



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Grantham St, Lincoln  
Proposed Flats  
Archaeological Evaluation (Phase II)**

**NGR: SK 97635 71456  
Planning Application: 99/625/O: 25/10/99  
LCNCC Accn No.: 2002.445  
Site Code: LGS 02**

**Report for  
CAD Associates  
on behalf of J. E. Walter**

**by  
M. Williams**

**LAS Report No. 625  
November 2002**

Conservation  
Services

20 NOV 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

Event L13541

Source L18267

L18268

Mon L180723 70202

L180724 70203

## Contents

List of Figures and Plates	ii
<i>Summary</i>	1
Introduction	1
Site Description	1
Planning Background	1
Archaeological Background	1
Aims and Objectives	2
Excavation	2
Results	3
Conclusion	3
Potential Impact of Development on Archaeological Remains	4
Appendix 1 : Context summary	
Appendix 2: Pottery and tile archive (J. Young)	
The Figures	
The Plates	



## **Figures**

Fig. 1 Grantham Street, Lincoln, based upon a plan supplied by Lincoln City Council.

Fig. 2 Trench plan and sections.

## **Plates**

Pl. 1 View of trench and section 2 looking north-east, with soakaway (203) to left. Scale 2m.

Pl. 2 Pit 225 with limestone pieces in fill 209 at bottom of section 3, cut by pit 224 to right, Scale 1m.

Pl. 3 View of trench and Section 4, looking south-west, with pit 224 to left.

Pl. 4 Clay and ash deposits 210-212 at base of Section 2. Scale 1m.

Pl. 5 Burnt clay deposit 214, with deposits 210-212 in Section 2 (left), looking south-east towards Section 3. Scale 1m.

**Grantham St, Lincoln**  
**Proposed Student Accommodation,**  
**Archaeological Evaluation (Phase II)**  
NGR: SK 97635 71456  
Planning Application: 99/625/O: 25/10/99

**Summary**

Archaeological evaluation at the above site revealed five modern rubbish pits dug to a depth of up to 1.50m below the present ground surface. Leaving only small areas of earlier (but undated) deposits above that level. One layer at the base of the trench contained pottery dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The results from this evaluation confirm those of the earlier investigation, that this part of the site is extensively disturbed by modern rubbish pits to a depth of 1.25-1.50m below existing ground level. The impact of development upon archaeological remains will be minimal if foundations and services can be kept above this horizon.

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by CAD Associates on behalf of J. E. Walter to undertake archaeological investigation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with discussion with the City Archaeologist and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

**Site Description**

The application site is bounded by Grantham St to the north, Swan St to the east and the rear yards of Pizza Express and Yates' Wine Lodge to the west, and covers an area c.270 sq. metres in extent. The proposed development is for student accommodation fronting onto Swan St and Grantham St. The land is currently in use as a private car park.

**Planning Background**

Planning Permission has been granted for development of 12 self contained flats subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Further archaeological evaluation was requested by the City Archaeologist prior to development of the site to complement an initial phase of evaluation was carried out in 2000 (Williams 2000), which comprised a single test pit. This report covers the results of the second phase of evaluation.

**Archaeological Background**

The site lies within the historic core of Roman and medieval city. Excavations to the north,



north-east, east and west of the site have established the presence of archaeological deposits, up to 4m deep in places, from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Grantham St is thought to date from at least AD 1050 while Flaxengate was in existence by the late 9<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian and Saxo-Norman occupation was found on the north side of the junction between these two streets, with important evidence for metal working on the site. There is likely to have been a sequence of medieval and post-medieval buildings along the Grantham St frontage of the proposed development site. A single evaluation trench excavated in 2000, some 5m to the north of the 2002 evaluation trench, revealed modern overburden to a depth of approximately 1.5m with medieval deposits beneath. The presence of Roman structures is well documented in the areas surrounding the proposed development, but at some depth below the existing ground surface

The OS 1888 1:500 scale map shows properties on Grantham Street with garden features in the south-east corner of the site. Both evaluation trenches were located in this part of the site where it was anticipated that least disturbance from modern activity would be encountered.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development
- provide information for accession to the County SMR and the Lincoln UAD
- determine the level of variation within the archaeological deposits of the site by comparing the deposits to those found in the 2000 test pit.

#### **Excavation**

The evaluation comprised a single trench, 2m x 1.5m square, at the rear (south-east) corner of the site. It lay south of the trench dug in 2000 (Fig. \*). The trench was excavated only as deep as was necessary to establish the level of pre-modern archaeological remains (i.e. the latest significant archaeological horizon).

