

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
REPORT  
FORBES ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

NGR: TF 3397 4383  
Planning Ref. B/01/0599/OUTL  
Accession No. 2003.375

Report prepared for  
Hugh Bourn Developments (Wragby) Ltd,

by  
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December 2003



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### Summary

- A programme of archaeological trial excavation was undertaken in the grounds of a former Congregational Church on Forbes Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. This work was undertaken to assist in the determination of a planning application relating to the construction of seven bungalows on the site.
- Two trenches were opened, but neither contained any archaeological features. However, the topsoil in Trench 2 was found to contain a range of artefactual material, which included medieval, post-medieval and early modern pottery and tile. Further 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century tile was recovered from a layer of hardcore forming a modern yard surface over Trench 1. It seems likely that this ceramic debris was introduced in midden deposits, or spoil that had been spread over the field that occupied this area prior to the creation of Forbes Road.



**Figure 1:** Site location at a scale of 1: 12,500.  
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## 1.0 Introduction

Hugh Bourn Developments (Wragby) Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a programme of trial excavation in the grounds of a former Congregational Church on Forbes Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. This investigation was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to the determination of a planning application for the construction of seven bungalows.

This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation and also incorporates an assessment by a specialist researcher who studied the archaeological materials recovered during the excavation. The text follows current national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and local guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

## 2.0 Location and description

Boston is situated in the silt fens of southern Lincolnshire, approximately 7 km from the north-west coast of the Wash. It lies approximately 45 km to the south-east of Lincoln and 37 km to the east of Grantham. The development site is located near the eastern edge of the town, less than 150m from the boundary with the parish of Fishtoft (fig. 1).

The site is a slightly irregular sub-rectangular unit of land extending to approximately 1300m<sup>2</sup>. The former Congregational Church is a large single storey building constructed from yellow brick, which occupies roughly a quarter of this area. It is situated on the eastern half of the site and its long axis is aligned parallel to Forbes Road. The remainder of the plot has been covered with rubble to create hard surfacing suitable for car parking. The eastern boundary of the site fronts onto Forbes Road and is defined by a low brick wall, the other edges being delineated by wooden fences. Access is obtained via two gates in the eastern wall and another at the south-western corner of the site. The ground surface is level and situated at approximately 2.4m AOD.

Local soils comprise Tanvats Association alluvial gleys and Wisbech Association Calcareous alluvial gleys, which have developed in marine alluvium (Hodge, et al., 1984); the latter are largely derived from the nearby River Witham, which is tidal in this area. These waterborne sediments cover glacial drift deposits, which extend across the depression of the Fen Basin, from the Lincolnshire Wolds to the East Anglian Heights (BGS, 1995). The underlying solid geology is Jurassic clay.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 3397 4383.

### 3.0 Planning background

Hugh Bourn Developments (Wragby) Ltd has applied to Boston Borough Council for outline planning permission to demolish the redundant Congregational Church and construct seven bungalows on the site (planning ref. B/01/0599/OUTL). The council, acting on the advice of Boston Community Archaeologist, has requested that a programme of investigation be undertaken to determine the archaeological potential of the site. This procedure would inform the decision making process and enable the application to be determined.

### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The extent of the prehistoric Fenland is not easy to define, as this low-lying area has been subject to sustained periods of inundation relating to changes in sea level. At these times it is likely that much of the region was unsuited to permanent human occupation, a theory supported by the punctuated nature of the archaeological record. Surviving evidence of any prehistoric activity that did take place during drier periods is likely to be masked beneath a substantial accumulation of alluvium.

There is some evidence for Roman and later Anglo-Saxon activity around Boston, which indicates that these are likely to have been drier episodes. Conversely, an absence of early Saxon material has been attributed to the submergence of the land surface at this time (Harden, 1978).

Romano-British artefacts have been recovered from a number of places in the south-eastern part of the town. Pottery was discovered in 1960, during the construction of St Nicholas School, which lies c. 350m to the south of the site (Palmer-Brown, 1995a). Further Roman ceramic material was recovered ten years later when Woad Farm School was built, this structure lying only 175m to the south of the former Congregational Church (APS, 1996).

Stratified Romano-British remains were exposed during excavations in advance of the erection of a new music and arts block at Boston Grammar School, located c. 950m to the west of the site (Palmer-Brown, 1996a). A deposit of silt situated between 2.30m and 2.85m OD contained sherds of domestic greyware and Nene Valley pottery dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Additionally, this deposit contained a large quantity of fired clay, which may have been the residue of an industrial activity such as salt production, although the environmental analysis did not provide support for this interpretation (Rackham, in Palmer-Brown, 1996a). Further evidence of Roman activity in this part of the town is provided by coins found adjacent to Hussey Tower, the latter being situated c. 900m west-south-west of Forbes Road, and contemporary greyware pottery retrieved from secondary contexts on land near St John's Hospital, which lay approximately 50m further to the south (Brown, 1993).

