

A Report to Greetwell Developments

July 2003



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Bunkers Hill, Lincoln (WLDC Area - Phase I Development)

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No. : 521

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BUNKERS HILL, LINCOLN (WLDC AREA – PHASE I DEVELOPMENT)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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BUNKERS HILL, LINCOLN (WLDC AREA - PHASE I DEVELOPMENT)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief carried out by CLAU during an initial phase of development (hereafter referred to as Phase I) at Bunkers Hill, Lincoln (WLDC Area).*
- *Previous archaeological work, on land immediately west of the site, had located evidence of Iron Age activity in association with a triple-ditched boundary feature.*
- *The only features of archaeological significance revealed by the watching brief comprised a pair of furrows belonging to the medieval pattern of ridge and furrow arable cultivation.*

BUNKERS HILL, LINCOLN (WLDC AREA - PHASE I DEVELOPMENT)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief carried out by CLAU during an initial phase of development (hereafter referred to as Phase I) at Bunkers Hill (West Lindsey District Council area).

Commissioned by Greetwell Developments, the Phase I watching brief included two main elements: groundworks relating to the construction, on Hawthorn Road, of a new Community Day Care Centre (St Barnabas Hospice Trust - Planning Application No. M00/P/0343), and preliminary groundworks within the remainder of the WLDC area. The latter consisted primarily of topsoil stripping and drainage installation along the route of a new access road, and excavations to form a drainage ditch along the eastern site boundary. Due to the impending closure of CLAU, any further archaeological work to be undertaken during the course of development on the remainder of the WLDC area, will be arranged by the developer(s) under separate contract(s).

Fieldwork relating to the project commenced on 19 September 2000 and was completed on 13 June 2001.

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

The site, located c. 3km north-east of the centre of Lincoln at NGR TF 0057 7289, lies immediately east of the City of Lincoln/District of West Lindsey boundary. It is bounded on its northern side by Hawthorn Road, by Greetwell Lane (leading to Greetwell Farm) to the east, and to the south by a small stream. The majority of the site and adjacent land to the east was, until recently, under arable cultivation.

Situated on the south-east facing slope of the Jurassic scarp running north from Lincoln (the 'Lincoln Edge'), the site lies upon a geology of (most recent, first) Great Oolite Limestone with thin clays, Upper Estuarine Beds/Clays with thin limestones in upper parts, Lincolnshire limestone, Lower Estuarine beds, and Northampton sand and Ironstone (1973 *Geological Survey map of Great Britain (England and Wales), Solid and Drift, Sheet 114*). Topographically, the site is generally level (c. 37m OD) but slopes downwards at its southern end to meet the line of the stream mentioned above (c. 30m OD).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Previous archaeological investigations, including an evaluation (Trimble 2000) and excavation (Trimble 2002) by CLAU on land immediately west of the site, and by LAS on land adjoining the southern site boundary (Field & Armour-Chelu 2001), have confirmed the presence of a prehistoric (probably Iron Age) triple-ditched boundary feature. Originally identified as a cropmark on aerial photographs, the feature runs north-south, extending discontinuously for a distance of 5.7 kilometres between Greetwell and Grange de Lings (Bountwood 1998). Although the evaluation by CLAU produced little evidence of activity associated with the triple-ditched boundary, subsequent excavation, around a set of terminals located towards the northern end of the field, resulted in the discovery of a number of ephemeral features of late Iron Age date. Further to this, the excavations by LAS disclosed remains associated with Romano-British occupation.

The fieldwork carried out by CLAU and LAS was preceded by a series of non-intrusive studies, including a desk-based assessment (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994), geophysical survey (Johnson 1997), and fieldwalking (McDaid 1997). The cumulative evidence of these studies indicated a low potential for archaeological remains east of the City/District boundary; however, a set of cropmarks reminiscent of Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures was identified immediately west of the study area and east of the triple ditch. Although subsequent fieldwork failed to disclose evidence of these features, the potential for related activity was not discounted.

Wragby Road, which passes the site to the north-west, follows the route of a major Roman road running north-east from Lincoln to a point where it divided: one road heading north-east to the coast via the Lincolnshire wolds, the other south-east past Horncastle to Burgh-le-Marsh (Whitwell 1970).

4.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The primary objectives of the project were to:

- produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme and the 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.

Methodology and Scope of Archaeological Recording

The watching brief was carried out on an intermittent basis, with site visits timed to coincide with the main phases of groundwork. A record was secured by means of *pro forma* watching brief recording sheets containing details of general site circumstances and deposit descriptions, and a series of colour print photographs showing specific features and work in progress.

Within the area of the community Day Centre, the car park area and the building footprint were inspected after topsoil stripping, and the majority of foundation trenches were examined. The entire length of the drainage ditch running along Greetwell Lane was inspected as was the trench for drains running along the line of the new access road.

5.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Results

Area of the Community Day Care Centre (see Plate I)

The superficial geology of this area consisted mostly of clay, with an overlying mix of sand and gravel occurring in a close proximity to Greetwell Lane. There was no evidence of archaeologically significant remains.

Remainder of the Site

Two furrows relating to the medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow pattern of arable cultivation were located c. 80m south-west of the south-west corner of the grounds of the day care centre. The furrows, visible in the side of the ditch flanking Greetwell Lane (see above), were c. 8m apart (centre to centre) and lay on an approximate east-west axis (see *Plate II*). Within these features, the relict medieval plough soil attained a maximum depth of c. 350mm, but it diminished to c. 150mm thick over the south-eastern extent of the ditch and had been wholly truncated (by later ploughing) to the north-west.

