

**QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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NGR: SK 9737 7005.
Planning Ref. 2001/0848/F
Accession No. 2003.93

Report prepared for Mr R. J. Baldham-Lucas

by

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Highways & Planning
Directorate Summary

EVENT L14374 SOURCE L18956 L18957
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Summary

- *A program of archaeological observation and recording took place during initial groundworks for the construction of a new 2-storey dwelling at 20 & 21 Queen Street, Lincoln.*
- *The uppermost archaeological deposit was a dark charcoal-rich material, interpreted a plaggen or garden soil. Beneath this, a single pit was exposed, the fill of which suggested that it was used for the disposal of domestic waste, presumably from a dwelling situated in the vicinity.*
- *Pottery recovered from this pit was dated to the mid 12th to early/mid 13th centuries.*

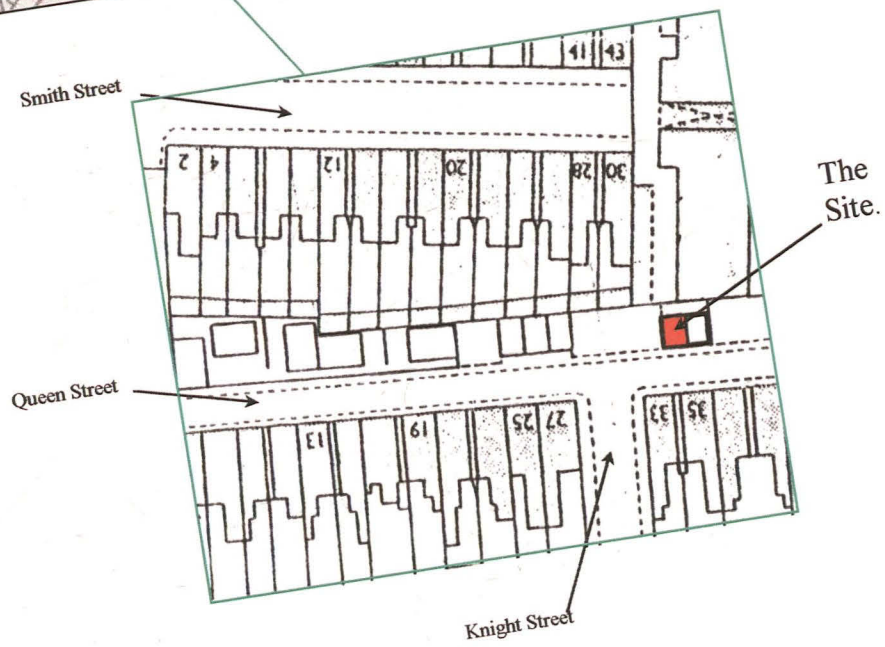
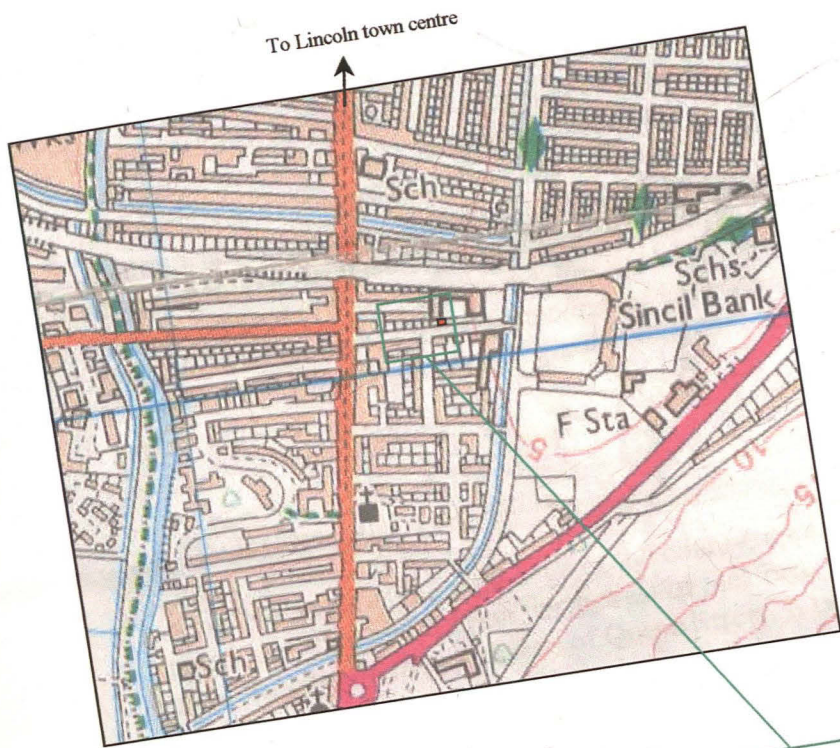


