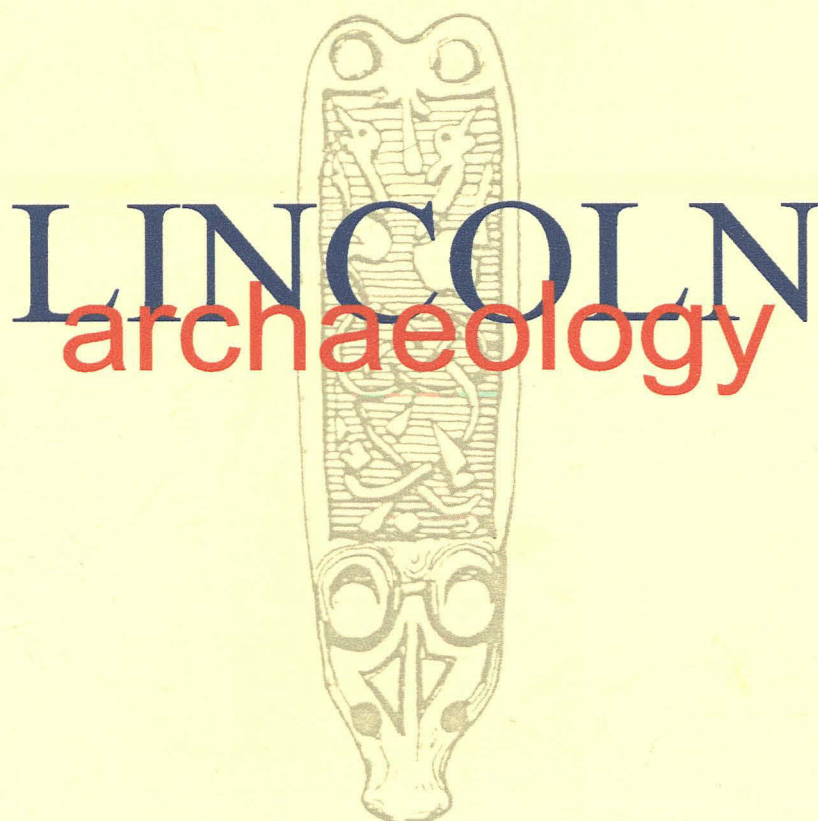


A Report to Mr MJ Jones

March 2003



Extension to 74D Winn Street, Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No.: 506

LINCOLN
archaeology

CLAU Report No. 506: Extension to 74D Winn Street, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief

EXTENSION TO 74D WINN STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

apple 2002/0445/F

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EXTENSION TO 74D WINN STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by Mr MJ Jones, was carried out by CLAU during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension to the existing structure at 74D Winn Street, Lincoln (Planning Application No. 2002/0445/F). The watching brief commenced on 20 August 2002 and was completed on 23 September 2002.*
- *The project yielded valuable information on the nature and extent of archaeological deposits at this locality. Although undated, it is likely that a north-south stone wall found in the northern foundation trench of the extension belonged to a building within the grounds of the Priory of St Mary Magdelene (Monks Abbey). Clays and silt extending over the western part of the same trench may have represented a continuation of waterlain sediments observed over the eastern part of the Monks Abbey grounds during a previous watching brief.*

Conservation
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10 MAR 2003

Highways & Planning
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EXTENSION TO 74D WINN STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by Mr MJ Jones, was carried out by CLAU during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension to the existing structure at 74D Winn Street, Lincoln (Planning Application No. 2002/0445/F). The watching brief commenced on 20 August 2002 and was completed on 23 September 2002.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The site, at NGR SK 98944 71351, is bounded by the grounds of Monks Abbey to the west, properties fronting Spa Street to the east, and 2A Spa Street to the north. The new extension abuts against the north wall of the existing building.

The superficial geology of the area comprises upper/middle lias clay and shale (British Geological Survey, Solid and Drift, Sheet 114, 1973) occurring on the lower part of the northern slope of the 'Lincoln Gap', a glacial gap through the north-south Jurassic limestone ridge (the 'Lincoln Edge'). The River Witham, which flows from west to east through the gap, lies c. 250m south of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Grounds containing the remains of the Priory of St Mary Magdelene ('Monks Abbey'), a cell (founded c. AD1110 - 1118) of the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary in York, lie immediately west of the site (Hill 1948, 339-42). The surviving structures of the Priory (dissolved in 1539) include the east end of a building believed to be the choir of the Priory church, and a fragment of wall which may have formed part of the nave (Stocker 1984).