The removal of topsoil along the spine road and excavations for drainage along the same route, failed to reveal any deposits of archaeological significance.



Plate I – General view of work in progress on the Day Care Centre (looking north-west).



Plate II – View showing furrows (1m scales, looking south-east).

5.2 Conclusions

The discovery of remnants of ridge and furrow has increased our understanding of the pattern and extent of arable cultivation in this area during the medieval period. The furrows lay at right angles to other furrows found further to the west, in the vicinity of the prehistoric triple-ditched boundary; it is possible that a headland separating the two alignments could have determined the course of the modern City/District boundary.

There was no evidence of features of prehistoric or Romano-British date. From this it may be inferred that the study area lay beyond the limits of the occupied areas identified by previous archaeological work. On the other hand, fieldwork on land immediately to the west (Trimble 2000 and 2002) demonstrated the presence of extremely ephemeral remains, which would have been difficult to locate given the constraints imposed by a watching brief.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Project Team

Russell Trimble	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
Graham Eyre-Morgan	Project Manager
John Hockley	Administrator

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8.0 LHA NOTE, ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: GBHA00

CLAU REPORT No.: 521

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: M00/P/0343 (St Barnabas site)

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 0057 7289

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 28.09.2000 – 13.06.2001

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Greetwell Developments Ltd

ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL

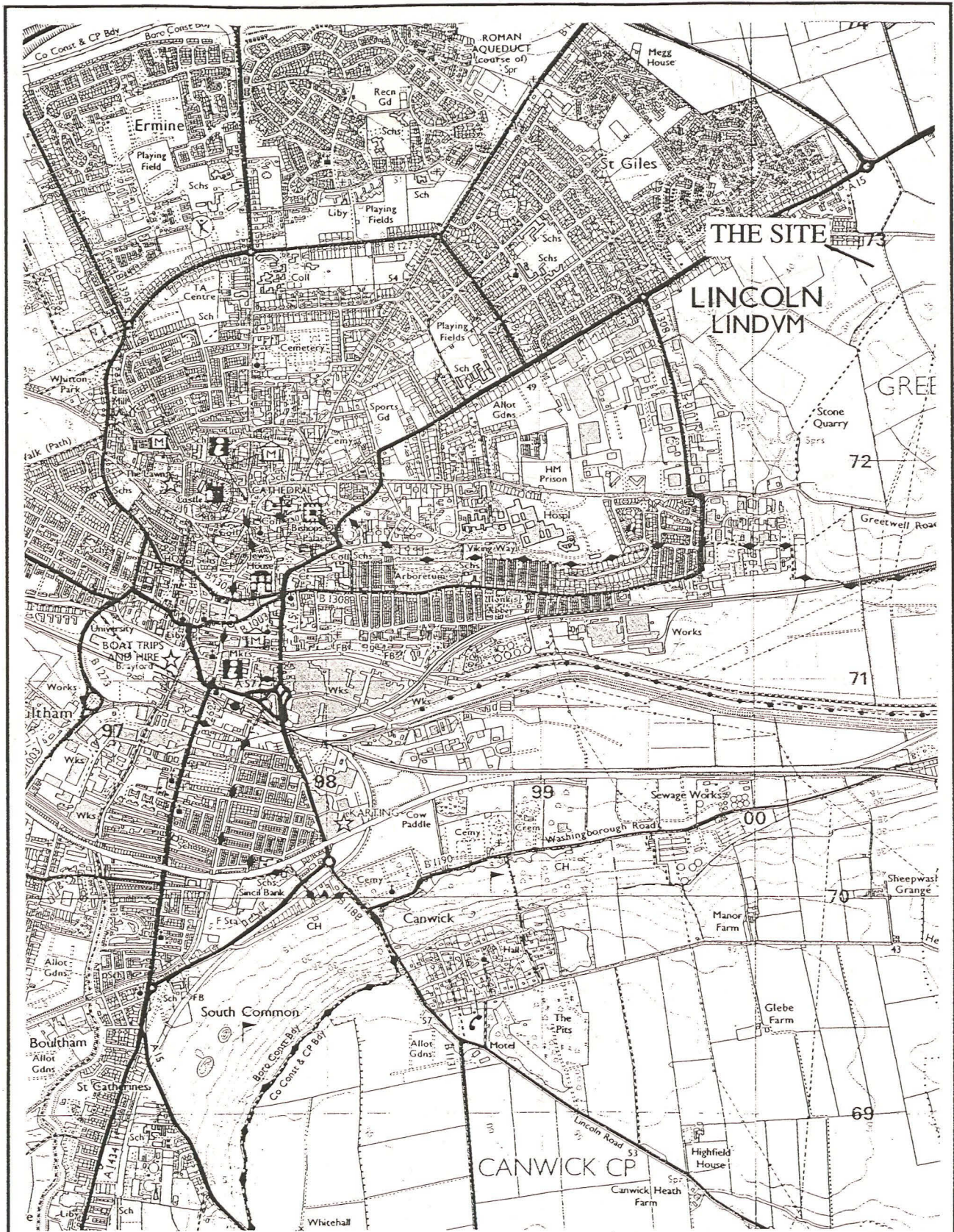
FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2000.185

ACCESSION DATE: -

NOTE

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