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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

heritage

Enterprise Road, Caistor, Lincs

NGR: TA 1069 0124
Site code: CAER03
LCNCC Accession No. : 2004.45
Planning Application MO1/P/1041

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Lindsey Concrete Products

by
D. Young

Conservation
Services

31 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**LAS Report No.: 730
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W.L.D.C. Planning Application MO1/P/1041

Summary

In October 2003, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services during the construction of an industrial workshop at Enterprise Road, Caistor. Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council, on the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during ground penetrating works. Monitoring of the works revealed a series of relatively recent build up layers, particularly on the western extent of the site, effectively preserving the underlying former topsoil and natural sands. No archaeological finds or features were present on the site.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Lindsey Concrete Products to monitor the groundworks for an industrial building at Enterprise Road, Caistor. The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the planning requirements of West Lindsey District Council.

Site Location and Description

Caistor is a small town situated in the Lincolnshire Wolds 13 km north of Market Rasen. The site is located on the south side of Enterprise Road, to the south of North Kelsey Road (Figs.1 & 2). The site was previously agricultural in use, and had a downward slope from east to west (Pl.1). Development proposals included the excavation of 18 foundation pads, each measuring 1.5m x 1.5m x 1m deep (Fig.3).

Archaeological Background

There have been numerous scatters of worked flint found west of Caistor, indicating prehistoric occupation of the area. Bronze Age barrows were found during the construction of the Cherry Valley duck farm in the 1950s at Sandbraes, east of the development site. Medieval fishponds east of the site are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The modern settlement at Caistor appears to have originated in the Roman period when it was an important town with a walled enclosure built in the late 3rd – early 4th century on top of the hill. There was also an extensive Roman settlement to the west of the walled area. It appears to have retained its importance in the Anglo-Saxon period and is thought to have been the capital of the North Riding

of Lindsey, with an earlier minster church located inside the Roman walls. It was a royal manor both before and after the Norman Conquest, and in the medieval period was a thriving market town.

Objectives

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the groundwork stages of the construction.

Method

Supervision of the groundworks was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in the project brief. One experienced archaeologist attended the site on 30th October 2003 to observe the excavation of a series of eighteen pits by JCB, concrete post-pads to act as supports for the steel-framed building. All eighteen pits were observed during the period of one day, and the complete area was checked for finds thoroughly. A full photographic record was kept during the monitoring of the site.

Results

The examination of the development area revealed no finds of any kind, although the excavation of many of the foundation pads, particularly those on the western side, clearly showed that the area had undergone at least two phases of build up in recent years. This was evident from visible turf lines separating the upper topsoil (1), from the lower build up layer (2), which sealed the former topsoil (3). The remainder of the site comprised the afore mentioned topsoil (3), overlying natural sands (4) and clays (5). The presence of these redeposited layers hampered both excavation and monitoring, making vertical sections unstable in some cases.

Following the removal of the recent redeposited material, *i.e.* layers (1) & (2), the former topsoil (3) was removed. This layer consisted of relatively fine light brown sand which covered the yellow/orange sand natural (4). The pits within the northern and eastern extents of the site also contained a dense brown/blue clay natural at approximately 0.6m below ground level.

No finds of any kind were encountered during the excavation of these foundations, and no features were identified into the natural material.

Conclusion

To conclude, the archaeological watching brief at carried out during the excavation of pad foundations at Enterprise Road, Caistor, revealed a relatively well preserved lower topsoil horizon. However, no archaeological features or finds were present.

Acknowledgements

LAS wishes to thank Lindsey Concrete Products and Mark Patchett and his on-site team for their help and co-operation during the period of the watching brief.

D.Young,
Lindsey Archaeological Services,
March 17th 2004.

Contents of Site Archive

Site notes (2 hand-written sheets)

Copy of page 1 of brief + copy of site plan.

Photographs: Colour Prints, LAS film no. 03 / 151 / 6 – 22.