The remains of two Middle Saxon *grubenhäuser* (sunken-featured buildings) were identified during the construction of a nursery school and resource centre on land off Church Road, c. 375m to the south-west of the site (Palmer-Brown, 1996b). Four ditches, or gullies were also exposed close to these structures and, although undated,

their proximity implies contemporaneity. Maxey-type pottery was recovered from the fills of the two buildings, which indicated that they were utilised during the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. Other archaeological evidence indicated that this area was very wet for much of the year, and as a consequence it is likely that these structures were only occupied on a seasonal basis.

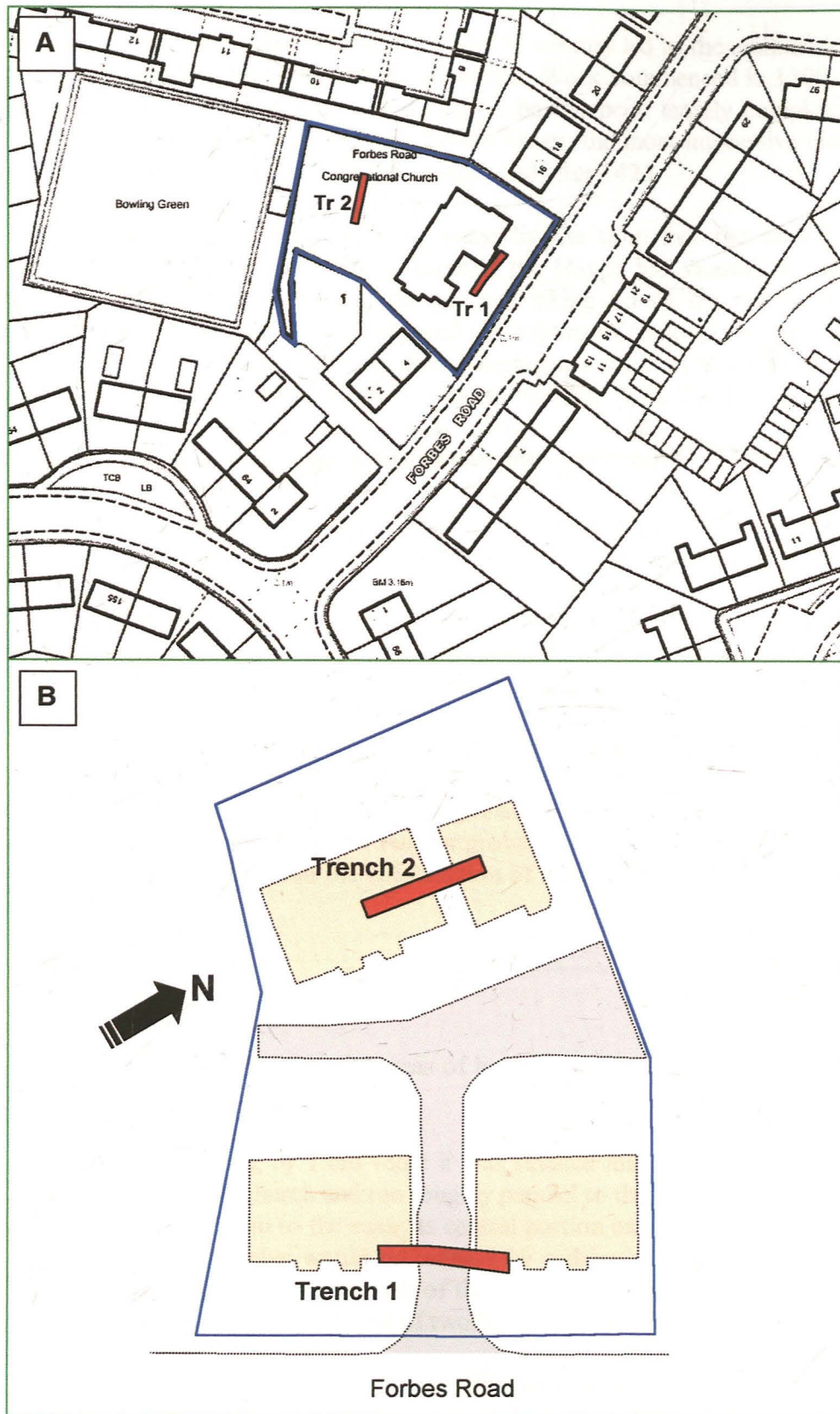
A more extensive Late Saxon settlement was discovered on land off Whitehouse Lane, Fishtoft, located 1.2km to the south-east of the site (Palmer-Brown, 1995b, 1997). Archaeological features included several *grubenhäuser* and associated enclosures, which formed elements of a settlement that was occupied on a permanent basis between the later-9<sup>th</sup> and mid-10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Many of the features contained substantial quantities of burnt material, which suggested that this settlement had been destroyed by fire; the date of this event, combined with the proximity of the site to the coast, raised the possibility that this conflagration could have been the result of a Viking raid. It seems likely that late 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century settlement was focussed in the areas that subsequently developed into the medieval cores of the villages of Skirbeck and Fishtoft.