Further fragments of masonry (now concealed beneath a protective covering of sand) lie on the line of a north-south ditch, until recently visible as a north-south earthwork along the eastern site boundary. This feature could relate to a possible mill-pond, described in antiquarian reports as lying north and east of the remains of the 'church' building, and a stone building - possibly housing a corn-grinding water wheel - to the south-east (Sympson 1906, 364). An 18th century water cascade, also mentioned in antiquarian sources, could have utilised the pre-existing system of water management.

Previous archaeological work on the site of the priory has been limited in scope. In 1983, test-pits in the area now occupied by the 'kick-about' area revealed some evidence of structural remains (Stocker 1984). In 1991, the wall fragments located near the eastern boundary of the grounds (see above) were recorded prior to the implementation of conservation measures (Donel 1992 and Wragg 1992). A subsequent watching brief during excavations to relocate a soakaway and associated drainage channels (Wragg 1993) produced a negative result. More recently, a watching brief was carried out during refurbishment of the children's playground and associated drainage works. This resulted in the discovery of a substantial east-west wall situated east of the 'church' building and west of the recently landscaped area containing the wall fragments (see above). Furthermore, an alluviated zone was delineated, extending north from the newly discovered wall and across the area now occupied by the children's playground. It may be conjectured that this zone formed a millpond and/or fishponds (Trimble 2000).

On the site itself, two stone-built walls were located in the trench for the foundations of the north wall of the existing building, during an archaeological watching brief at the time of its construction in 1997 (LAS 1997). The walls were undated, and their alignments could not be determined with certainty. At least one of these walls was expected to continue into the area of the extension.

4.0 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).

Methodology and Scope of Archaeological Recording

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, drawings at a scale of 1:20, and a series of colour print photographs showing the principal discoveries.

The major elements of groundwork consisted of excavations for the foundation trench for the north wall of the extension, for the retaining wall slightly further to the north, and for drainage leading from the extension to connect with existing services east of the house. All excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator. Flooding of the trenches, almost certainly due to the presence of nearby springs, severely hampered archaeological recording.



Plate I: General view showing initial ground clearance in the area of the extension (looking west).

5.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (see Fig.2)

Results

Bright orange sand with no inclusions (002), which extended throughout the lower levels of the foundation trench for the west wall of the extension, probably represented an undisturbed geological deposit. It mainly was sealed by a c. 300mm depth of silty/clayey soil (001) containing a moderate

quantity of modern building material. However, a deposit of black/dark grey silty organic clay (003) including some stone, was located at the north-west corner of the trench. This material could have represented the fill of a pond.

A stone-built wall or wall foundation (009) was found in the north wall foundation trench. It lay on a north-south orientation, was c. 600mm wide, and comprised three courses of roughly squared limestone blocks bonded by a coarse, light-brown mortar. Several fragments of architectural stone, recovered from the vicinity of the wall, were almost certainly built into the wall fabric (see Appendix 2).

The wall was abutted to the east by a soft mid grey-brown clay (010) and then sealed by a moderately compact, light grey-brown sandy silt (007) of possible alluvial origin, which may correlate with another deposit (003 – see above). The latter deposit, and a loose to moderately compact reddish-brown sandy silt (006) at the eastern end of the trench, were post-dated by a loose, dark grey sandy silt (005) containing frequent irregular limestone fragments. The deposit may have been contained within a cut. However, owing to unfavourable ground conditions (see Plate II below), the evidence for this was inconclusive. A very mixed deposit (004) of moderately compact material (probably modern) including very dark grey/black silt and mortar occupied the uppermost 200mm of the trench.



Plate II: South facing section including wall 009 (looking north-east).

A deposit of irregular limestone fragments (c. 100mm average size) adjacent to deposit 007 (relationship uncertain) could have represented a more concentrated area of the stone distributed throughout deposit 003 (see above).

Further monitoring, during excavation of a service trench running south-east from the north-east corner of the extension, revealed only very late deposits – apparently made-up ground relating to the construction of the existing building.