Fig. 1 : Site location showing development area in red.
Main plan at 1:10,000 insert at 1:1,250.
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr R. J. Baldham-Lucas to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new 2-storey dwelling at 20 & 21 Queen Street, Lincoln. This work was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of an agreed archaeological mitigation strategy that was based on the recommendations of the Lincoln City Archaeologist. This approach complies with the requirements of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Lincoln lies towards the west edge of the county, approximately 25km north-east of Newark on Trent and c.25km north-west of Sleaford. The site lies towards the south side of the city, on the north side of Queen Street. It comprises a rectangular area of approximately 37 m², bordered by existing buildings to the east, domestic gardens to the north, a vacant lot used for parking cars to the west, and Queen Street to the south. The area formerly contained a garage; constructed in the shell of a derelict house, (Mr. R. J. Baldham-Lucas, pers. comm.).

The underlying local drift geology of the area consists of undifferentiated river terrace sands and gravels, deposited by the Witham over Lower Lias Clay, Shale and Rare Limestone (B.G.S. 1973). The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is SK 9735 7005 and the elevation is approximately 5m OD.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the erection of a 2-storey detached dwelling at 20/21 Queen Street. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks, the nature of which was defined in a document '*Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief and Reporting. Proposed Residential Development: 20/21 Queen Street, Lincoln*', (Allen, 2003).

The planning reference for this project is 2001/0848/F.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Excluding occasional prehistoric artefactual remains, there is little clear evidence of any sustained settlement activity within the environs of Lincoln until the later Iron Age. In earlier prehistory, the area that became the lower city was subject to frequent tidal inundations, causing an extensive area of seasonally flooded marshland in the low-lying regions, including the current site. Only with falling sea levels during the later first millennium BC were new areas to become available for potential settlement (Jones, 2002). One site, lying approximately 100m to the east of the Brayford Pool, has in recent years revealed substantial quantities of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery, and associated structural features, suggesting that a major settlement may have existed in the Brayford East area, occupying a raised bank of sand and gravel. Further evidence of late Iron Age activity has been identified at The Lawn, to the immediate west of the site that became the Roman legionary fortress (*ibid.*).

The Roman geographer Ptolemy suggests that, in the Iron Age, much of Lincolnshire and the East Midlands belonged to a people called the *Corieltauvi*, who had two major centres: at *Rhage* and *Lindon*, these places being equated with the Roman towns of *Ratae* (Leicester) and *Lindum Colonia* (Lincoln) (Todd, 1991). The name also derives from pre-Roman times, the stem *lindo-* meaning a lake or pool, no doubt relating to what must have been a much larger Brayford Pool.

Following the initial invasion of Britain in AD43, what became Lincoln was soon to be under the control of the Roman army. By AD47, a frontier had been established from the Humber to the River Exe in south-west Britain, with Legio IX *Hispana* subduing the northern reaches of this area (Whitwell, 1992). They soon established a presence at Lincoln, controlling the Witham and the gap in the limestone edge through which it passed, and consolidating the tribal territory of the *Corieltauvi* (Jones, 2002). A fortress accommodating the entire legion was established sometime in the reign of Nero (AD54-68) on the hillside to the north of the Witham, although it has been suggested that an earlier fort was established closer to the current site. The discovery of early military tombstones in the lower part of the city may indicate that a fort was established on South Common, overlooking the Witham Valley from the south (Todd, 1991).