The fees of Skirbeck and Wyberton were given to Alan Rufus, Earl of Richmond, in 1071. This Norman lord founded Boston, establishing a port and instituting associated fairs on the eastern bank of the Witham (Owen, 1984). It has been suggested that the outfall of the Witham had only become established in this location as late as the 10<sup>th</sup> century, making the prior establishment of a harbour impossible (Harden, 1978).

An earthwork called the Barditch was constructed to contain the area of the town situated on the eastern side of the Witham; it seems likely that this occurred between 1140 and 1160, possibly as a result of the civil war that took place during the reign of King Stephen (Owen, 1984). At the northern end it branched off the Deppol, in the marshes at the top end of Wormgate, rejoining the river via St John's Gowt, located at the junction of South End and Skirbeck Road. The site lies approximately 1km to the east of the Barditch, and thus is well outside the core of the medieval town.

The port at Boston developed rapidly and during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries was second only to London, with respect to the volume of trade handled. Indeed, between 1279 and 1289 the custom duties paid by the town exceeded those of the nation's capital by one third (Pevsner, & Harris, 1989). Wool was the principal export, much of it being produced by the numerous religious establishments in the county (Lambert & Walker, 1930).

The commercial success of the port was reflected by the fact that merchants from Bruges, Douai, Rouen, Caen, Ypres, Ostend, Calais, Arras and Köln settled in the town (Thompson, 1856). Traders from the Baltic States of the Hanseatic League were particularly prominent in the community, having established their own steelyard (a guildhall and fortified warehouse) and a dock, to the immediate south of Skirbeck Road, by the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Lambert & Walker, 1930). These foreign merchants had a strong relationship with the Franciscan friary, possibly because many of the friars in that establishment are thought to have been of German origin. There were also Dominican, Augustinian and Carmelite friaries within the town.



**Figure 2:** Trench location plan – **A:** showing position of trenches relative to the redundant Congregational Church, at 1:1,250. **B:** The position of the trenches (in red) relative to the elements of the proposed development, at 1:500.



The prosperity of the port at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century led to the commissioning of magnificent church to reflect the status of Boston. Work commenced in 1309, with the construction of the chancel, nave and chapels having been largely completed by 1390 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). The huge lantern tower, the most impressive element of St Botolph's Church, was added to the western end after 1425.

The fortunes of the town had started to wane by the time that the church was completed. A sluice that had previously scoured the Haven had ceased to function effectively by 1315. This resulted in the gradual silting up of the outfall, which prevented access by larger vessels and reduced the volume of trade (Lewis & Wright, 1974). The nature of the wool trade was also changing as a result of high import tariffs and a marked increase in the production of English woollen cloth. The town entered a period of relative stagnation and isolation that lasted until the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Thompson, 1856). It was at this time that a comprehensive programme of drainage and reclamation of the surrounding fens was initiated. The first significant phase in this scheme was the digging of a new channel to the south of the town and the construction of the Grand Sluice at its northern end in order to control tidal influxes up the river.

Initially, the 8,900 ha of Holland Fen were transformed from rough, seasonally waterlogged pasture into rich agricultural land (Wright, 1994). Subsequently, during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and largely as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, it became financially viable to drain additional fenland and the 16,200 ha of East, West and Wildmore Fens were brought into cultivation. All of this new land was especially productive and Boston became the centre through which the resultant agricultural produce passed. Wharves, warehouses and granaries were erected along the river frontage to facilitate this new business. Further growth resulted from the completion of a railway connection in 1848 and the construction of a new dock in 1881 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

## 5.0 Methodology

Two trenches were opened within the areas of hard surfacing located to the east and west of the redundant church (fig. 2).

Trench 1 - 10m long by 1.6m wide: it was situated immediately to the east of the entrance to the church and ran roughly parallel to the boundary with Forbes Road, which lay 5.4m to the east. Its central portion examined an area that the outline design indicates would be crossed by a drive providing access to the three properties in the western half of the proposed development. The ends of the trench lay within the footprint of two bungalows flanking this road.

Trench 2 - 10m long by 1.6m wide: it was situated at the centre of the larger open area to the west of the former church, running parallel to, and c. 12m from, the western perimeter. It was positioned to cross the centre of two of the three bungalows, which outline design depicts on this half of the site.

A JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide, toothless ditching blade was used to remove the layer of hard surfacing and the uppermost sedimentary deposits in spits no greater than 0.1m

in depth. The removal of these deposits was monitored constantly in order to identify any archaeological features, or materials uncovered by this process.

No archaeological features were exposed in either trench, but written descriptions were made of all the deposits that had been exposed. Scale drawings of the trenches were made in both plan and section. A photographic record was maintained (colour slide), with selected images having been reproduced in this report (the remainder will form part of the project archive).

Two experienced field archaeologists carried out the excavation during a single day, the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

Artefactual materials recovered from the site were cleaned and processed prior to their submission to a researcher specialising in the examination of archaeological materials. The results of these analyses have been included as an independent appendix to this report, and the general conclusions of this investigation have been integrated into the main text.

