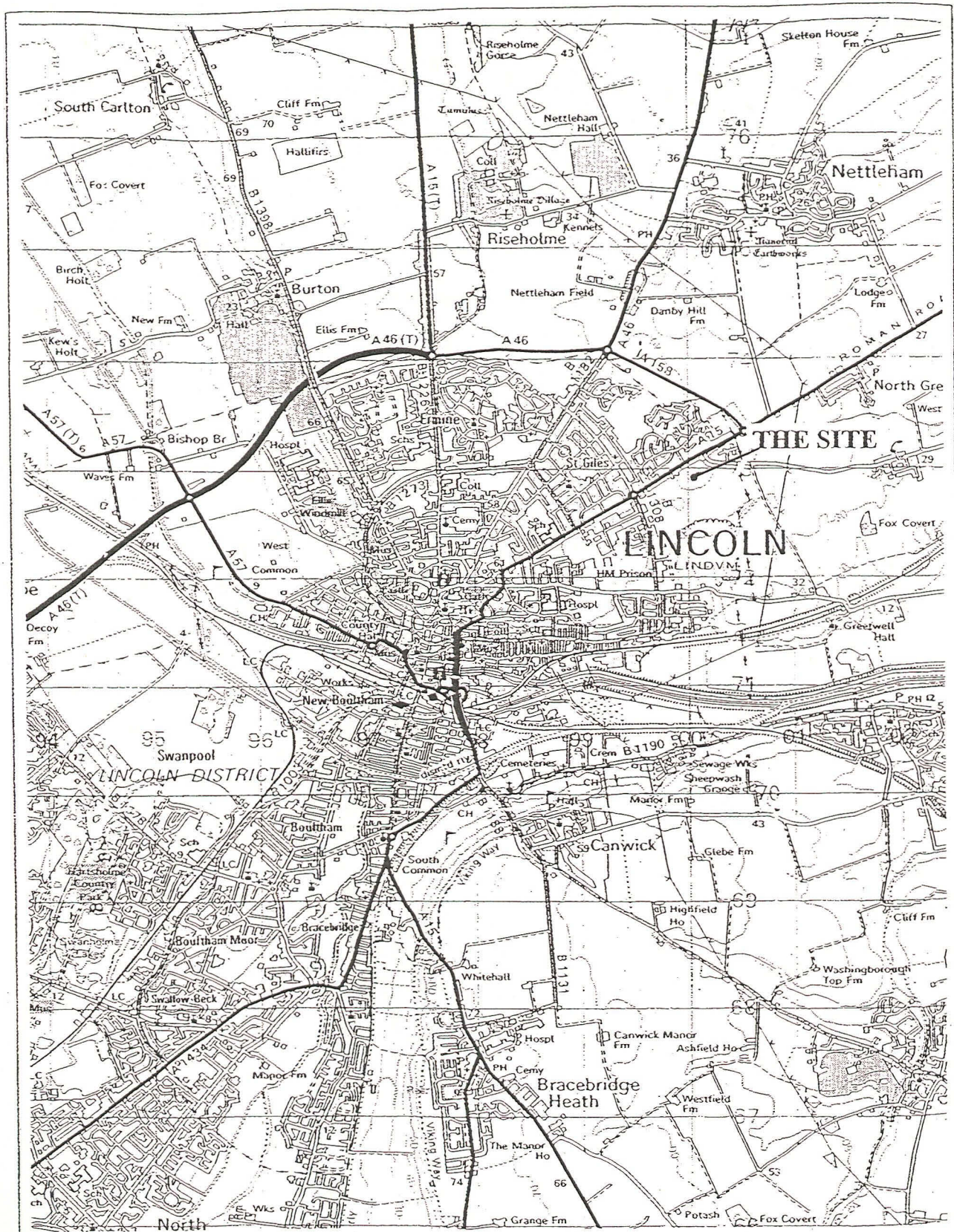
COLOUR PLATES



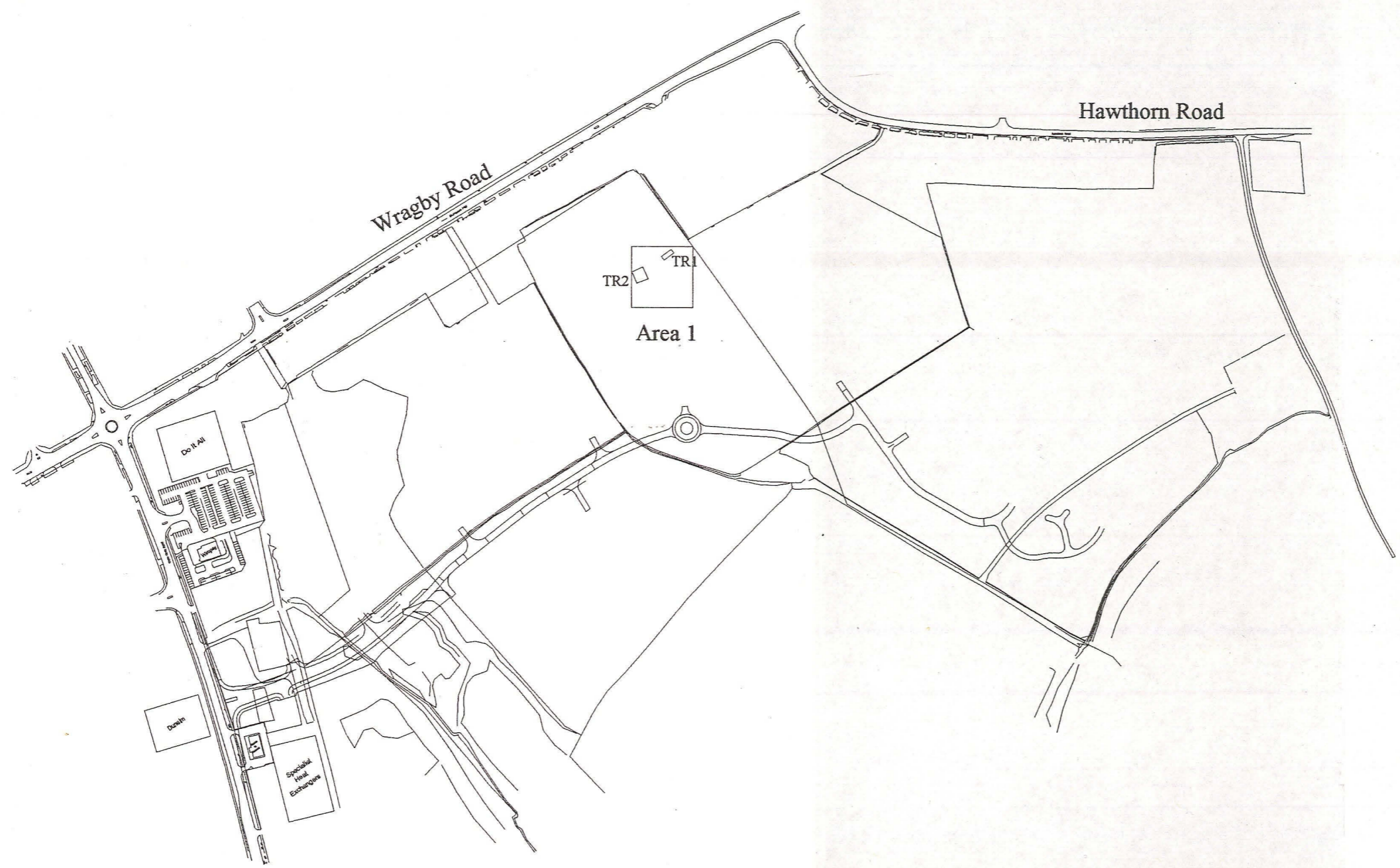
Plate I – General view of Trench 1 (looking NE, 2 x 2m scales).

