

JB/RL

M3/26

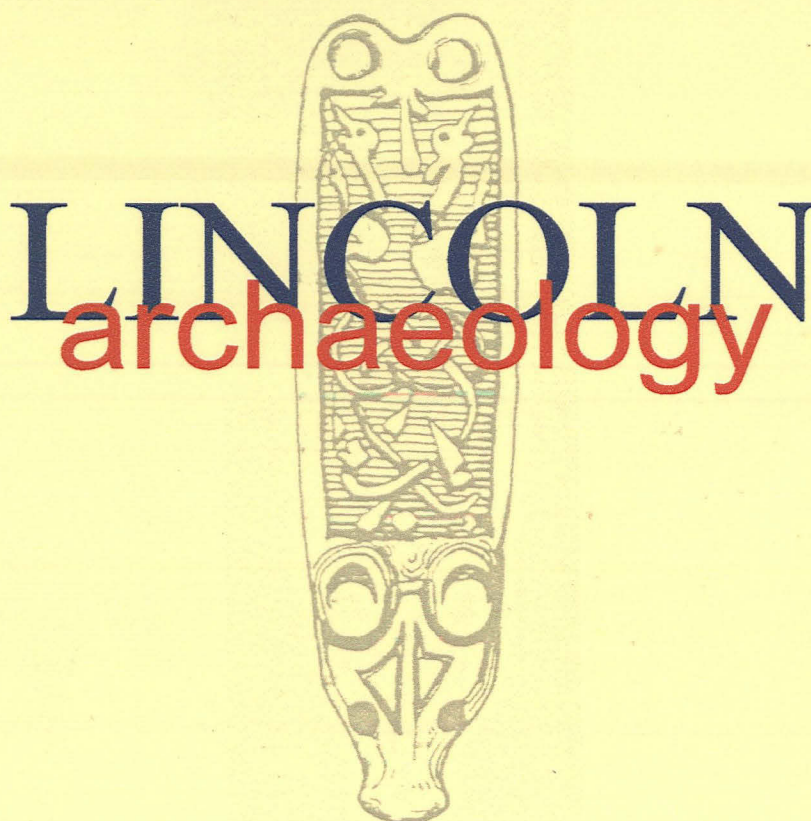
A Report to Lincs Lab

October 2003

Conservation
Services

15 OCT 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate



Ground Investigation at Westgate Junior School, Westgate, Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No.: 527

LINCOLN
archaeology

**GROUND INVESTIGATION AT WESTGATE JUNIOR
SCHOOL, WESTGATE, LINCOLN****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Site Location and Geology	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	1
4.0 Aims and Objectives	2
5.0 Methodology	2
6.0 Results and Conclusions	2
7.0 Acknowledgements	3
8.0 Bibliography	3
9.0 LHA Note, Archive Details	4

List of Figures

Fig. 1: Location Map

Fig. 2: Plan Showing Defences as Revealed by Previous Archaeological Work

Fig. 3: Plan and Profile Showing DCP and Borehole Locations in Relation to Known Archaeology

GROUND INVESTIGATION AT WESTGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL, WESTGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

- *This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief maintained by CLAU during ground investigation by Lincs Lab at Westgate Junior School, Westgate, Lincoln on 24 September 2003.*
- *The study area includes part of the eastern defences of the Roman and medieval city.*
- *The results of the investigation supplement existing information relating to the location and form of the eastern defences of the ancient city.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief maintained by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during ground investigation by Lincs Lab at Westgate Junior School, Westgate, Lincoln. The watching brief, commissioned by Lincs Lab and required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent, was carried out on 24 September 2003.

The site lies within an area protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (County Monument No. 115 – Lincoln Roman Colonia) and in Conservation Area CA1 Cathedral and City Centre.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY (see Fig 1)

The study area (NGR SK 9740 7203) is currently under grass and is situated at the south-west corner of the Westgate Junior School grounds. It is bound to the east by a recently built retaining wall, to the north by the school hall, and to the south and west by the school boundary. The site is located on a geology of Lincolnshire Oolitic Limestone (Institute of Geological Sciences, 1: 50 000 map Sheet 114, Lincoln, Solid and Drift) at the southern end of the 'Lincoln Edge', a Jurassic ridge running between Lincoln and the Humber. The ridge is broken to the south by 'The Lincoln Gap'. The 'Gap', which was originally formed by a large east-west river and glacial outflows, now contains the River Witham.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (see Fig. 2)

The study area contains a section of the eastern defences of the Roman and medieval city. These remains have been investigated on a number of separate occasions, most notably during excavations covering the period 1938-46 and in 1973. These investigations revealed the ditch and rampart of the legionary fortress, together with a feature interpreted as a palisade trench thought to have held a revetment at the front of the rampart. A group of postholes probably represented remains of an interval-tower (Jones 1980). There has been no definite evidence for defences of the subsequent *colonia* period but it has been suggested that a layer of pitched stones extending over the palisade trench and partially sealing the legionary ditch might relate to the *colonia* wall. However, the feature's position in relation to the legionary defences differed from the arrangement seen at other points on the defensive circuit. The inner edge of a broad ditch (estimated width c. 24m) was found to the west of the legionary period ditch; its dating was inconclusive and either a *colonia* period or medieval period date is possible.

