



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Market House, 11-13 Market Street,
Long Sutton Lincs.
Archaeological Evaluation
Planning Application No.: H11/0044/02
NGR: TF 431022310 04 4312 2304
LCNCC Accn No.: 2002.472
Site Code: LSMS 02**

**Report for
Purcell Miller Tritton
on behalf of
Longhurst Housing Association**

**LAS Report No. 633
December 2002**

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Fig. 2 11-13 Market Street, trench location.

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Pl. 1 Market House, Long Sutton. General view of buildings fronting Market Street. Looking south.

Pl. 2 General view along alley between nos 11 and 13 Market Street, looking south.

Pl. 3 General view of yard at rear of 11-13 Market Street, looking south.

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Pl. 7 View of west side of trench showing brick rubble to a depth of 1m with mid brown silt below. Scale 2m.

Pl. 8 View of south side of trench showing sequence of deposits, brick rubble fill over mid brown silt. Scales 2m.

**Market House, 11-13 Market Street,
Long Sutton Lincs.
Archaeological Evaluation
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Summary

Excavation of a trench 3.5m x 2.5m in the yard to the rear of 11-13 Market Street revealed deposits containing brick rubble to a depth of 1.50m below the existing ground surface. Natural deposits were not reached, but excavation was terminated at 1.50m for safety reasons. No cut features were observed and the potential impact of development on any archaeological remains in this part of the site is considered to be minimal.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Purcell Miller Tritton on behalf of Longhurst Housing Association to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the requirements of the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, dated October 7th 2002.

Site Location and Description

Long Sutton is situated close to the border between Lincolnshire and Norfolk. The proposed works are being undertaken on the south side of Market Street close to the centre of Long Sutton (Fig. 1).

Planning Details

A planning application has been made for the redevelopment of the Market House and adjacent properties 11-13 Market St (Pl. 1) to provide facilities for Boston College, a library and residential accommodation. South Holland District Council has requested archaeological evaluation of the site prior to determination of the application.

Archaeological Background

There is no evidence for prehistoric material from the area. Two Roman coins have been found in West Street. Long Sutton is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and is clearly of Saxon origin and the parish church, which lies east of West Street, is 13th century in date. Post medieval pottery has been found in the Market place in 1975.

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, which may include further excavation

Results

The area available for investigation was a small courtyard to the rear of the Market House with a narrow covered access from Market Street (Pls 2 and 3). Part of the ground was covered in concrete slab, the remainder was heavily overgrown with shrubs.

The area available for investigation was limited by the surrounding buildings, some of which were derelict and in poor structural condition. On the north side it was bounded by the Market House, with an extension to the east and a small extension built in the 1950s to the north-east. Covered outbuildings, formerly used as a stonemasons' yard flanked the west and south sides of the yard (Pl. 4). Excavation was further limited by the narrow access for the machine.

The single narrow access restricted the reach of the machine and the area to the east of the trench was used for storing spoil. The poor ground conditions were even more hazardous on the day of the evaluation because of torrential rain which filled the trench as quickly as the machine bucket could empty it.

A north-south trench measuring 3.5m x 2.50m wide was excavated 1m from the west and southern boundaries (Fig. 2, Pl. 4). The trench was positioned just south of a borehole excavated in 2001 as part of the geotechnical investigation of the site (Pl. 5). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.50m to establish date, character and survival condition of the deposits. Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists. The trench was machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, after breaking out of the concrete and hardcore surface. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation.

A concrete encased drain was encountered, just below the yard surface running north-south through the middle of the trench (Pl. 6). This was the same drain that runs along the passageway and out to the Market Street, its line being marked on the surface by the presence of two manhole covers (Pl. 2). The drain cut through a mixed layer of fine silty soil and brick rubble c.0.70m deep, which overlay a second layer 0.50m deep with slightly less

brick rubble (Pls 6-8). Beneath the layers containing brick rubble was a deposit of mid-brown silt containing a few flecks of brick. The base of this layer was not reached as it was unsafe to excavate any deeper. The small size of the trench, coupled with the depth (1.50m) and the wet conditions made it unsafe to enter the trench so detailed recording was not possible. No cut features were observed.

Discussion

The borehole survey indicated the presence of brick rubble to a depth of 1.70m, and the excavations revealed rubble to a depth of 1.20m. The brown silt in the base of the trench contained brick flecks but unsafe ground conditions precluded further investigations. At first it was thought that this might represent the fill of a soakaway but the excavations showed that the deposit was more extensive than would be expected for a soakaway, with all sides of the trench showing the same sequence of layers, perhaps associated with the construction of the Market House or other 19th century buildings. The area opened up was too small to be certain as to how the material came to be deposited but the ground levels on Market Street and Bull Lane are roughly the same so it is unlikely to have been part of a general site levelling operation.

Conclusion

The excavations indicated that deposits to a depth of at least 1.50m are modern and if standard strip foundations are used for construction of the new buildings then the impact on archaeological remains would be minimal. Deposits below this level could not be fully evaluated but while they were not natural in origin no specific archaeological features were seen.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Chris Davis (Purcell Miller Tritton) for supplying the site plans. The excavations were carried out by Naomi Field and Doug Young. Illustrations for the report were prepared by Mick McDaid and Mark Williams.

Naomi Field
December 12th 2002

The Figures

A



C



Figure 1, Long Sutton site location. (Insert C reproduced from the 1999 O.S. 1:125,000 Explorer map Sheet 249. ©Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS licence no AL 50424A)



Fig. 2 11-13 Market Street, Trench Location.

The Plates



Pl. 1 Market House, Long Sutton, General view of buildings fronting Market Street. Looking south.



Pl. 2 General view along alley between Nos 11 and 13 Market Street, looking south.



Pl. 3 General view of yard at rear of 11-13 Market Street, looking south.



Pl. 4 General view of trench with sewer pipe running through centre, looking southeast.



Pl. 5 Borehole adjacent to trench showing brick rubble in sides.



Pl. 6 General view of trench with sewer pipe running through centre, looking southeast.



Pl. 7 View of west side of trench showing sequence of deposits, brick rubble fill over mid brown silt. Scales 2m.



Pl. 8 View of south side of trench showing sequence of deposits, brick rubble fill over mid brown silt. Scales 2m.