In the late 1st century, Lincoln became a *colonia*, a major administrative centre, established to provide retired legionaries with land and property (Jones, 2002). This made extensive use of the walls and internal layout of the abandoned fortress, and, by the 2nd century AD, it also extended downhill towards the river.

South of the lower walled city (south of the Stonebow), an extensive ribbon development extended along Ermine Street, broadly along the line of the modern High Street. The current site is situated approximately 500m south of the junction of Ermine Street and the Fosseway, and would have been between the two thoroughfares, approximately 5m west of Ermine Street and 100m east of the Fosseway.

It is possible that Sincil Dyke, which runs 110m to the west side of the site, was constructed as a catch-water drain in the Roman period. This would have limited flooding of the area, and protected Ermine Street and developments along its eastern edge (Hill, 1965).

In the post-Roman era, an influx of Danish settlers in the 9th/10th centuries gave the city an impetus for growth, bringing a new population and trade contacts, and founding workshops and kilns in the lower Roman town, and its southern suburbs, which were close to the current site. The city also served as a mint from the later 9th century, one of the largest in England by the early 11th century (Jones 1993, Sawyer 1998).

By the Norman Conquest, Lincoln was a thriving, densely occupied community of around 12,000 people (Sawyer, 1998). The wealth of the early medieval town was based largely on the production and export of cloth, and wool from the vast flocks of sheep that were grazed on the expansive heaths outside of the city. In 1367, however, the Wool Staple was transferred to Boston, which, combined with the expansion of the Flemish cloth trade in the 14th century and the advent of the Black Death in 1347, caused Lincoln to enter a period of decline (Jones, 1993). This problem was compounded by excessive taxation during the Hundred Years War (Hill, 1965).

Gradual revival and repopulation of the city did not begin until the late 17th century, a process rapidly accelerated by the arrival of the railway in 1846, which allowed the growth of a large heavy engineering industry throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, (Kemp, 1993). It was only in this recent period that the low lying land south of the river was permanently reclaimed, with the Witham Act of 1812 extending the Sincil Dyke to Bardney, lowering the water level in the river, and allowing the drainage of this area (Hill, 1965).

5.0 Methodology

A single visit was made to the site by the author on April 4th 2003. All of the foundation trenching was continually monitored and any archaeological features exposed were investigated to determine their shape and to recover datable artefacts. They were also drawn in plan and section and recorded on pro-forma context record sheets. A photographic record was maintained.

6.0 Results

Once the modern overburden had been removed, the uppermost material exposed was (001) which was present across the site. This was a deep (up to 1.10m) homogenous layer comprising mid to dark grey silty sand, considerably darker at the top. It contained charcoal flecks, occasional animal bones along with pottery and clay tobacco pipe fragments. The sherds of pottery recovered from this material date from the Romano-British to the Victorian periods. Due to the modern nature of some of the finds recovered from this deposit, the animal bone was not retained.

Two brick structures were observed cut into this material: to the northeast was what appeared to be a cellar, while in the southwestern portion of the site there was a smaller structure interpreted as a soakaway.

Below (001), a single archaeological feature was exposed, [004]. This was a shallow pit with steep well defined sides and an irregular base, sloping down to the west. Its fill (002) was mid grey silty sand containing occasional mussel shells, 12th to 15th century roof tile fragments and limestone rubble. A moderate number of oyster shells and frequent animal bones were also recovered. Thirteen sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery, many with soot deposits were also retrieved.

This feature was cut into (003), a deposit of mottled sand with occasional flint pebbles. This was a natural river terrace deposit, of a type described in Section 2 above.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The uppermost material removed from the site was (001), a 1m thick layer of homogenous mid to dark grey sand. Relatively few finds in the form of edible mollusc shells, pottery, broken brick and tile and animal bones were recovered from this material, which makes it unlikely to be a series of domestic refuse dumps. However the dark colour did reflect a large proportion of charcoal within, which rules out a natural origin. A possible formation process for this material would be that of a plaggen soil, a soil type "...developed in areas of population concentration and intensive cultivation, such as urban gardens...", (Dincauze, 2000).