In 1995, a watching brief during construction of the north-south wall forming the eastern boundary of the site resulted in the discovery of possible remains of the Roman rampart and a north-south wall interpreted as a possible post-medieval field boundary; a boundary wall is depicted on 18th - 19th century maps and illustrations of the area (Jarvis 1996a).

Another watching brief was carried out in 1996 during construction of the existing southern boundary wall and the porched entrance to the school hall. The porch wall foundations (c. 700mm deep max) revealed a lower deposit of compact clay/sand sealed by a sandy soil. The boundary wall foundation trench (c. 600 - 800mm deep) revealed fragmented limestone at its base sealed by a dark brown soil. A large cut feature was interpreted as a trench excavated by archaeologists during the 1938-46 investigations (Jarvis 1996b).

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the project were to:

- *produce a record of the stratigraphic sequence and to characterise deposits across the site.*
- *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 and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (LUAD).*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The investigations included dynamic penetration testing (DCP Nos. 1-6) at six points aligned east-west across the site and a single borehole (WS 5) near to the porched entrance to the school hall. Descriptions of deposits encountered in the borehole follow the Lincs Lab borehole log, with supplementary archaeological interpretative comments.

6.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (see Fig. 3)

The accompanying plot shows DCP2 and DCP3 to lie on opposing sides of the legionary ditch while DCP4 is almost certainly sited on the sloping eastern side of the later Roman or medieval ditch. Further to the west, DCP5 and DCP6 would appear to have reached the broad base of the later ditch. DCP1 appears to lie to the east of the legionary palisade trench.

The borehole (WS 5), located a short distance to the north of DCP5 attained a depth 4.15m before reaching a solid geology of oolitic limestone. The discrepancy between this and DCP 5 probably arises from DCP penetrating further into the underlying limestone. The sequence of deposits in the borehole was as follows:

0 - 0.25m	Dry medium dense brown silty fine sandy TOPSOIL (CLAU No. 001).
0.25 - 1.25m	Dry becoming moist medium dense becoming loose brown silty fine SAND with a little fragmented brick and weathered white oolitic limestone (CLAU No. 002).
1.25 - 1.65m	Firm light brown with traces of grey sandy CLAY with a little powdered brick and fragmented limestone (CLAU No. 003).
1.65 - 4.15m	Very soft light yellowy brown and grey, fine sandy CLAY with a little fragmented oolitic limestone (CLAU No. 004).
4.15m	Hard slightly weathered oolitic limestone at base (CLAU No. 005).

Deposits 002 and 003 could represent infilling of the ditch from the medieval and/or post-medieval period onwards.

The origin of the basal deposit (004) is more problematic since a number of 'voids' were encountered in the borehole - probably reflecting blocking by obstructions as the casing passed through soft ground. Soft clays extracted from the lowest levels may have formed through silting into the base of the ditch.

It should be noted that the borehole lay in close proximity to previously excavated ground. There is, therefore, a possibility (given a margin of error in plotting) that material encountered within the borehole comprised comparatively recent backfill.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Maps contained within this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Lincoln City Council Licence No. AL 100028765.

The author of this report would like to thank Richard Humphrey of Lincs Lab for his cooperation and assistance throughout.

Project Team

Russell Trimble	Project Officer (field/post-excavation)
John Hockley	Project Manager

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jarvis, M, 1996a *Westgate Junior School, Westgate, Lincoln. Archaeological Watching Brief.* CLAU Report No. 226

Jarvis, M, 1996b *Westgate Junior School, Westgate, Lincoln, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief.* CLAU Report No. 252

Jones, M J 1980 *The Defences of the Upper Roman Enclosure, The Archaeology of Lincoln 7-1*, CBA, London

9.0 LHA NOTE, ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON612

CLAU REPORT No.: 527

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 2003/0589/CCC

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: SK 9740 7203

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 24 September 2003

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Lincs Lab

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.: -

ACCESSION DATE: -

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.