## **6.0 Results**

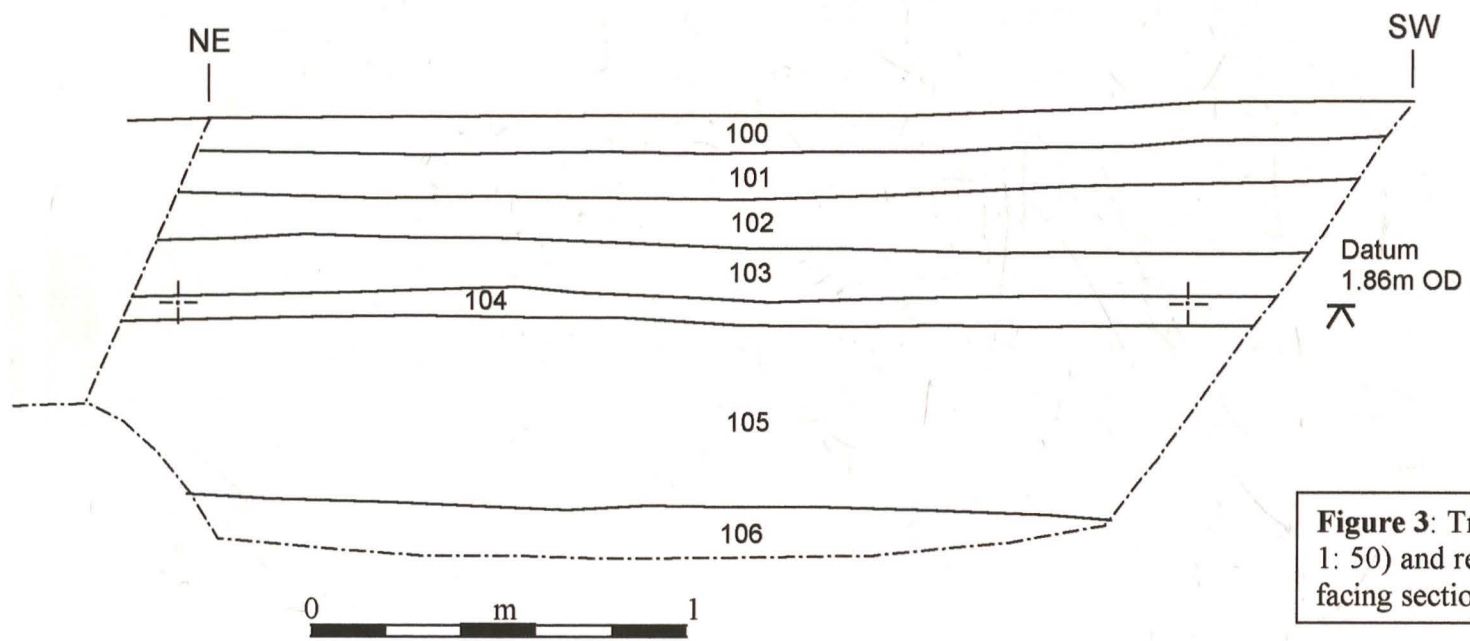
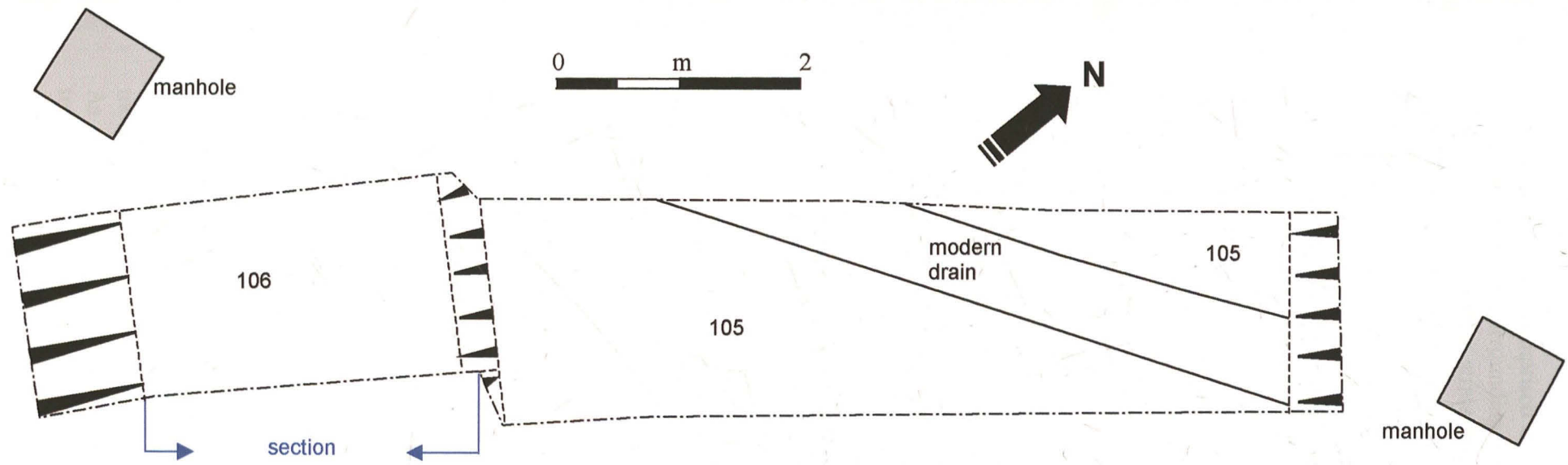
### **Trench 1**