The above layer sealed a pit dated to the 12th to 13th centuries and so would appear to have developed during or after this period. A fragment of Romano-British pottery recovered from (001) was clearly residual.

The pit [004] was filled with a material containing pottery, animal bone, and the shells of edible molluscs, representing the disposal of domestic refuse from a property in the vicinity. The pit also contained fragments of limestone and building tile; probably rubble produced as waste from small scale building work in the vicinity.

The pit was filled at some point during the late 12th or 13th centuries, at which time the area surrounding the development site was part of the suburb of Wigford, which was primarily occupied by housing, (Hill, 1965, pp 164-7). It seems likely that this refuse pit would have been located in the garden plot attached to one of these dwellings. Much of the pottery had soot deposits on exterior surfaces, indicating that it had been used for cooking. Some also had soot on interior surfaces, which may suggest that these vessels had been used to hold burning embers.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full inspection to be made of the sections of all of the foundation trenches excavated by the contractor, and with minimal disruption to the primary scheme.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Mr R. J. Baldham-Lucas for commissioning this investigation, for providing the ground plans, and to the ground-workers Peter and Paddy for cooperation on site. Thanks also to Chris Clay (PCA) for his contribution to section four of this report.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1973. Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Dincauze, D., 2000, *Environmental Archaeology, Principles and Practice*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Hill J.W.F., 1965, *Medieval Lincoln*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Jones M.J., 2002, *Roman Lincoln. Cinqest, Colony & Capital*, Tempus Publishing Ltd., Stroud

Kemp, S., 1993, 'Evolving Lincoln' in Bennet & Bennet, eds. *An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*. pp. 132-3. The University of Hull Press.

11.0 Site archive

An archive consisting of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2003.93.

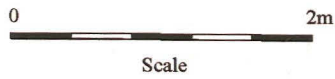
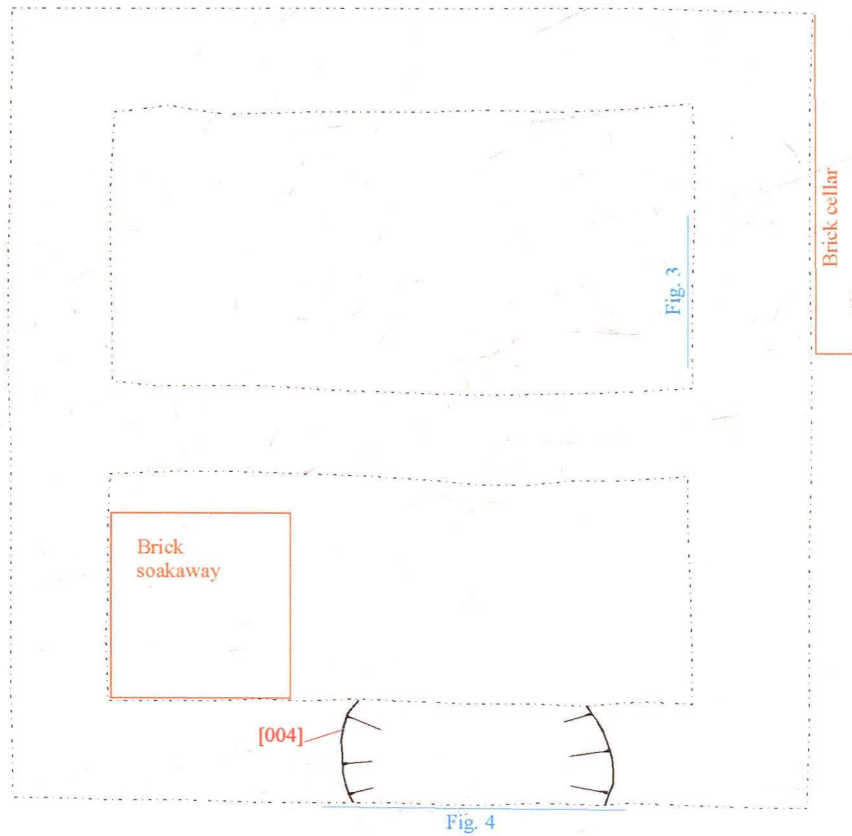