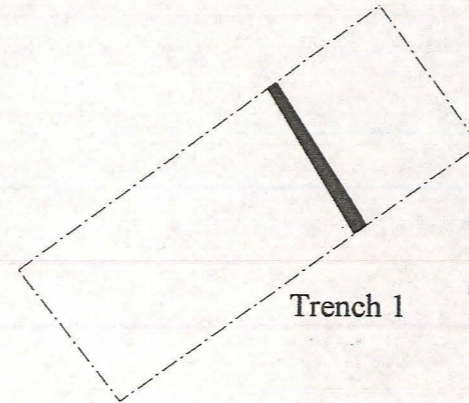
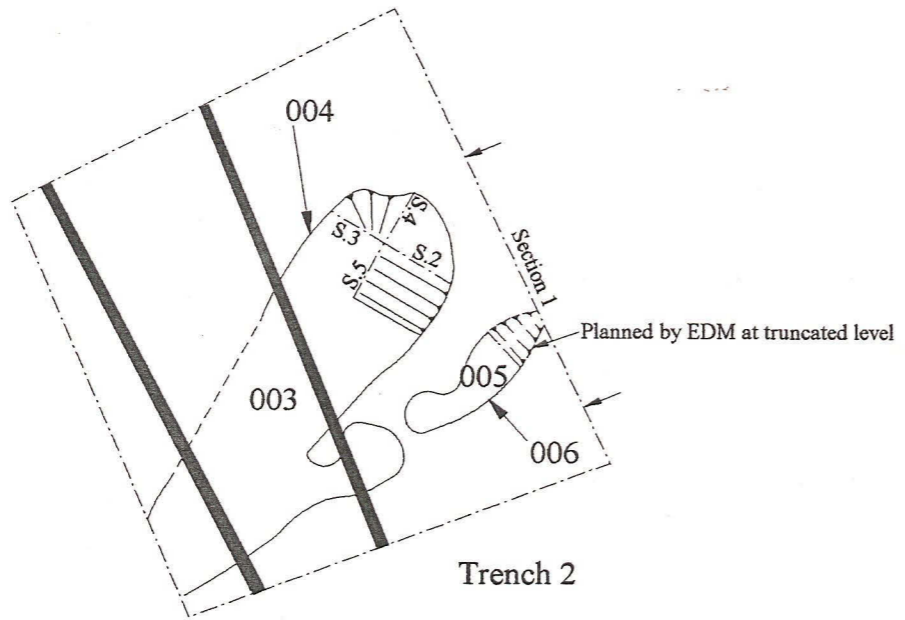


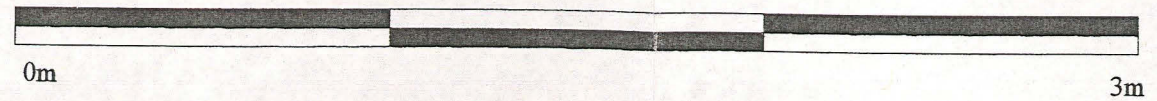
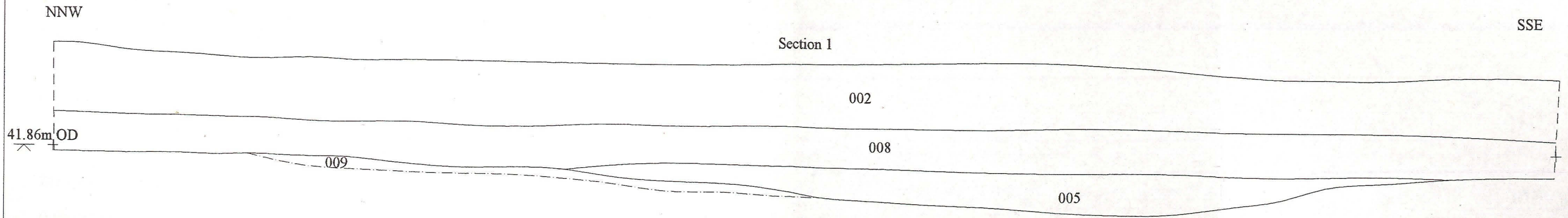
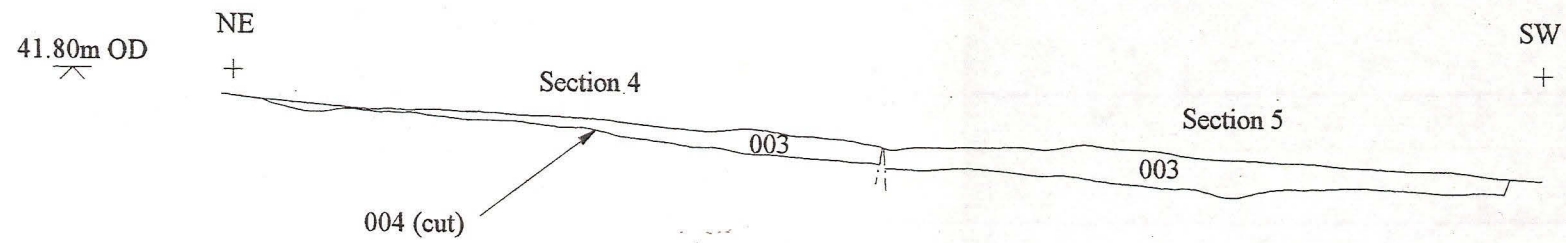
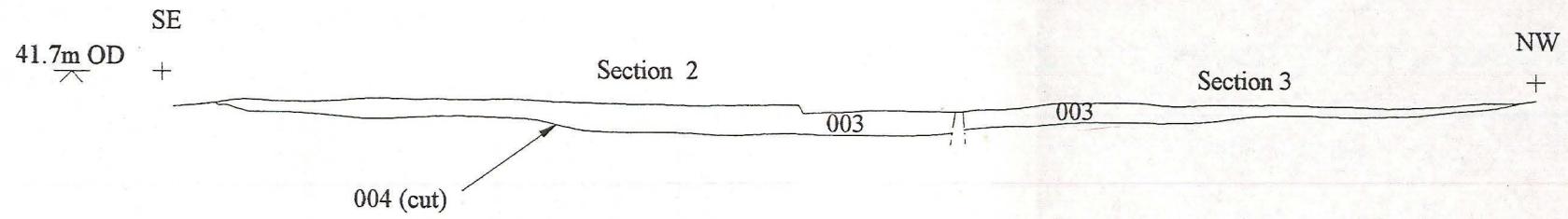
Plate II – General view of Trench 2 showing 004 to centre and 006 to right (looking NE, 2 x 2m scales)