(see fig. 3)

Trench 1 was situated in the yard immediately to the east of the redundant church. The metalled surface of this open area was partially obscured by weeds. The metalling, (100), consisted of a 0.10m thick layer of compacted, but loose sub-angular limestone chippings and fine grit, which were coated with bitumen. This material had been laid upon a hardcore foundation, (101), c. 0.10m deep, which was largely comprised of whole and partial red bricks that had been laid horizontally. Two pieces of medieval flat roof tile were recovered from this rubble layer, which suggested that it was comprised of a diverse range of coarse materials that had probably been brought from the town centre (Appendix 13.2).

Removal of the layer of bricks exposed a deposit of dark greyish-brown sandy silt, (102), which contained occasional small limestone fragments and flecks of charcoal. This deposit was directly comparable to the buried topsoil, (201), seen in Trench 2. However, as (102) was only 0.14m deep it seems likely that it had been truncated in preparation for the deposition of (010) and (100). Beneath this former topsoil was a deposit of mid grey slightly silty clay, (103), up to 0.20m deep. Its stratigraphic relationship to (102) suggested that it had constituted the subsoil prior to the construction of the Congregational Church.

The next deposit encountered was a relatively thin layer of mid greyish-brown silty clay, (104), c. 0.08m deep. The removal of (104) exposed a mid brown to greyish-brown silt, (105), c. 0.50m deep. The latter had built up over a mixed deposit of pale to mid grey and pale greyish-brown silty clay, (106), which was more than 0.14m deep. There were no coarse inclusions in (104), (105) or (106), and the interfaces between each of them were poorly defined. These characteristics suggest that all three



**Figure 3:** Trench 1 – plan (at scale 1: 50) and representative north-west facing section (at scale 1: 20).

of these deposits are comprised of fine alluvial silts and clays, which had accumulated in the salt marshes surrounding Boston. The variations in colour and composition exhibited by these lower strata are likely to reflect gradual, localised changes in the depositional environment.

A single feature was exposed in Trench 1. This was a north-east to south-west aligned service trench. It contained a modern surface water drain, or sewage outlet for the church, and was formed by interlocking sections of brown-glazed ceramic pipe. It extended across the northern half Trench 1, and clearly ran between two manhole covers.

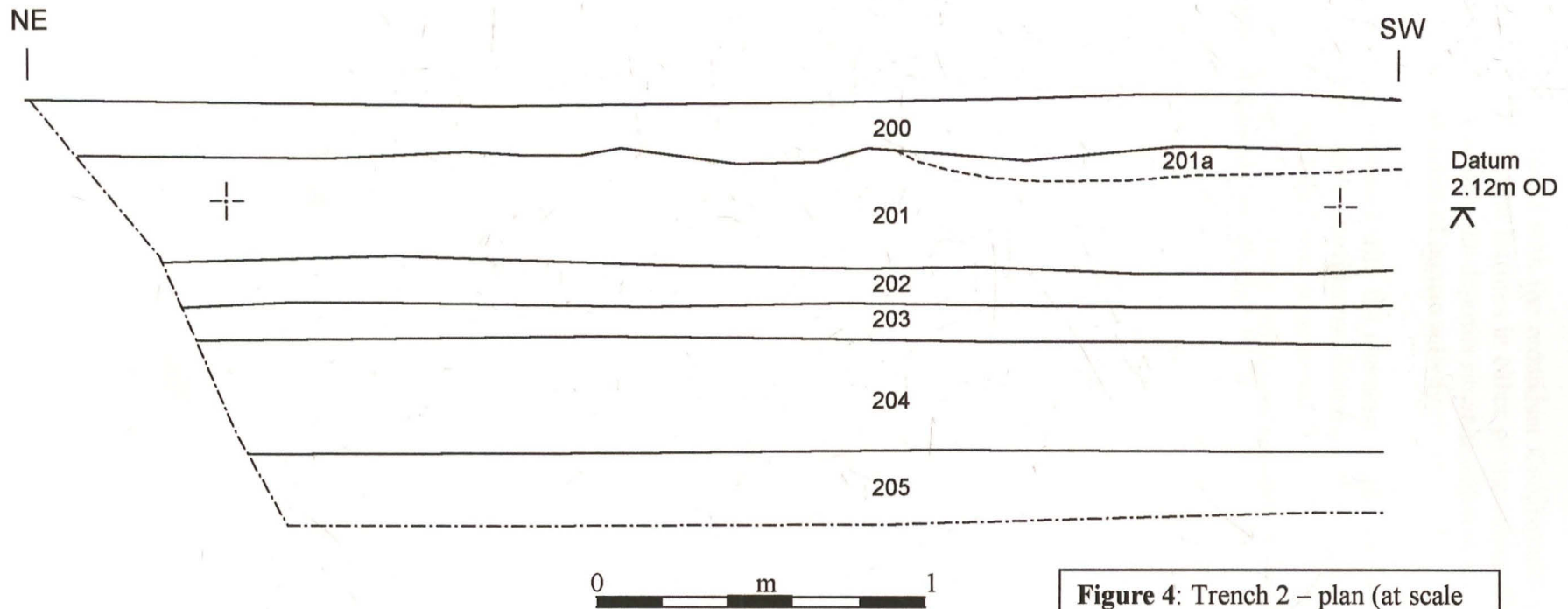
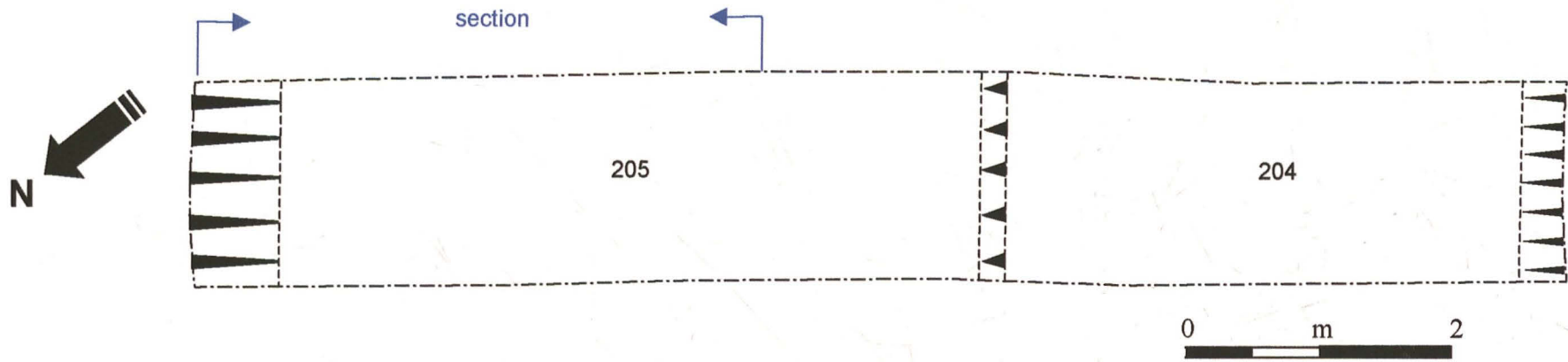
## **Trench 2**

