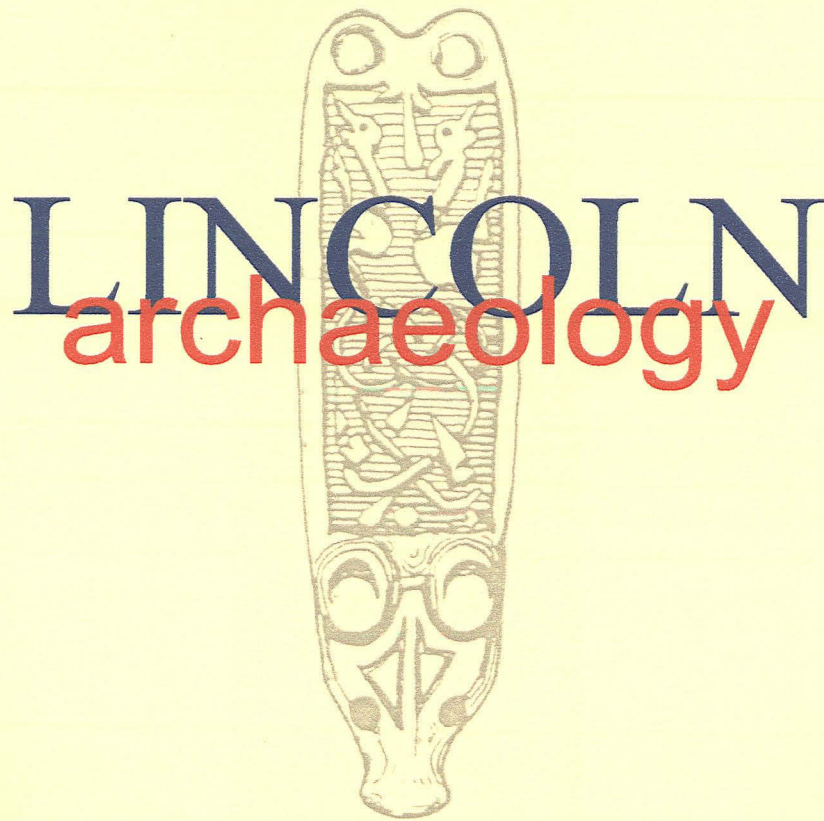


12/25

**A Report to  
TMN Developments Ltd  
September 2002**



**49, 50 and 51a  
High Street,  
Lincoln**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Report No.: 495

**LINCOLN**  
archaeology

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**49, 50 AND 51a  
HIGH STREET,  
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**49, 50 AND 51a  
HIGH STREET,  
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- *Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002, a representative from the CLAU undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a rear extension to nos. 49, 50 and 50a High Street, Lincoln (hereafter the site).*
- *The watching brief revealed no stratified material which could assist in the interpretation of the archaeology present on the site. However, the nature of the deposits recorded may be compared with similar deposits and features of Roman date recorded elsewhere along the High Street, and possibly suggests that the extra mural settlement occupying the area to the south of the lower Roman city extended southwards as far as Robey Street.*
- *The remainder of the archaeological deposits, whilst similarly undated, may be associated with medieval and post-medieval occupation, the form and function of which is presently unclear.*

# 49, 50 AND 51a HIGH STREET, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of rear extensions to 49, 50 and 51a High Street, Lincoln (hereafter *the site*). The CLAU was commissioned by TMN Developments Ltd to carry out the watching brief in response to a condition on the granting of full planning permission by the City of Lincoln Council (Application No. 2001/0592/F 1<sup>st</sup> November 2001).

### 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The site is situated to the rear (west) of numbers 49, 50 and 51 High Street and lies within Conservation Area 5: Gowts Bridge. The site is bounded by 52 High Street to the north and by Robey Street to its south (**Fig. 1**). National Grid Reference SK 97197 69981.

The following archaeological background information has been extracted from the *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* produced by the Heritage Team, Department of Planning, City of Lincoln Council (Jones 2001).

