



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Installation of CCTV Cameras, Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

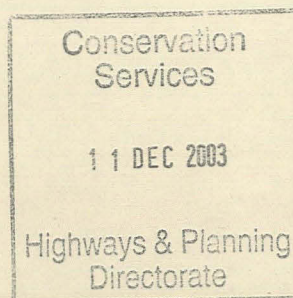
NGR: SK 9762 7155
Site Code: UGL 03
LCNCC Museum Accn Code: 2003.338
Planning ref.: 2002/0203/CCC

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for
Hyder Business Services

by I. Rowlandson MA

LAS Report No. 715
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Installation of CCTV Cameras, Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

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Installation of CCTV Cameras, Usher Gallery, Lincoln. Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the installation of two security cameras in the grounds of the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln. The excavations at the front of the building revealed a modern pipe, associated with the existing buildings, and a late post-medieval land drain. The shallow nature of the excavations allied and the proximity of the groundworks to the gallery and probable landscaping associated with its construction of its frontage. The excavations to the north east of the building for the second camera showed a section into the build up of land behind the gallery. No archaeological features were observed.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Hyder Business Services (HBS) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the erection of two security cameras (Figs. 1 & 2). The watching brief was required by the local planning authority to fulfil a condition on the planning permission. Groundworks were monitored by the author on the 13th, 14th and 15th October 2003

Site Location

The site lies the north of Lindum Hill in the Temple Gardens. The Usher Art Gallery was built in the 1920s with a later extension to the west of the main building. Two camera installations were planned one on the south west corner of the original building frontage and the second located on the north eastern corner of the main building. The parkland behind the gallery slopes steeply to the north.

Planning Background

Listed Building Consent was granted for the erection of the CCTV cameras within the curtilage of the building, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

Archaeological Background

The Usher Gallery was built between 1921- 1926 as a purpose-built gallery to house the collection left to the City of Lincoln by the Lincoln-born jeweller James Ward Usher. The impressive neo-classical building was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield R.A. and was formally opened by HRH Prince of Wales in 1927 (website 1). Built in the grounds of the Temple Gardens the gallery lies close to the course of the Roman lower town defences and to the south of the Bishop's palace which overlooks the gallery and Temple gardens. It was thought possible that new installation might disturb medieval or

Roman archaeological remains as course of the Roman lower east wall (plotted Fig. 1) runs close to the location of camera B.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 2)

Excavations were conducted by Simons' workmen with hand tools under the observation of the author. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used in bold in the text (Appendix 1). The photographic record was lost due to a camera malfunction.

Frontage Camera Installation (A) (Fig. 3)

The groundworks required for the erection of the camera consisted of a one metre square foundation pit cut to a maximum depth of 1.2m (below the existing path level 27.645m AOD). The foundation pit was located 1.2m south of the corner of south west angle of the original building of the original building. A cable trench, 4.68m in length, was cut from the eastern edge of the foundation pit to the eastern wall of the west wing of the gallery with a width of 0.45m and a depth of 0.45m. This cable trench met the gallery extension at the centre of the first blocked up window south of the redundant steps.

A compacted limestone and light grey clay path surface, **103**, extends from the edge of the lawn, **102**, to the steps and the grassy slope to the south at the front of the gallery. The path makeup, **103**, varied in depth from the thin 0.03m visible in the southern section of the foundation to a depth of 0.30m exposed in the cable trench 0.5m from the gallery wall. Flowerbed **101**, a dark brown clay silt, was exposed in the north section of the foundation to a depth of 0.10 above surface level. To the east of the foundation pit **102** a lawn soil, light brown clay silt, was exposed to a depth of 0.20m below the surface. Below **101**, **102** and **103** a dark brown clay silt, **104**, was exposed with was present to the bottom of the trench. Two pipes were encountered running from east to west **107** was a green brown salt glazed pipe which was left *in situ* and **110** a two piece hand made mid orange ceramic field drain. The cuts for both pipe trenches, **105** and **108** respectively, were difficult to discern due to their similarity of backfill, **106** and **109** to the dark brown silty clay **104**.