Correspondence.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Enterprise Road, Caistor, Lincs

Site Code: CAER03

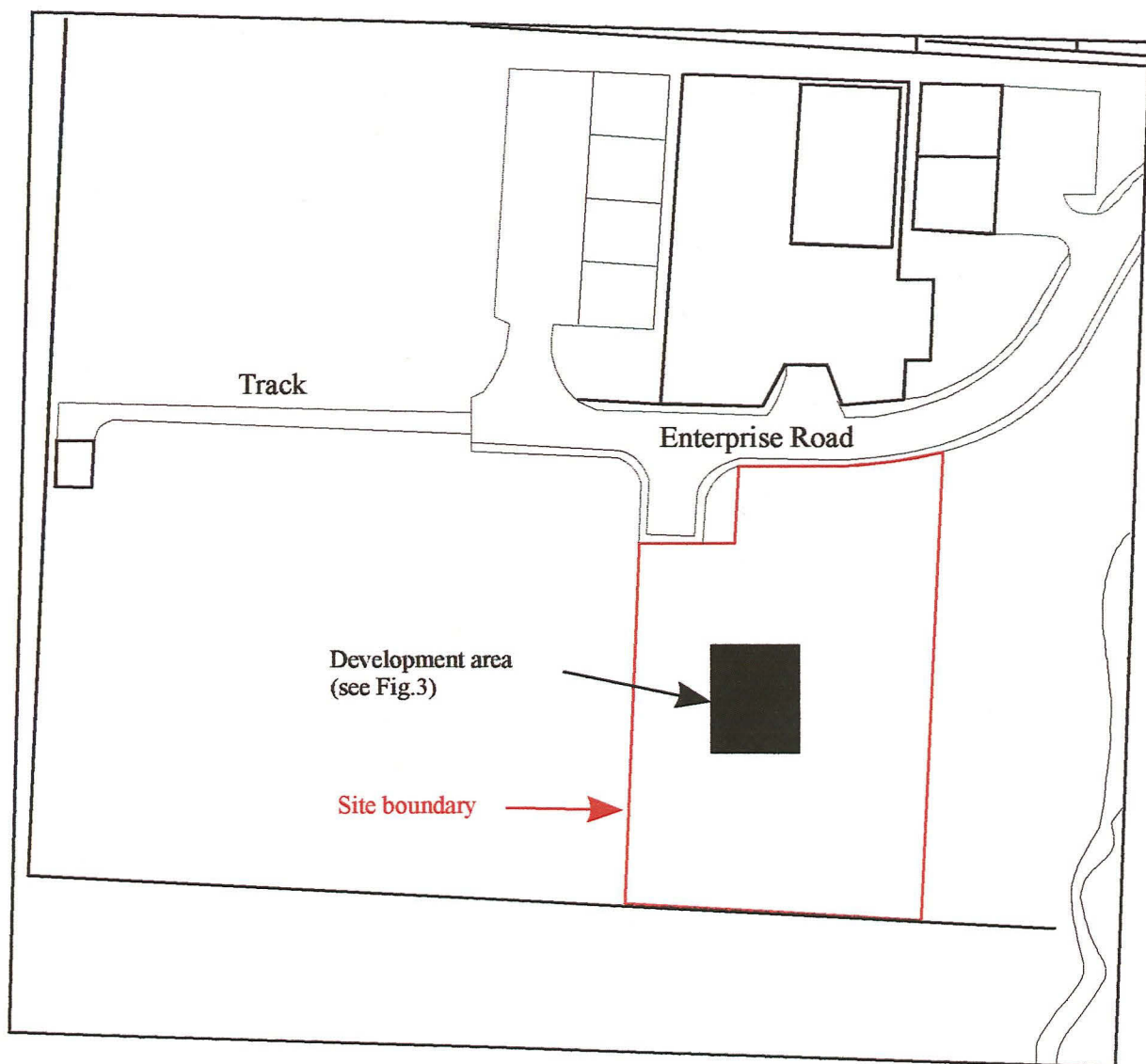
Context Summary

Context No.	Description
(1)	Redeposited build up layer acting as a topsoil horizon within the western extent of the site, comprising fine mid grey brown silty clay.
(2)	Redeposited build up layer. Mid grey brown silty clay, separated from (1) above and (3) below, by thin layers of naturally formed turf.
(3)	Former plough soil. Relatively fine light brown sand.
(4)	Natural. Fine yellow/orange sand
(5)	Natural. Dense brown/blue clay

THE FIGURES



Fig. 1 Location of Caistor, based on the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map, Sheet 113. Crown Copyright, © reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).