*The site is located c. 15m on the west side of the major Roman thoroughfare of the Fosse Way; evidence may be provided of what lay on this road-side site; structures have been found closer to the city to the north fronting High Street.*

*This area is known to have been the site of a large Roman cemetery. Burials have been found at various locations either side of the High Street from Monson Street south to South Common.*

*The site was probably occupied by buildings throughout the medieval period after the establishment of the suburb of Lower Wigford; documentary evidence also records the presence of a tannery in the parish of St. Margaret.*

*The medieval church and cemetery of St. Margaret lay within a short distance to the north (only perhaps 4m from the north boundary of 50 High Street), but its limits are not precisely known. In 1990 burials at a shallow depth were found to the rear of 55/7 High Street (CLAU Observation Note 194), and others were recorded in Cranwell Street in 1978 (CLAU Observation Note 455).*

### 3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological recording were:

- 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 and Methodology*

Groundwork for this project involved the recording of machine-excavated foundation trenches for the new extensions, prior to which, ground level within the footprint for the extension was reduced by between 300mm (south) and 800mm (north).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes and scaled drawings; a photographic record was also compiled.

#### 4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (Figs 2 and 3, Pl. I)

*Results*

Natural sand ([013]) was encountered at approximately 950mm below ground level (4.95m OD). Sealing natural at the north end of the foundation trench was [012], a narrow (5mm) occupation layer consisting of laminated dark grey to light yellow sand/ash with frequent mussel shell and charcoal fleck inclusions (4.97m OD). A deposit of clean yellow sand ([011]) overlay [012] and was in turn sealed by [010], a further occupation layer consisting of laminated mid-dark grey ash with frequent charcoal inclusions. Overlying [010] was [014], a loosely compacted mottled yellow to dark brown sand (5.22m OD). A further layer of clean yellow sand ([009]) sealed [014]. Cutting into [009] was a small U-shaped pit or post-hole [017] (base of cut 5.02m OD). Its fill [008], a mid-grey/brown sandy soil was undated. Sealing pit [017] was a third layer of laminated ash and sand lenses with occasional charcoal inclusions ([007] – 5.52m OD).



Plate I: Section 1 looking north-east, clearly showing alternating deposits of laminated ashy soils and clean yellow sand (scale is 1m).

Sealing [007] was layer [006], mottled yellow/brown sand that was in turn overlain by a mid-dark brown sand layer ([005]). Two small U-shaped pits/post-holes ([018] and [019]) cut through [005] at the northern end of the foundation trench. Their fills, [003] and [004], were identical and consisted of mid-grey/brown sandy soils with infrequent inclusions of small angular limestone and charcoal flecks (base of cut [018] 5.42m OD).

A large oval pit ([016]) cut through [005] in the northern half of the foundation plot (base of cut 4.77m OD). Its fill ([002]) contained frequent limestone and modern brick fragments. A second pit ([025]) lay to the south of [016]. Its fill ([024]) was similar to that of [002] but contained no brick building debris (base of cut 4.37m OD). A modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) concrete manhole ([023]) cut through both of these pits and was in turn sealed by [015], a compacted layer of mid-dark brown clay soil with frequent brick rubble inclusions (top of [015] 6.18m to 6.82m OD. See 3.0, above). Layer [015] constituted the remainder of the material removed from the footprint of the extensions prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches.

Due to a communications breakdown the southern half of the foundation trench was excavated and the concrete poured before it could be recorded. Information provided by the site contractor has established that two wall/foundation alignments were observed during the course of this groundwork. The first wall ([020]) was aligned east-west and consisted of a few courses of unbonded, roughly squared limestone blocks (no dimensions were available). The second wall ([021]) was virtually identical in construction but was aligned north-south.

No further features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

### *Conclusions*

This watching brief revealed no stratified material which could assist in the interpretation and dating of the archaeology present on the site, however some of the deposits and features recorded here may be compared with others found elsewhere along the line of the High Street.

The group of deposits and features recorded at the northern end of the foundation plot (**Fig. 3, Section 1**), consisting of laminated bands of ashy material interspersed by small pits, are reminiscent of deposits previously found to be associated with the occupation of Roman commercial properties known to have fronted the lower High Street from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards. Investigations so far have revealed that these properties extended at least 1km to the south of the River Witham. Excavations 500m north of the site at St. Mary's Guildhall during 1982-6 revealed evidence of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman commercial properties fronting the High Street. Further commercial properties were recorded on the site now occupied by the City Magistrates Court, during 1986-7, 900m north of the site (Vince and Jones 1990). The sequence of occupation deposits found at 49-51a High Street is undated but its similarity to those noted above may well suggest that the extramural settlement occupying the area to the south of the lower Roman city extended southwards as far as Robey Street.