Rear Camera Installation (B) (Fig. 4)

The groundworks undertaken comprised the excavation of a one metre square foundation pit cut into the sloping bank to the north east of the gallery. It was 1.2m deep into the northern upslope edge and 0.80m to the southern down slope edge. No features were observed during the excavation but a profile of the deposition at the edge of the bank was exposed and recorded.

A cable trench, 4.68m in length, extended from the southern edge of the foundation pit to the north wall of the east wing of the gallery with a width of 0.45m and a depth of 0.45m. The cable trench was cut through a rough limestone pathway **207** to a maximum depth of 0.25m and the modern concrete surface **208** to a maximum depth of 0.30m (level of concrete 29.345m AOD). The concrete was broken with a pneumatic drill and a curved path was cut to avoid a grid and downspout located at the corner

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Archaeological Services

of the concrete surface. The cable trench widened to 0.9m m at the edge of the building due to the necessity of finding a suitable area of the gallery wall to drill through for the cable installation. Beneath both **207** and **208** a dark brown silty clay was encountered.

The camera foundation was excavated into the bank at a depth of 1.2m from the northern upslope side and 0.8m to the southern down slope edge where the concrete base was to protrude from above turf level. The turf was cut from a maximum height of 30.195m AOD at the north of the foundation cut. The turf and topsoil **201**, mid brown silty clay, was evident 0.3m in depth at the north of the foundation sloping to a thickness of 0.6m at the southern most edge. Beneath this **202**, a light brown clay, and **203**, a blue green clay, were exposed in the northerly face. Both **202** and **203** appeared to have been truncated as they were only exposed in the north section. Underlying **201** and **203** a brown silt sand layer, **204**, occurred above a green blue clay, **205**. Exposed at the base of the trench, beneath **204**, a orange sandy clay, **205**, was encountered but not excavated to a depth of 0.15m.

Conclusion

The limited area and shallow nature of the excavations failed to produce any evidence other than the post medieval land drain. The impact of the installation of the CCTV camera was negligible. This was in part due to the landscaping of the grounds when the Usher Gallery was built.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from the Simons' employees. Illustrations were prepared by the author. The report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Ian Rowlandson MA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
3rd December 2003

References

Stocker, D. ed. *et al*, 2003, *City by the Pool: Assessing the Archaeology of the City of Lincoln*, Oxbow, Oxford.

Website 1, <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?docId=28007>

Accessed 14/8/03

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans

Field plans and section drawings

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Installation of CCTV Cameras, Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

Context Summary

Context Number	Camera	Type	Description
101	A	Layer	Flowerbed topsoil. Dark brown clay silt.
102	A	Layer	Lawn topsoil. Mid brown clay silt.
103	A	Layer	Current Path surface. Compact limestone rubble with a light grey clay matrix.
104	A	Layer	Made ground. Dark brown clay silt.
105	A	Cut	Cut for drain (107).
106	A	Fill	Fill of drain (107). Dark brown clay silt.
107	A	Fill	Salt glazed drain.
108	A	Cut	Cut for drain (110)
109	A	Fill	Fill of drain (110). Dark brown clay silt.
110	A	Fill	Two piece hand made field drain.
201	B	Layer	Lawn topsoil. Mid brown clay silt.
202	B	Layer	Light Brown clay.
203	B	Layer	Blue Green clay.
204	B	Layer	Brown silt sand.
205	B	Layer	Green blue clay.
206	B	Layer	Orange sandy clay
207	B	Layer	Pathway. Large limestone gravel and a compacted light grey clay
208	B	Layer	Pathway. Modern concrete
209	B	Layer	Dark brown loam with building rubble