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APPENDIX – FINDS ARCHIVE

i) POTTERY: ARCHIVE LIST *By Jane Young (Lindsey Archaeological Services)*

Table: Ware types and dating by context

Context	Code name	Full name	Sub fabric	Form type	Sherds	Part	Description	Date	Condition
001	BL	Black-glazed wares		?	1	Base	Staffs	17 th to 18 th	
003	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	oxid;fine sandy;medium	jug ?	1	BS		13 th to 15 th	Abraded
003	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware		?	1	BS		13 th to 15 th	Abraded
003	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jug	1	UHJ	Grooved oval handle	13 th to 15 th	Abraded
007	MISC	Unidentified types	medium shell	?	1	BS	tiny fragment	Iron-Age/ Roman	

ii) CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS: REPORT & ARCHIVE

By Jane Young (Lindsey Archaeological Services)

Introduction

Twenty-three fragments of ceramic building material weighing 762g were recovered from the site. The material was examined visually and then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames on an Access database. The CLAU tile type series was consulted for comparative material.

Condition

The material is in variable condition with most fragments showing a slight amount of abrasion.

The Ceramic Building Material

A range of ceramic roof tile was found on the site; the types and general date ranges are shown in Table 1. A single fragment could not be identified as either Roman or post-Roman date with any certainty.

Table 1: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Code name	Full name	Frag	Weight
GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	5	86
NIB	Nibbed tile	2	140
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	15	492
RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	1	44

Context
001

Medieval

Most of the identifiable post-Roman ceramic building material recovered from the site is undiagnostic flat roof tile. The fabric types recovered suggest that with two exceptions (contexts 001 and 003) the material in use in the area was not of Lincoln origin. The presence of two Lincoln glazed roof tiles is surprising as these tiles are not a common find even within the city. This type of flat roof tile dates to between the late 12th and mid 13th century and is found both with suspension nibs and peg holes. The main fabric type found on the site includes common white clay and iron-rich inclusions. Two of these tiles have suspension nibs, one is moulded and the other applied suggesting that the industry had more than one phase.

Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic building material recovered is a small but important group. Apart from a few exceptions the material is not typical of that found on sites in the city of Lincoln. None of the material has therefore been discarded and all of the remaining fragments should be retained. Fabric analysis of the main fabric type should take place to characterise the fabric and identify a possible source area for manufacture.

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material Archive List

Context	Cname	Fabric	Frag	Weight	Description	Date
001	GPNR		4	48	flat roofer	13th
001	NIB		1	50	light firing; comm white clay & fe inclusions; applied round nib	med
001	PNR		1	34	fine fabric	med
001	PNR		1	101	light firing; comm white clay & fe inclusions; mortar	med
001	PNR		1	104	light firing; comm white clay & fe inclusions	med
001	PNR		1	72	light firing; comm white clay & fe inclusions	med
001	PNR		1	81	fine fabric	med
001	RTMISC		1	44	high fired	Roman or med
003	GPNR	1/7	1	38	early Lincoln flat roofer	13th
003	NIB		1	90	right corner; comm white clay incl; moulded semi circle cut across to deepen nib	13th
003	PNR		5	55	small frags various fabrics	med
007	PNR		1	2		med
007	PNR		1	30	comm white clay incl	med
007	PNR		3	13	single tile	med

iii) OTHER FINDS: ARCHIVE LISTS

Table 1: Registered Find

Finds No.	Context	Material	Object	Comments
1	001	COPPER ALLOY	MOUNT?	THIN SHEET DISC; PERFORATED

Table 2: Animal Bone

Context	Count	Comments
003	6	INCL 2 SHEEP? TEETH