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists. The trench was machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, using a toothless ditching bucket, after breaking out of any concrete, tarmac, hardcore. The

*Lindsey  
Archaeological Services*

trench was hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan. Excavation of deposits was kept to a minimum used solely to establish date, character and survival condition of the deposits.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, to include site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate. A plan of the trench was made with section drawings of 2 sides. A full photographic record will be made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site shots. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

### Results

The trench was excavated through approximately 0.20m of tarmac (200) and 201 (a hardcore base layer of limestone chips) and 202 (a deposit of limestone chips with tarmac, the remnants of an earlier car park surface. 202 sealed a large modern pit (203) part of which was revealed in the northern corner of the trench. It contained large limestone pebbles in a sandy matrix (204) and is possibly a soakaway but the small area exposed makes confident interpretation of its function impossible (Pl. 1). It was dug through 205, a modern levelling deposits containing metal debris and polythene. Also cutting through 205 was a modern pipe trench, which crossed the south-east corner of the trench.

Sealed by 205 was pit 206 which contained a very loose dark grey soil fill with charcoal, coal and limestone pieces (207). Pit 206 cut through the edge of pit 224, whose fill was a dark loam with brick and mortar fragments and limestone pieces. This pit cut an earlier pit 225, whose fill 209 contained quantities of limestone blocks (Pl. 2).

Two more pits were recorded west of pit 203 and were visible in Section 2 (Fig. 2). 203 cut through pit 216 whose fills 217 and 215 did not contain any dating evidence. This pit cut through 218 whose fill of dark brown silty sand (219) contained a variety of pottery ranging in date from the 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This was the earliest of the five pits described above and it is assumed that they were dug for the disposal of domestic rubbish.

At the base of the trench were small areas undisturbed by the later pits which revealed a series of possible floor or demolition layers. 210 and 211 were burnt clay and ash layers which overlay further clay deposits 212, 213 and 214. 214 was heavily burnt and contained pieces of limestone. A single piece of fired clay was retrieved from this layer, which contained a wattle impression. Microscopic examination showed that there was no fuel ash adhering to the surface so the clay is unlikely to have come from an industrial source but could be from a domestic hearth or oven. None of these layers contained any associated pottery or other datable finds.



221 a layer of ash was recorded at the base of the trench, in plan only. It was beneath both layers 212 and 214 and contained three sherds of pottery, two dating from the late 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries and the third to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The narrow confines of the trench meant interpretation of these deposits remains conjectural.

### **Discussion**

Much of the trench was disturbed by intercutting rubbish pits, of late post-medieval date. Although a small pocket of undisturbed deposits was seen in Section 2 at a depth of 1.25m below existing ground level (18.42m OD) the first datable medieval deposit was recorded at the base of the trench (c.88.20m OD). At the base of the trench 1.50m undisturbed deposits were encountered. This is similar to the sequence of deposits found in the 2000 evaluation where the trench consisted of demolition deposits and pits to a depth of 1.50m, and relatively undisturbed archaeology was found at this depth.

### **Potential Impact of Development on Archaeological Remains**

The proposed foundation design of the building has yet to be finalised but is likely to be piles with ground beams up to 1m below existing ground surface. Both evaluation trenches revealed significant archaeological remains at a depth of 1.50m in the form of possible surfaces and demolition deposits dating to 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Conclusion**

The impact of development upon archaeological remains will be minimal if foundations and services can be kept above 1.50m below existing ground level.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mr Burkitt of CAD Associates for providing survey information for the site. The excavations were undertaken by Dave Marshall and Doug Young. The report was prepared by Mark Williams and edited by Naomi Field. Mark Williams prepared the computer generated drawings.

Mark Williams  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
November 18<sup>th</sup> 2002



**Appendix 1**

## APPENDIX 1

## Grantham Street Lincoln (LGS 02)

## Context Summary

Context Number	Type	Description
200	Layer	Tarmac surface
201	Layer	Limestone pieces
202	Layer	Levelling layer
203	Cut	Large pit/soakaway
204	Fill of 203	Large pebbles in sandy matrix
205	Layer	Levelling layer made up of modern rubbish
206	Cut	Pit
207	Fill of 206	Loose dark grey material
208	Fill of 224	Dark clay sand silt contains some large limestone fragments
209	Fill of 225	Dark grey loam, loose limestone pieces, small pebbles
210	Layer	Cream/brown deposit of burnt clay, also contains some burnt clay
211	Layer	Burnt ash and clay
212	Layer	Clay material in the trenches
213	Layer	Burnt clay
214	Layer	Area of burnt clay with limestone pieces some large
215	Fill	Fill of possible pit
216	Cut	Pit
217	Fill of 216	Very loose grey material contains charcoal etc
218	Cut	Pit
219	Fill of 218	Dark brown silty sand
220	Fill of 218	Loose fill mostly sand
221	Layer	Fine ash layers
222		Not used
223		Not used
224	Cut	Pit
225	Cut	Pit