Fig. 2 : Foundation trench, showing location of sections, brick structures and feature [004].
1:50

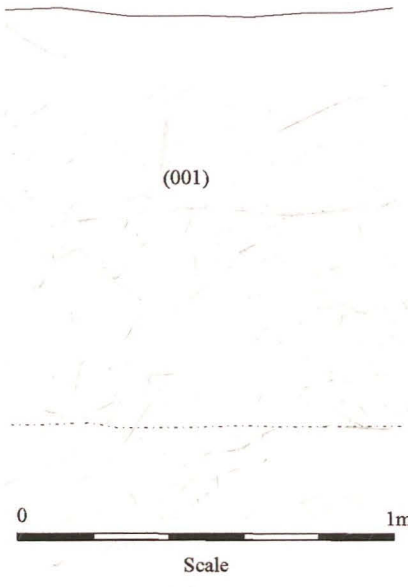


Fig. 3 : East facing sample section showing layer (001) present to base of trench.
1:20

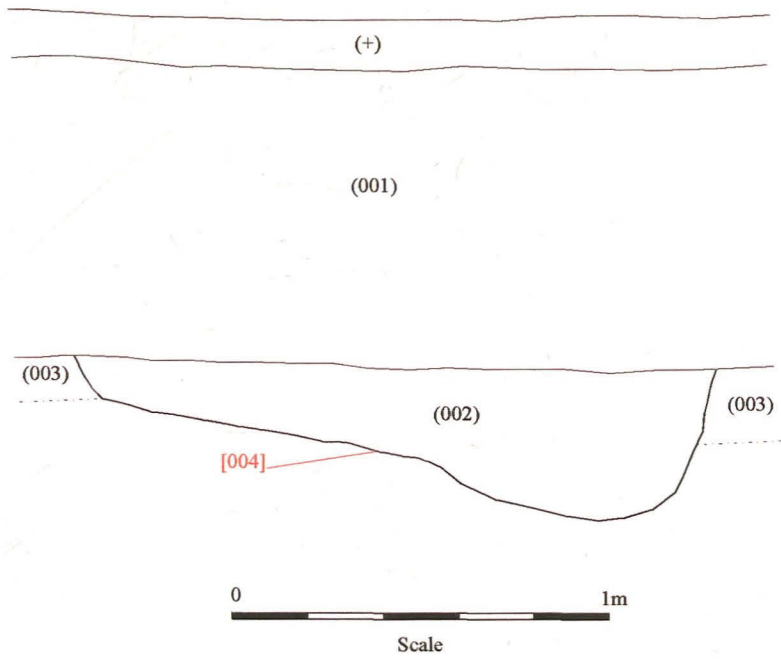


Fig. 4 : North facing section showing pit [004] visible in section below layer (001).
1:20



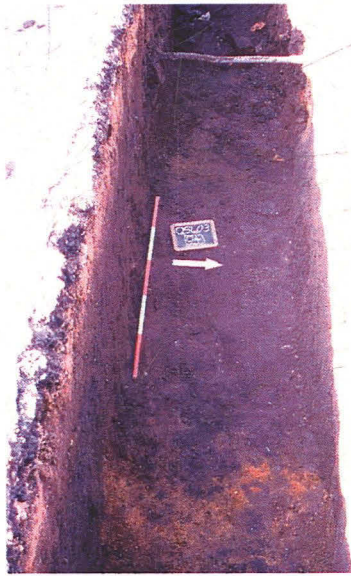
Pl. 1 : Machine excavation of foundation trench. Looking east.



Pl. 2 : Section showing plaggen soil (001), depth 1m. Looking west.



Pl. 3 : Brick cellar truncating part of site to east of this development. Looking east.



Pl. 4 : Pit [004] before excavation. The far edge is just beyond the end of the scale. Looking west.



Pl. 5 : Pit [004] after excavation. Note mottled nature of the sand natural forming the base. Arrow indicates western edge. Looking south.