THE FIGURES

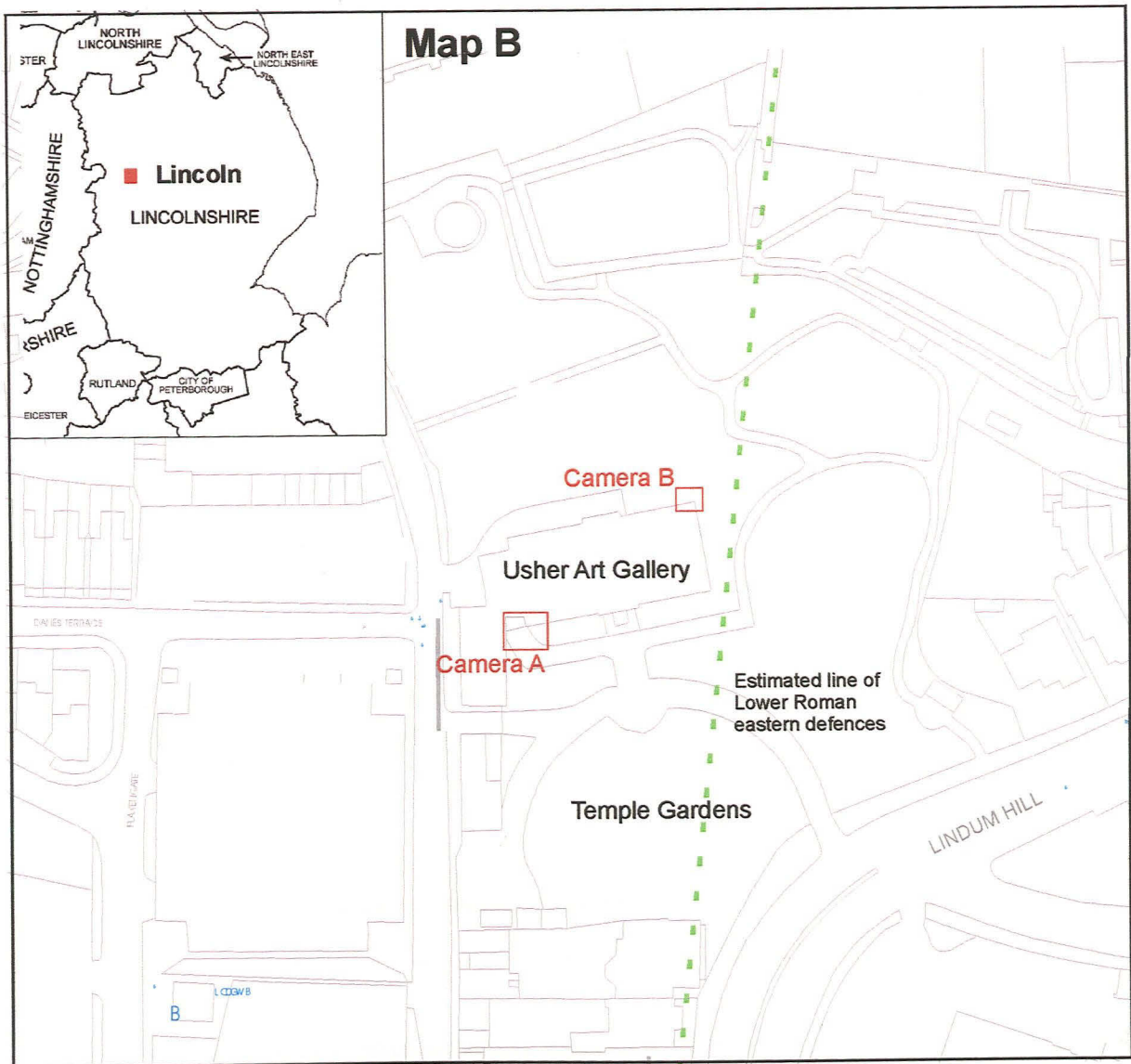