## Appendix 2



# Tile Archive LGS02

*Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
219	NIB	Nibbed tile	4c	1	921	mortar; width 200mm; soot; finger pressings	14th to 15th
219	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge til		1	427	mortar; width 250mm	medieval
219	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge til		2	879	mortar	medieval

# Pottery Archive LGS02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services



context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
219	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	large vessel	1	14	BS		18th to 19th
219	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	small bowl	1	20	rim	bichrome	late 16th to mid 17th
219	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	5	BS		13th
219	PMF	Post-medieval fine whiteware	small vessel	1	7	rim		16th
219	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	large jar	1	694	base	int deposit;flaking ext surface;spots of reduced glaze with orange halo ext;comm subround quartz mod flint;dull fabric colour	16th to 18th
219	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	large jar	1	67	BS	poor quality yellow/brown glaze int;abundant subround to round quartz;dull colour fabric	16th to 18th
219	SELTZ	Seltzer bottle	bottle	1	45	BS		18th
221	LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware	?	1	3	BS		late 10th to 12th
221	LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware	?	1	3	BS	soot	late 10th to 12th
221	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	8	BS		13th



## The Figures





-  Extent of Roman City
-  Proposed development area

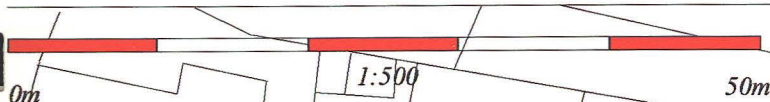
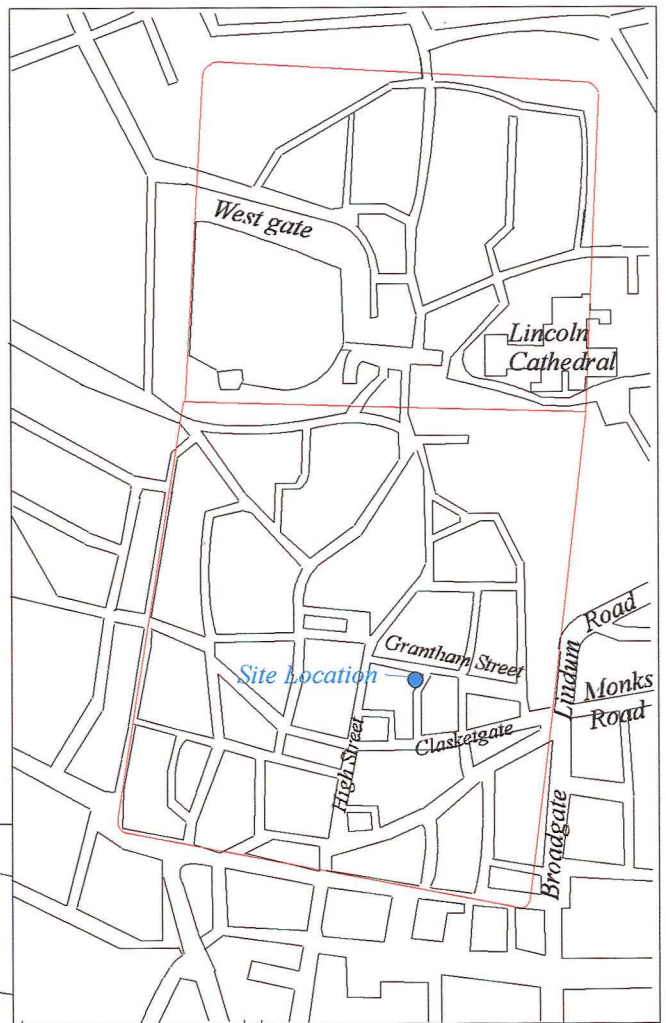


Figure 1: Grantham Street, Lincoln. Site location, based upon a plan supplied by Lincoln City Council