Pl. 6 : Site with excavation of foundation trench completed. Looking northwest.

Appendix 2. Pottery archive.

Jane Young. Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	she rds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
01	WHITE		?	1	1	2		BS		late 18th to 19th
01	LSW3		jug	1	1	10	applied strips	BS		14th to mid 15th
01	R	greyware	jar ?	1	1	7		BS	very abraded	Roman
01	LLSW		jar	1	1	63		BS	soot	late 14th to 15th
01	LSW2		jug	1	1	17		BS		13th
01	CREA		?	1	1	4	gold paint	rim		late 18th to 19th
02	LEMS		large jar	1	1	51		rim		mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LFS		jar	3	1	88		base & BS	int soot & int dep	12th
02	EMHM		jar	1	1	3		BS	soot	12th
02	LEMS		jar	2	1	28		BS	soot int & ext	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		jar	2	1	59		rim	ext & part int soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		jar	1	1	17		rim		mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		jar	3	1	167		base	soot ext & part int	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		large jar	1	1	45		BS	soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		large jar	1	1	28		BS		mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LEMS		?	1	1	9		BS	soot int	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
02	LFS		?	1	1	47		base		12th

Appendix 3. Tile archive.

Jane Young. Lindsey Archaeological Services.

context	cname	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
02	PNR	1	1	74	soot	mid 12th to 15th
02	PNR	LSWA	1	87	corner	mid 12th to 15th

Appendix 4. Context Summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Dark grey sand. Multi-phase plaggen soil.
002	Fill of [004]. Domestic-waste pit fill. 12 th to 13 th century.
003	River terrace sand and gravel natural.
[004]	Cut feature. Rubbish pit.

Appendix 5. Animal bone archive.

Context	Bone	Animal	Side	Comments
02	Tibia	Sheep	Right	Distal end and long section of shaft.
02	Tibia	Sheep	Left	Distal end and section of shaft, may match above.
02	Tibia	Sheep	Left	Distal end and long section of shaft, cut across back.
02	Tibia	Sheep	Left	Part of shaft
02	Humerus	Sheep	Left	Distal end.
02	Radius	Sheep	Left	Distal end and lateral side of proximal end missing.
02	Sacrum	Sheep		Fused to lumber vertebra, lateral processes ?cut.
02	Scapula	Sheep	Right	Blade, small and incompletely mineralised.
02	Metacarpal	Sheep		Small fragment of back of distal end of shaft.
02	Ribs	Sheep-sized		16 large fragments representing at least 11 ribs.
02	Vertebra	Sheep-sized		Neural spine from cervical vertebra.
02	Vertebra	Sheep-sized		Cervical, centrum and left side, unfused posterior epiphysis missing, probably 'chopped'.
02	Hyoid	Sheep-sized		
02	Scapula	Sheep-sized		Blade fragment.
02	unid	Sheep-sized		2 small shaft fragments.
02	Mandible	Pig	Right	Fragment of diastema and anterior region, no teeth.
02	Skull	Cow-sized		Large fragment.
02	Mandible	Cow-sized		Fragment of lower edge.
02	Radius	Cow-sized		Small shaft fragment, possibly deliberately cracked.
02	Ribs	Cow-sized		6 fragments representing at least 2 ribs, probably more, 2 with cut marks.
02	??Femur	Cow-sized		Shaft fragment
02	unid	Cow-sized		Fragment of ??innominate
02	unid	Cow-sized		Very small fragment of ?long bone shaft.
02	unid	Cow-sized		3 small fragments, possibly including scapula, innominate.
02	Femur	Chicken	Left	Complete.
02	Femur	Chicken	Left	Complete, slightly smaller than above.
02	Femur	Chicken	Right	Distal end missing, ?matching smaller of two above.
02	Femur	Duck	Right	Complete, small, Teal-sized or slightly larger.
02	Tibio-tarsus	Chicken	Right	Complete.
02	?Fibula	Chicken	?Right	??With above.
02	Humerus	Chicken	Left	Complete.
02	Sternum	Bird		Anterior part, ?duck, not identified to species.
Total weight 02: 538g				