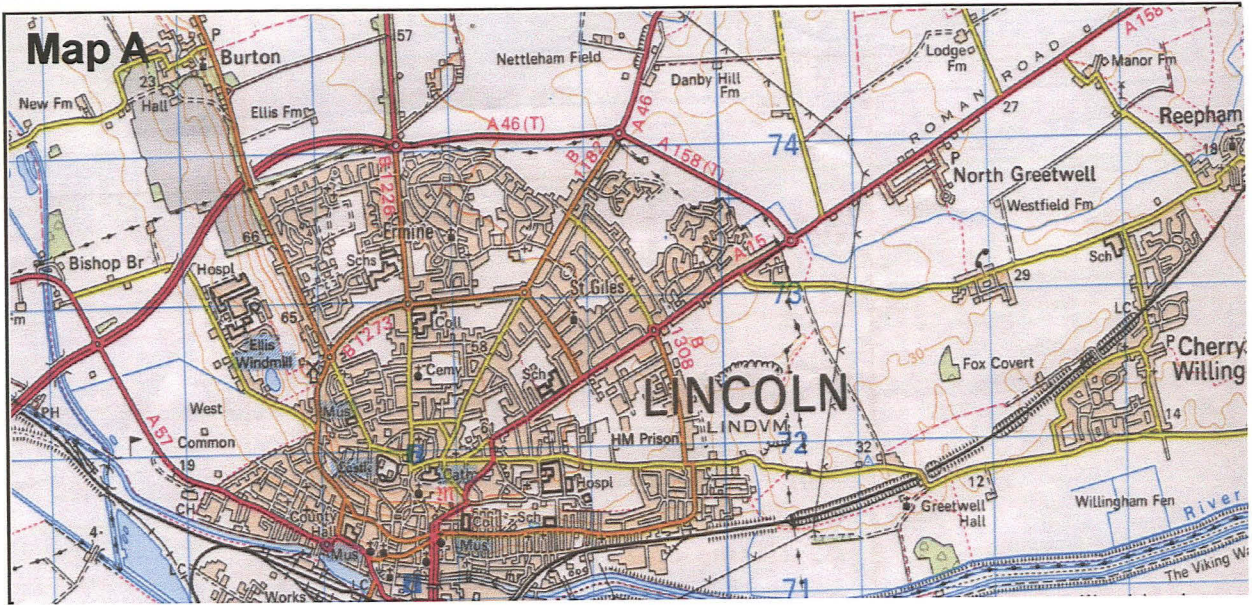
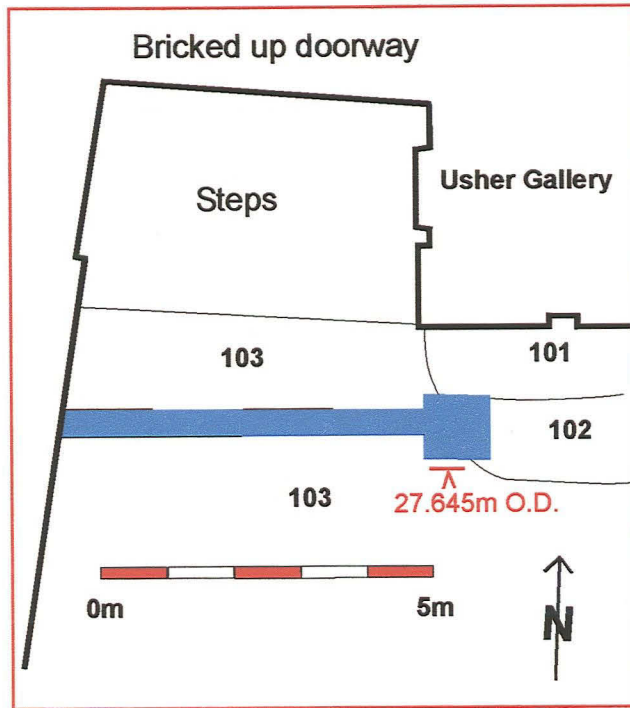