Unfortunately the absence of Roman material within the small assemblage of unstratified pottery, tile and animal bone recovered from the site does not concur with this interpretation. Pottery was predominately 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century in date and the tile 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Levels sealing the sequence may be associated with medieval and post-medieval occupation, the form and function of which is unclear. The two stone wall/foundations noted by the site contractor may also be associated with medieval or later occupation of the site.

## **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank TMN Developments Ltd for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis and for their full co-operation throughout the duration of the archaeological works.

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## Project Team

### CLAU Specialists

Michael Jarvis	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
Graham Eyre-Morgan	Projects Manager
Yvonne Rose	Finds Supervisor

### External specialists

Jane Young	Post-Roman and later pottery (Lindsey Archaeological Services) Ceramic building material
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## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, M, 2001 *Brief for Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) during the erection of a two storey extension to the rear of 49 High Street and a single storey extension at 50 and 50a High Street, Lincoln* Heritage Team, Department of Planning, City of Lincoln Council.

Vince, A and Jones, M J (eds), 1990 *Lincoln's Buried Archaeological Heritage* (rev edn), City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln

### 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.*



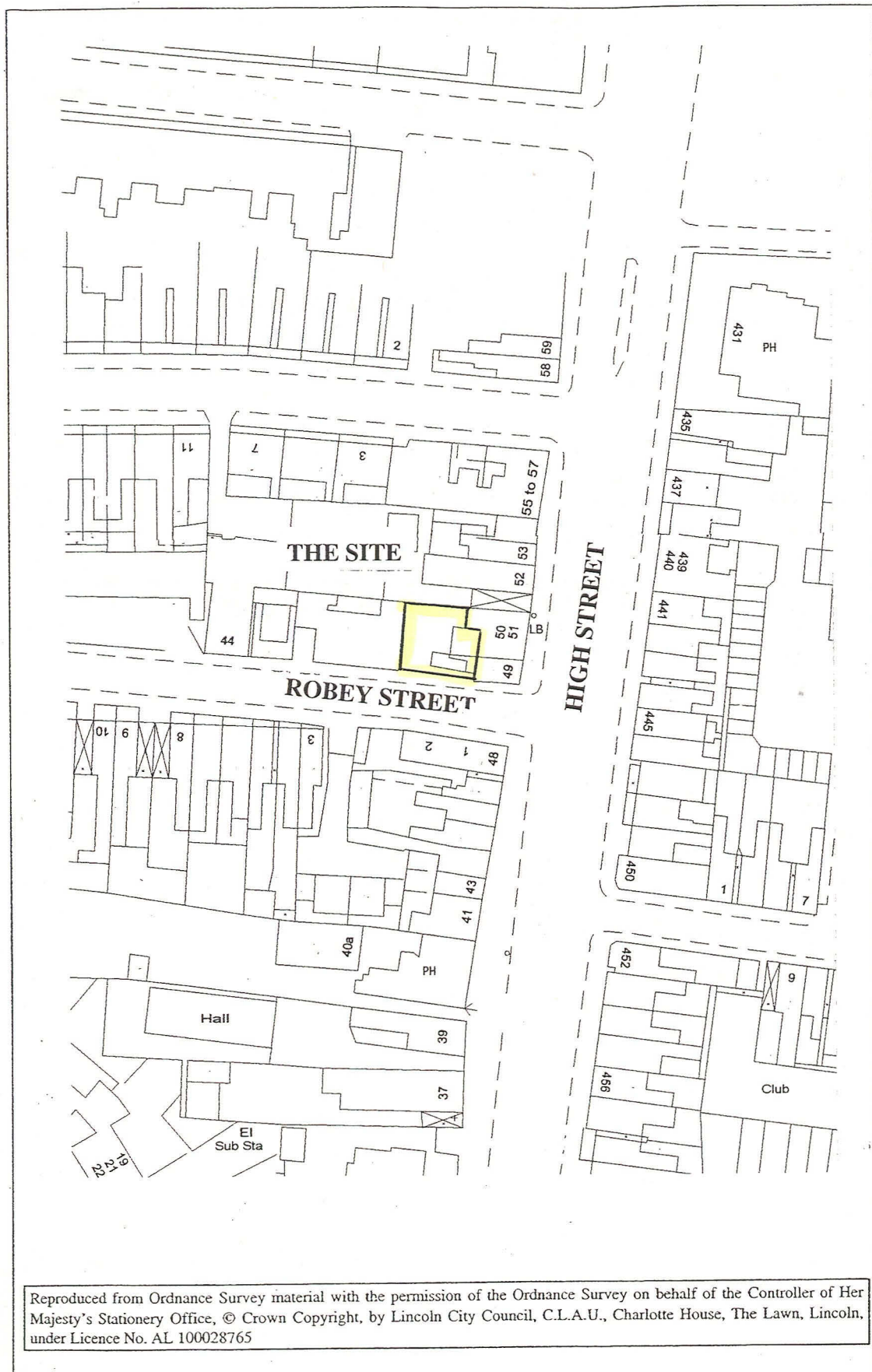


Fig. 1: Site location map (not to scale).



Fig. 2: Section and feature location plan (not to scale).

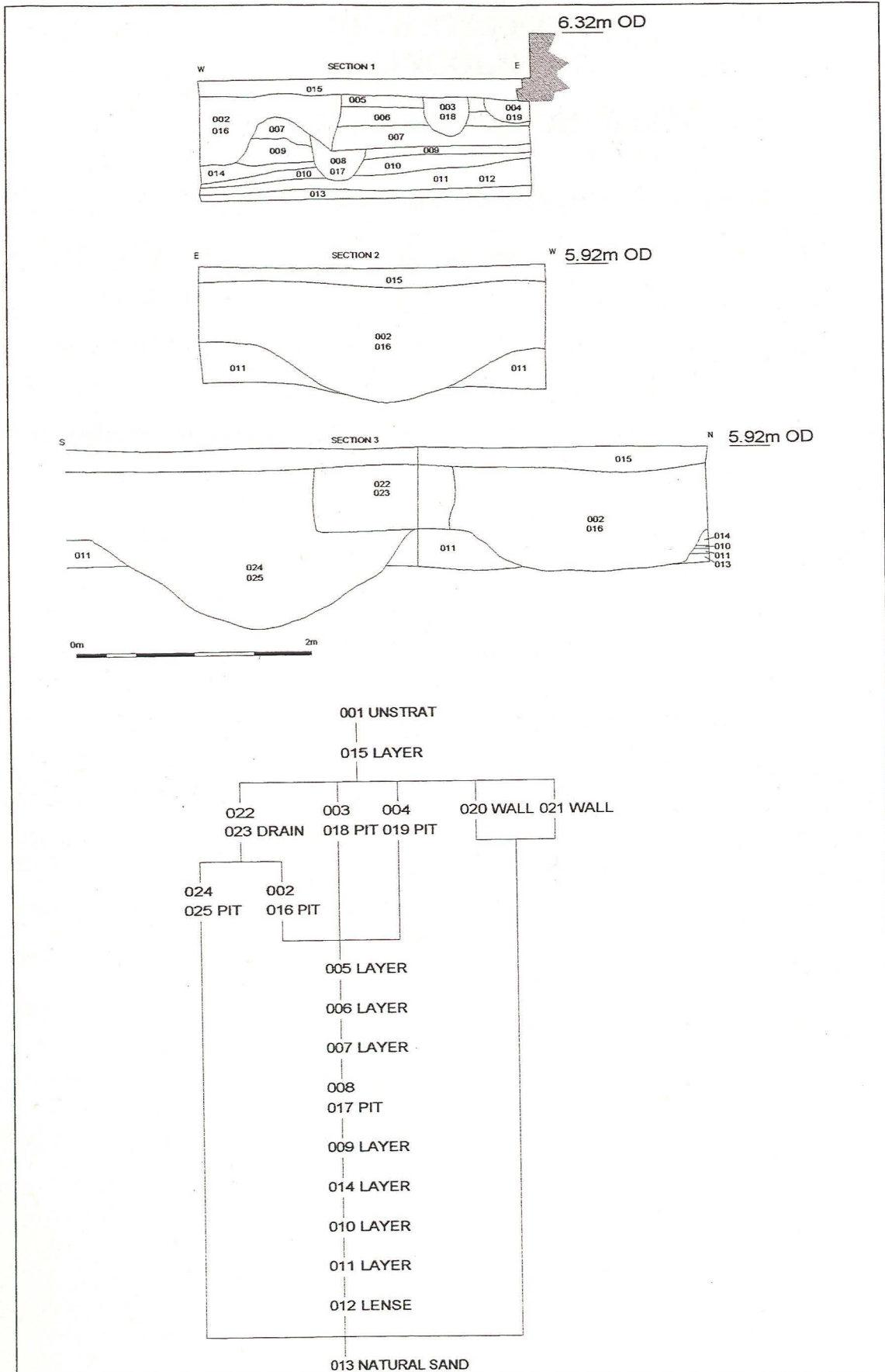


Fig. 3: Section 1 – 3 (1:50) and Stratigraphic Matrix.