0 50m



Fig.2 Site plan

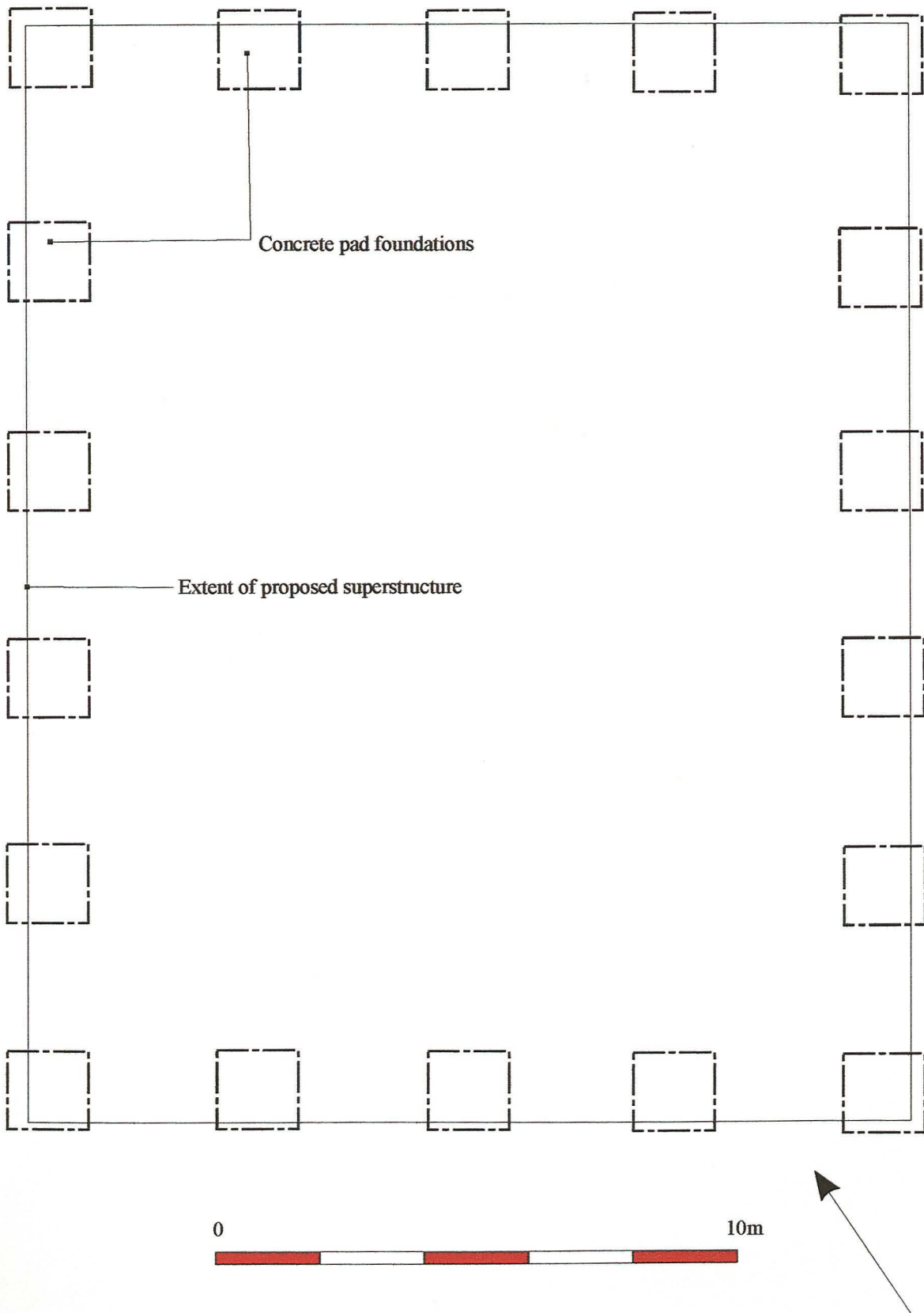


Fig. 3 Foundation plan of development

THE PLATES



PI.1 General view of the site from, facing south



PI.2 Excavation and layout of the eastern alignment of pad foundations, facing north.



PI.3 Representative view of a single pad foundation along the western extent of the building, facing south. Notice the redeposited layers (1) & (2), overlying the former plough soil (3). The yellow/orange sand natural (4) is visible below (3)