(See fig. 4)

The larger yard on the western side of the church also had a metallised surface, (200), which was up to 0.18m deep. It was formed from sub-angular fragments of concrete and tarmac, mixed with pea shingle and flint gravel. These coarse components had been compacted and the interstices between them were filled by dark grey silty sand. This hardcore had been deposited directly onto the pre-existing ground surface without any preparation and had smothered a vegetation layer, (201)a, which was still partially preserved as a dense concentration of stalks and roots, c.0.06m thick. The relatively good state of preservation of (201)a suggested that surface (200) had not been in place for long, and had probably been created to increase the amount of car parking available for the second hand shop that had latterly utilised the former Congregational Church.

The vegetation, (201)a, had infiltrated and been supported by the upper component of a former topsoil, a mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt, (201), c. 0.40m deep. This deposit contained a large quantity of coarse components, which included fragments of post-medieval brick, 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century tile, sandstone and coal, flint gravel, oyster shell and pieces of clay pipe. A small quantity of pottery was also recovered. There was a range of fabrics, which included Toynton and Bourne wares produced during the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Cistercian-type and Black-glazed wares of the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and a piece of transfer printed ware manufactured during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 13.2). Deposit (201) was very mixed and there was no chronological differentiation between the finds of different periods. For example, a piece of green glazed medieval pottery was found directly above fragments of clay pipe. This provided a strong indication that the deposit had been homogenised by ploughing, or some other form of deep cultivation.

Removal of the buried topsoil, (201), exposed a 0.12m deep layer of mid orangey-brown silty clay, (202), which had frequent pale grey mottles and moderate rusty mottles. It is probable that (202) was a subsoil, given its relationship to (201). Sealed beneath (202) was a pale bluish-grey clayey silt, with moderate rusty mottles, (203), which was c. 0.14m deep. The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 2 consisted of a 0.34m deep layer of mid pinkish to orangey-brown clayey silt, (204), which overlay a mottled orangey-brown to pale grey silty clay, (205), that was more than 0.23m deep. As observed in Trench 1, it is likely that the sedimentary deposits beneath the former topsoil are composed of alluvium laid down in a low energy, marshy environment.



**Figure 4:** Trench 2 – plan (at scale 1: 50) and representative north-west facing section (at scale 1: 20).

## 7.0 Interpretation and discussion

Although there was a modern service associated with the redundant Congregational Church in Trench 1, there were no archaeological features in either of the evaluation trenches. Furthermore, it should be noted that only the deposits situated within 0.5m of the present ground surface exhibited any evidence of human activity.