Conclusions

The project has yielded valuable information on the nature and extent of archaeological deposits at this locality. Although undated it is likely that the north-south stone wall belonged to a building within the former Priory complex. Clays and silt extending over the western part of the trench may represent a continuation of waterlain sediments previously observed over the eastern part of the Monks Abbey grounds (see Section 3.0 above).

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Project Team

CLAU Specialists

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| Yvonne Rose | Finds Supervisor |

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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.

EXTENSION TO 74D WINN STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – LHA NOTE, ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: WIS02

CLAU REPORT No.: 506

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 2002/0445/F

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: SK 98944 71351

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 20.08.2002 – 23.09.2002

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr MJ Jones

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.: 2002.393

ACCESSION DATE: -

EXTENSION TO 74D, WINN STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT SUMMARY & THE FINDS ARCHIVE

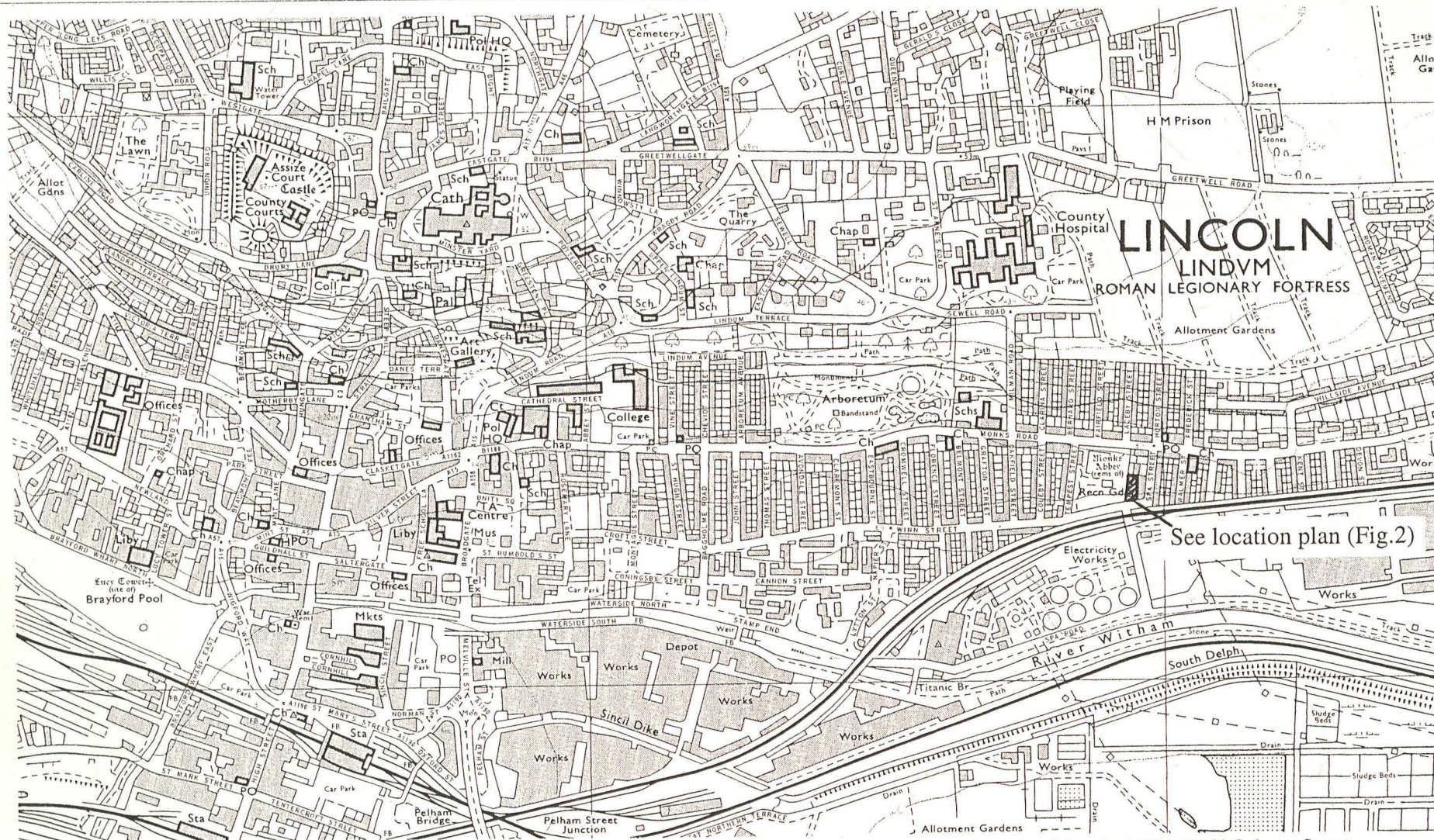
CONTEXT SUMMARY

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|--|
| 001 | Modern deposits/ unstratified |
| 002 | Bright oranges sand – natural |
| 003 | Black/dark grey silty organic clay |
| 004 | Modern deposits |
| 005 | Dark grey sandy silt – layer or fill |
| 006 | Reddish brown sandy silt – deposit |
| 007 | Light grey-brown sandy silt – waterlain? |
| 008 | Limestone fragments to 100mm |
| 009 | Stone wall, c 600mm wide |
| 010 | Mid grey-brown clay deposit |
| 011 | Stones probably displaced from wall |

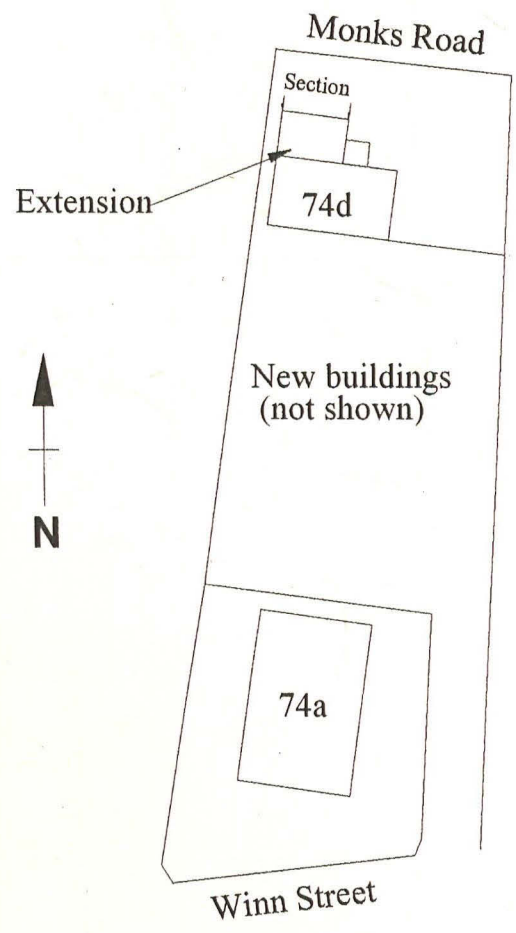
THE FINDS ARCHIVE

REGISTERED FINDS ARCHIVE

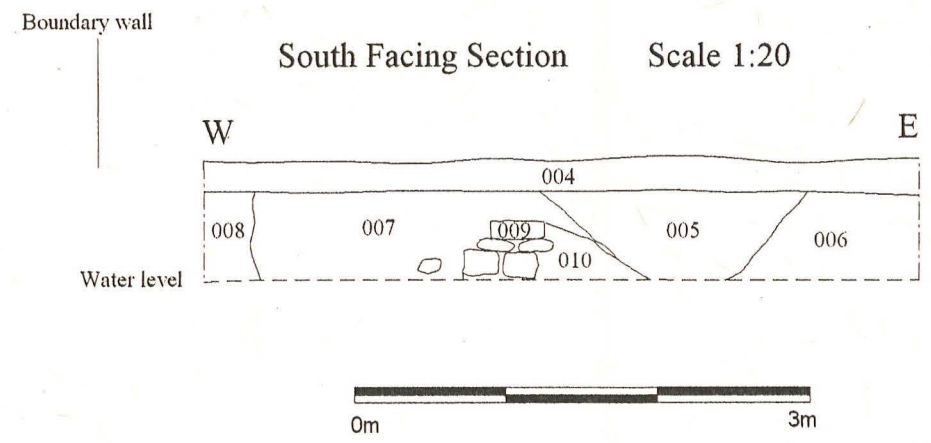
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Material</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Date/Comments</i> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 001 | 1 | Stone | Architectural fragment | Med; half-moulding. Lincs limestone |
| 011 | 2 | Stone | Architectural fragment | Late med; chamfered. Lincs limestone |
| 011 | 3 | Stone | Architectural fragment | Med?; chamfered. Lincs limestone |



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Location Plan Scale 1:500



Location plan & Section

Fig.2