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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land adjacent to All Saints Church,
22 Church Street, Hemswell,
Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: SK3984 9092

LCNCC Accession No.: 2004.44

Planning Application No.: M03/P/0011

Site Code: HCS04

**Report for
Mr J Askew**

**By
David Britchfield
&
Doug Young**

Conservation
Services
29 APR 2004
Highways & Planning
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 729
March 2004**

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

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**Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent to All Saints Church, 22
Church Street, Hemswell,
Lincolnshire**

NGR: SK9384 9000

Site Code: HCS04

LCNCC Accession No.: 2004.44

Planning Application No.: M03/P/0011

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services in February 2004 during the construction of an extension to an existing domestic building, on a plot of land adjacent to All Saints Church, 22 Church Street, Hemswell, Lincs.

Monitoring of the works revealed heavily rooted natural clays underlying and existing concrete slab. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr J Askew to monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing domestic building at 22 Church Street, Hemswell, Lincs. 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 Description and Topography

Hemswell village is situated on the Lincolnshire Limestone c.19 km north of Lincoln. The proposed development site is located on the south side of Church St, immediately west of the parish church, near the centre of the village. It comprises a rectangular plot of land bounded to the east by the churchyard and the north by Church St (Figs 1 and 2; Pl. 1).

Planning Details

Planning permission has been granted by West Lindsey District Council for construction of an extension to an existing dwelling with associated services and extension to the driveway, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

Archaeological Background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 there was a manor (estate) held by the Bishop of Bayeux (brother of William the Conqueror). The village is clearly of Saxon origin and there was potential for settlement remains of this period and later, on the development site. The presence of Roman and prehistoric remains is less certain but was not ruled out. Evaluation

Lindsey

Archaeological Services

of a nearby site to the south of Church St, by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Far 2001), identified medieval earthwork remains and features containing 12th-13th century pottery.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks associated with both the proposed development, as well as associated services.

Method

Work commenced on the 6th February 2004 for a duration of 2 days. Supervision of the groundwork's was at all times carried out by an experienced archaeologist. Excavation was carried out using a 180° machine, removing the existing concrete slab that covered the entire assessment area, prior to the excavation of the foundations (Pl. 2). The lack of archaeological features meant that detailed sections and profiles were not necessary, although the location and extent of natural truncation was noted. A full photographic record was taken to support the written archive.

Results

External load bearing trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.50m, with a width of 0.85m. Foundations supporting internal partitions were excavated to a depth of 1m, with a narrower width of 0.50m (Pls 3 and 4). A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site, comprising a concrete slab (1) to a depth of 0.25m below existing ground level, overlying mid orange yellow stiff clay (3). Dark brown/black silty topsoil (2), 0.20m in depth, surrounded the concrete slab, and covered the remainder of the site (Pl. 5).

No archaeological finds or features were present within the trenches and only a single fragment of glazed ridge tile was retrieved from the topsoil. Root boles and animal burrows had disturbed much of the site, along with a 19th century soakaway [4] associated with the existing property (Pl. 6). Added to this, a certain amount of unavoidable disturbance had occurred from the movement of machines across the site (Pls 3-4).

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits, given the proximity of the site to the parish church and its location in the presumed centre of the medieval settlement the house plot proved to be archaeologically sterile. The discovery of a fragment of 13th century glazed ridge tile within the topsoil indicates the possible presence of a substantial medieval building within the vicinity of the site (Young, this report), perhaps in the region of the adjacent earthworks identified in 2000 (Far 2001), where finds contemporary with the tile were made.

Conclusion

To conclude, the development of an extension to an existing domestic structure, along with associated services, at 22 Church Street, Hemswell, Lincs, had no archaeological impact.

David Britchfield
Lindsey Archaeological Services
March 31st 2004

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr J Askew. Monitoring was carried out by Doug Young. All illustrations were produced by David Britchfield. This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

References

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Far, S (2001) *Land south of Church St, Hemswell, Lincs: Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS Report No.: 526

Lincolnshire County Council, Archaeology Section (1998) *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*

Contents Of Site Archive

Correspondence:

Photographs including those used in the report LAS film Nos.04/27/12-18 and 04/29/1-12

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings:

Finds: 1 fragment of tile (discarded)

Context Register

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

22 Church Street, Hemswell, Lincolnshire
Site Code: HCS04

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Description
(1)	Concrete slab
(2)	Dark brown/black silt. Topsoil
(3)	Mid orange yellow stiff clay. Natural
[4]	Soakaway associated with existing building.