The absence of archaeological features, combined with the character of the silts and clays exposed toward the base of both trenches, provides an indication that this area originally formed part of the extensive marshland that surrounded Boston. An early plan of the area indicates that the drainage of the marsh had occurred prior to 1833 ('Map of Skirbeck in the county of Lincoln as divided by Act of Parliament' – Lincolnshire Archives Office ref: *Holland Awards 1*). At this time, the site lay within the more northerly of two fields owned by a W. Birtwhistle. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890-91 indicates that these fields had been amalgamated to form a large sub-rectangular unit by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (fig. 5). Although Washdike Lane ran along the eastern edge of this field and Freiston Road defined its north-eastern corner, there were no buildings, or others forms of development within 200m of the site at this time.

An aerial photograph taken in June 1950 depicts the site and its environs (held by the National Monuments Record, Swindon; reproduced as figure 6, Clay, 2003). This image demonstrates that although there had been ribbon development along Washdike Lane, the remainder of the large field shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map - including the site - was still under cultivation.

The only archaeological material recovered during the evaluation came from a modern hardcore deposit in Trench 1 and the buried topsoil exposed in Trench 2. Pottery and tile recovered from (201) had been produced over a 600-year period spanning the 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Given the presence of medieval pottery, it is possible that the area surrounding Forbes Road formed part of the open field system that adjoining Boston, in which case the pottery was introduced in contemporary midden deposits. A continuation of this practice would account for the presence of post-medieval and early modern pottery, tile and clay pipe. However, there is no evidence for any development in the immediate vicinity until at least the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which raises the possibility that the drainage of this area did not occur until after the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. If this were case, the medieval and early post-medieval artefacts will have been residual material incorporated into later midden deposits that were imported onto the site. The latter could include household waste and nightsoil (sewage) brought from ash-pits in the town centre. Alternatively, the rapid expansion of the town after the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century would have resulted in the creation of a vast amount of spoil. It is possible that this material was spread across fields on the outskirts of Boston. This process would account both for the depth of the topsoil observed in Trench 2, and for the date range of the artefacts that it contained.



Figure 5: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890-91, 6": 1 mile (not reproduced to scale). The approximate location of the proposed development is shown in red, with the alignment of Forbes Road highlighted in green. The approximate position of a redundant field boundary shown on an 1833 map of the Holland Awards for the parish of Skirbeck is shown as a dashed blue line.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

Both of the trenches failed to detect the presence of any archaeological features. Given that all parts of the site lie within 15m of either Trench 1 or Trench 2, there is a low probability that any significant archaeological remains are situated within the area that will be affected by the proposed development.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The evaluation achieved its primary objective by determining that there are unlikely to be any significant archaeological remains situated within the confines of the site. As a result, it is considered to be unlikely that the development will have any effect upon the heritage resource.

## **10.0 Site archive**

The site archive for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum (physical) and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2003.375.

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Hugh Bourn Developments Ltd for commissioning this programme of archaeological investigation. The author also extends his thanks to Dave Bower in appreciation of his efforts on site.



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**Appendix 13.1: Colour photographs**



**Plate 1:** General view of the front of the redundant Forbes Road Congregational Church showing the location of Trench 1, looking north-east.



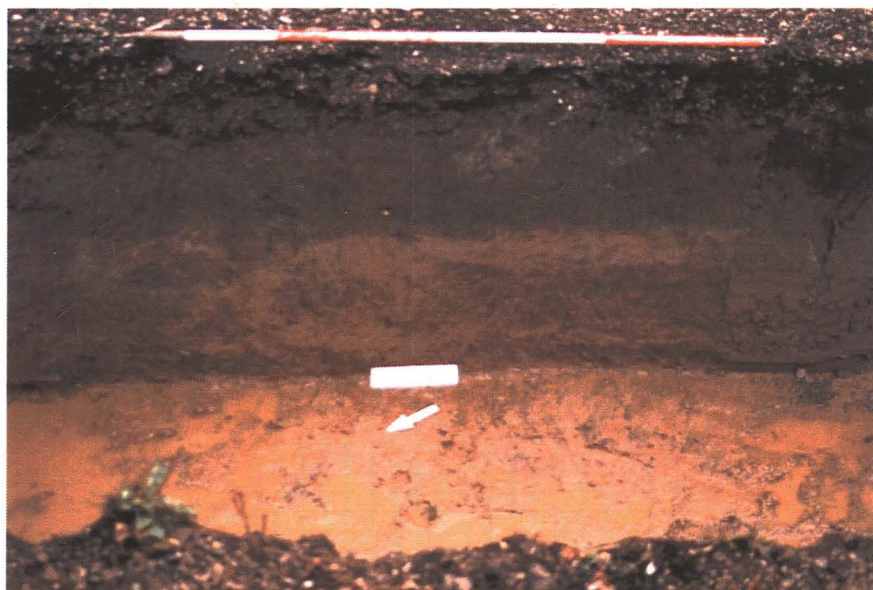
**Plate 2:** Trench 1, showing drain from the church running diagonally across trench, with the steps at the entrance to the church near top right, looking south-west.



**Plate 3:** Section at the south-western end of Trench 1, looking south-east.



**Plate 4:** General view of the rear of the redundant Congregational Church showing the location of Trench 2, looking south-east.