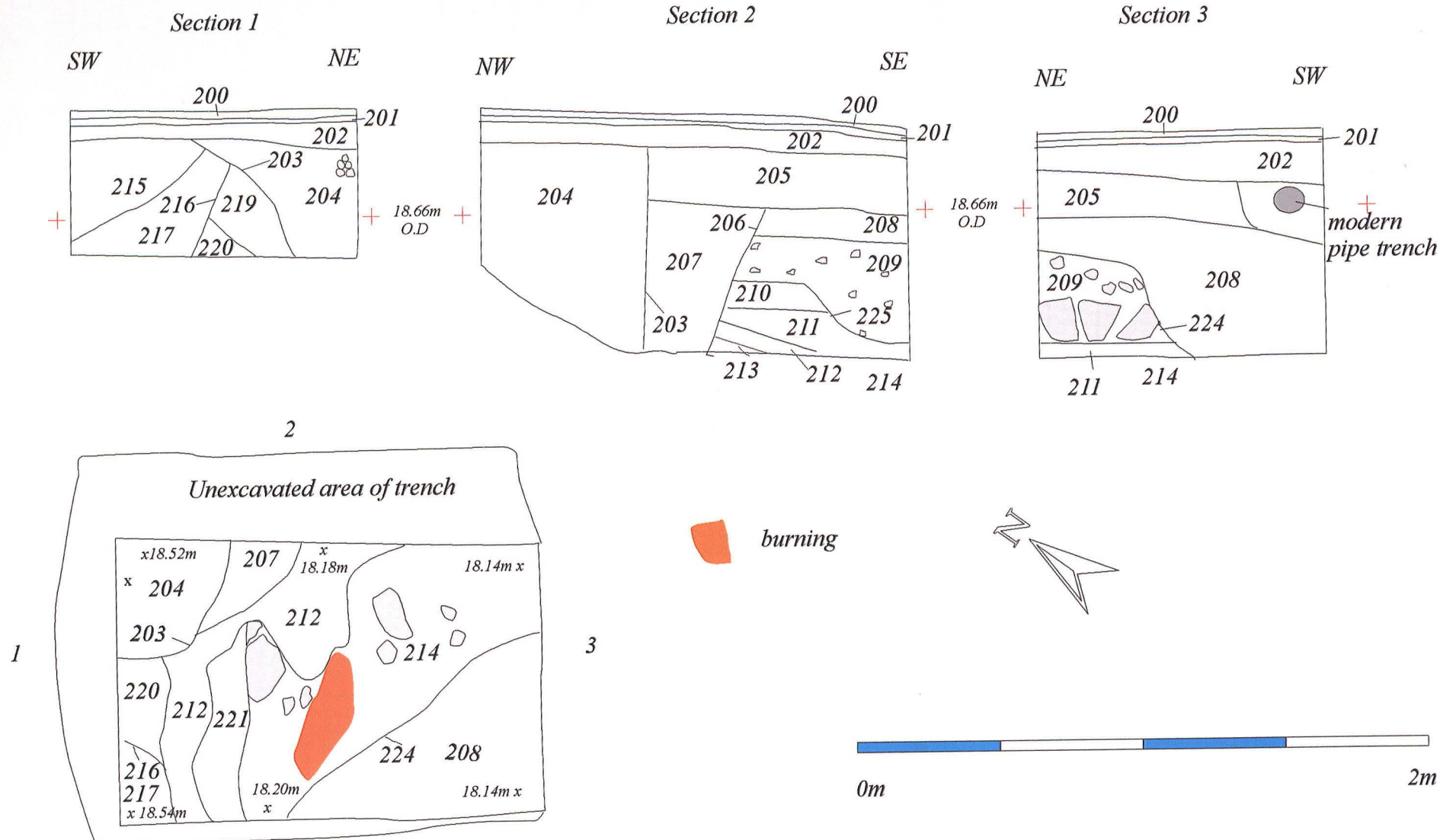


Fig. 2. Trench plan and sections



**The Plates**





Pl. 1 View of trench and Section 2 looking north-east, with soakaway (203) to left. Scale 2m.



Pl. 2 Pit 225 with limestone pieces in fill 209 at bottom of Section 3, cut by pit 224 to right, Scale 1m.





Pl. 3 View of trench and Section 4, looking south-west, with pit 224 to left.



Pl. 4 Clay and ash deposits 210-212 at base of Section 2. Scale 1m.





Pl. 5 Burnt clay deposit 214, with deposit 210-212 in Section 2 (left), looking south-east towards Section 3. Scale 3m.