Fig. 1 Location of the development site, The Usher Art Gallery .
 (A) 1:50,000 OS Map (B) based on a 1:1250 scale map (after Stocker ed. 2003 Fig 1.1).
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Camera A



Camera B

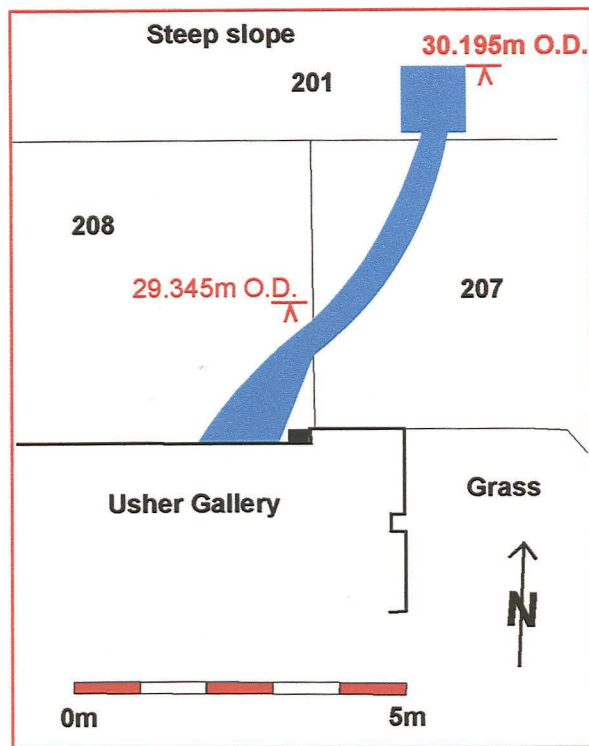


Fig. 2 Detailed location of camera positions A and B.
Sky blue shows area excavated. (after plan provided by client)

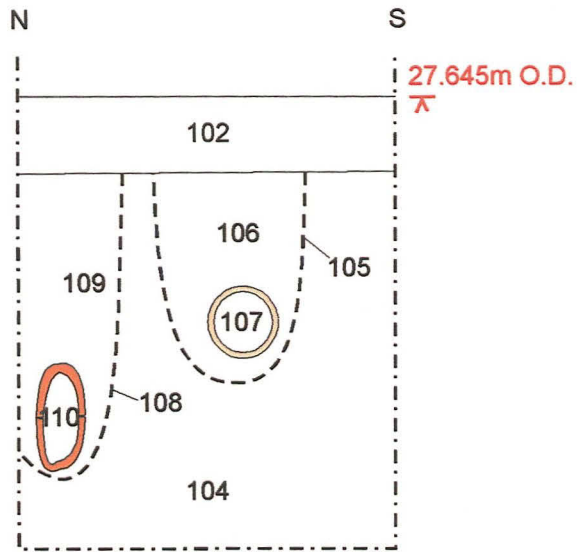


Fig. 3 Section of Frontage camera foundation

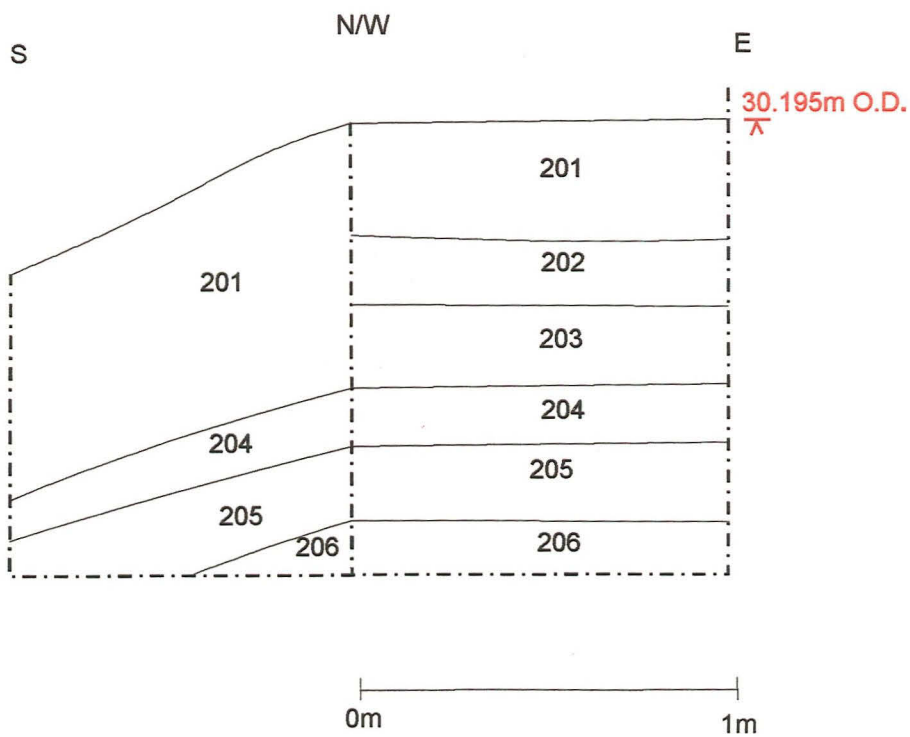


Fig. 4 Section of Rear camera foundation