**49, 50 AND 51a  
HIGH STREET,  
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**APPENDIX 1 – LHA NOTE AND ARCHIVE DETAILS**

**LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: HSN02

CLAU REPORT No.: 495

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 2001/0592/F 1<sup>st</sup> November 2001

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 97197 69981

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 08/04/02 – 09/04/02

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: TMN Developments Limited, Cleobury House, 7 Nelson Drive, Washingborough, Lincolnshire LN4 1HN

**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.: 2002.169

ACCESSION DATE: -

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT SUMMARY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001		Unstratified finds from the site
002	Fill of pit [016]	Firm compaction, mid yellow/brown clay soil with frequent small angular limestone fragments and brick rubble.
003	Fill of pit [018]	Loose-firm compaction, mid grey/brown sandy soil with infrequent small angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.
004	Fill of pit [019]	Loose-firm compaction, mid grey/brown sandy soil with infrequent small angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.
005	Layer	Firm compaction, mid-dark brown sand.
006	Layer	Firm compaction, mottled yellow/brown sand.
007	Layer	Firm compaction, bands of dark grey – light yellow sand and ash with occasional charcoal flecks.
008	Fill of pit [017]	Loose-firm compaction, mid grey/brown sandy soil with infrequent small angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.
009	Layer	Firm-loose compaction, clean yellow sand.
010	Layer	Firm compaction, bands of mid-dark grey ash with frequent charcoal flecks.
011	Layer	Firm-loose compaction, clean yellow sand.
012	Layer	Firm compaction, bands of dark grey – light-yellow sand and ash with frequent mussel shell fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.
013	Natural	Firm compaction clean yellow sand.
014	Layer	Loose-firm compaction, mottled yellow-dark brown sand.
015	Layer	Firm compaction, mid-dark brown clay/silt with brick, occasional bone, tile and small angular limestone inclusions.
016	Cut – pit	Fill [002].
017	Cut – pit/post-hole	Fill [008].
018	Cut – pit/post-hole	Fill [003].
019	Cut – pit/post-hole	Fill [004].
020	Wall	East-west aligned. Randomly coursed and unbonded. Extent unclear.
021	Wall	North-south aligned. Randomly coursed and unbonded. Extent unclear.
022	Brick drain	Manhole base – brick and concrete construction.
023	Cut – drain	Fill [022].
024	Fill of pit [025]	Firm compaction, mid yellow/brown clay soil with frequent small angular limestone fragments.
025	Cut – pit	Fill [024].

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**APPENDIX 3 – THE FINDS ARCHIVE**

**Bone Archive**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	9	Animal bone

**Tile Archive**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cname</i>	<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Sub-type</i>	<i>Frag</i> s	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
001	GPNR		7		1	345g	Mortar; reduced glaze	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup>
001	NIB			1/2	1	175g	Left corner	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13 <sup>th</sup>
001	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile			1	345g	Poor semi vitrified fabric; mortar	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>

## Pottery Archive

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form Type	Sherds	Weight	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	Condition
001	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	Jar	1	20g		Base	Soot	17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	BL	Black-glazed Wares	Jug	1	24g		BS		mid 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Pipkin	1	107g	Finger pressed join	Handle	Hollow handle	mid/late 16 <sup>th</sup> to mid/late 17 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware	Jar	1	23g		Rim		Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol Mottled-Glaze	Large drinking vessel	1	37g		Base		Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol Mottled-Glaze	Mug	1	43g		Base		Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol Slipware	Press mould dish	1	14g	Combed	Base	Soot	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol Slipware	Small posset ?	1	8g	White trailed slip on black	Rim		Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol Slipware	Jar	1	200g		Base	Cream fabric; int mottled glaze ext black	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to mid 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fresh
001	TILE	Lincoln Tile Fabric	Tray/pan	1	154g		Part profile	Unusual form or ? Roman tile; sanded base; slab made; side edge and interior knife trimmed; side edge sooted; fresh breaks	Medieval to post-medieval	Fresh