**Plate 5:** Section at the north-eastern end of Trench 2, the dark greyish-brown buried topsoil, (201), being clearly visible beneath the yard surface and above the orangey-brown strata, looking south-east.

# Pottery Archive FRCB03

Jane Young

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
101	MISC	oxidised;fine	Unidentified types	?	1	3		base	abraded	Roman to medieval
201	CIST		Cistercian-type ware	cup	1	2		rim		15th to 17th
201	BL		Black-glazed wares	drinking	1	3		BS		mid 17th to 18th
201	TOY		Toynton Medieval Ware	small jug	1	3		BS		13th to 15th
201	BOUA	B	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	bowl	1	26		base	very abraded;? ID	13th to 14th
201	BOUA	B	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	bowl	1	50		rim	very abraded;? ID	13th to 14th
201	TPW		Transfer printed ware	dish	1	2		base		19th
201	BL		Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	37		rim		17th to 18th
201	GRE		Glazed Red Earthenware	large jar	1	30		rim		17th to 18th
201	TOY		Toynton Medieval Ware	jug	1	21	frilled ?	base	very abraded	15th to 16th
201	MISC	oxidised;med	Unidentified types	?	1	20		BS	very abraded;? Vessel or tile	Roman to medieval

# Ceramic Building Material Archive FRCB03

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	OX/R/OX;med sandy	1	80	medieval flat roofer;fabric incl mod large fe	13th to 16th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	light OX/R/OX;med sandy	1	42	medieval flat roofer;fabric incl mod large fe & white clay pellets	13th to 16th
201	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	oxidised fine powdery	1	15		13th to 18th
201	BRK	Brick	red fine powdery	1	98	handmade	15th to 17th

### Appendix 13.3 List of Archaeological Contexts

#### **Trench 1**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	Yard surface – compacted, loose ballast, consisting of sub-angular limestone chips (<0.02m maximum dimension) and fine grit coated with dark grey to black bitumen, c. 0.10m deep. Seals (101).
101	Layer	Foundation for yard/hardcore – layer of red bricks and brick fragments laid horizontally (c. 80% by volume), with moderate small fragments of limestone (c. 10%), in a matrix of mid greyish-brown silty clay (c. 10%), c. 0.10m deep. Sealed by (100); seals (102).
102	Layer	Buried topsoil – dark greyish-brown sandy silt, containing occasional small limestone fragments and flecks of charcoal; probably truncated when (101) was laid, c. 0.14m deep. Sealed by (101); seals (103).
103	Layer	Former subsoil? – mid grey slightly silty clay, with a thin lens of pale bluish-grey clay running horizontally through the centre of the deposit, up to 0.20m deep. Sealed by (102); seals (104).
104	Layer	Alluvial deposit – mid greyish-brown silty clay, without any coarse inclusions, c. 0.08m deep. Sealed by (103); seals (105).
105	Layer	Alluvial deposit – mixed deposit of mid brown to greyish-brown silt, without any coarse inclusions, c. 0.50m deep. Sealed by (104); seals (106).
106	Layer	Alluvial deposit – mixed deposit of pale to mid grey and pale greyish-brown silty clay, without any coarse inclusions, >0.14m deep. Sealed by (105).

#### **Trench 2**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	Layer	Yard surface – compacted, loose ballast, consisting of sub-angular fragments of concrete (<0.10m maximum dimension; c. 30% by volume), pieces of tarmac (<0.10m max. dimension; c. 30%), pea shingle and sub-angular flint gravel (c. 20%) in a matrix of dark grey silty sand. Deposit had a strong smell of diesel and/or bitumen, up to 0.18m deep. Seals (201).
201	Layer	Buried topsoil – mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt, containing occasional to moderate fragments of brick, tile and pottery (medieval, post medieval and early modern), occasional clay pipe, coal fragments, flint gravel, sandstone chips, oyster shell, c. 0.40m deep. Sealed by (200); seals (202). a) relatively dense root mat situated at the top of the deposit and sealed beneath the modern yard surface – indicates the latter was dumped on top of the existing ground surface without any preparation, c. 0.06m deep.
202	Layer	Former subsoil? – mid orangey-brown silty clay, with frequent pale

grey mottles and moderate rusty mottles. Contains occasional pieces of gravel and small flecks of tile and coal toward upper horizon: probably intrusive and pushed in by root action, c. 0.12m deep. Sealed by (201); seals (203).

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|-----|-------|---|
| 203 | Layer | Alluvial deposit – a gleyed pale bluish-grey clayey silt, with moderate rusty mottles and no coarse inclusions, c. 0.14m deep. Sealed by (202); seals (204).                      |
| 204 | Layer | Alluvial deposit – mid pinkish to orangey-brown clayey silt, with occasional to moderate pale grey mottles and no coarse inclusions, c. 0.34m deep. Sealed by (203); seals (205). |
| 205 | Layer | Alluvial deposit – mottled orangey-brown to pale grey silty clay, fairly plastic, no coarse inclusions, >0.23m deep. Sealed by (204).   |