APPENDIX 2

Tile Archive HCS04

Jane Young

Finds of Lincoln produced, medieval glazed ridge tiles, are unusual outside of the city itself. This tile is one of only a small number to be found outside the immediate environs of Lincoln and suggests the presence of a substantial medieval building in the vicinity of the site.

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
01	GRID	Glazed ridge tile (unidentified ware)	LSW	1	254	thick slightly pocked cu glaze;thick coarsely made tile;traces of mortar	13th

THE FIGURES

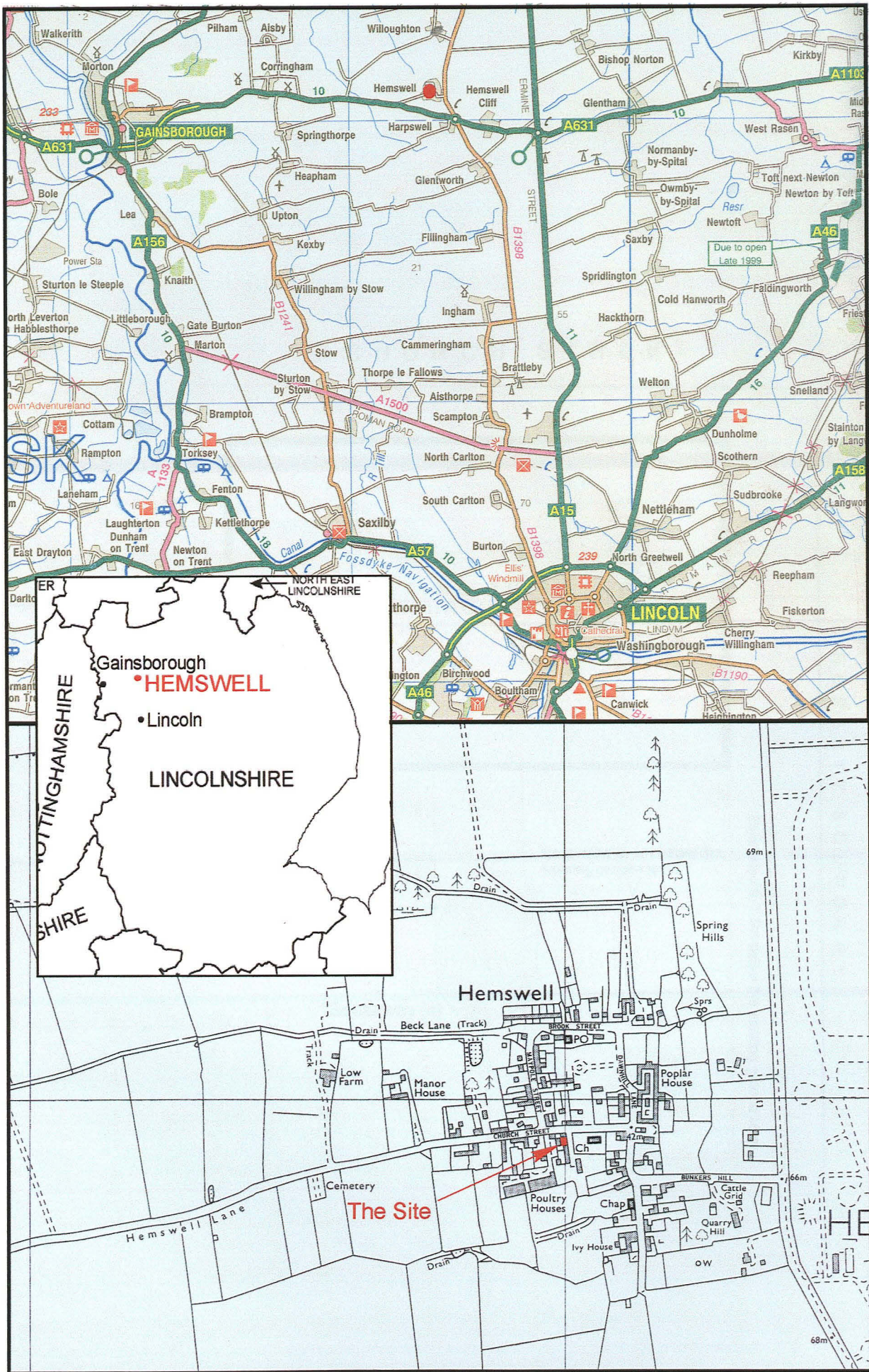


Fig.1 Location of Hemswell, based on the 1983 1:10,000, Sheet SK 00 SW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

CHURCH STREET



EXISTING BUILDING
(22 CHURCH STREET)

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

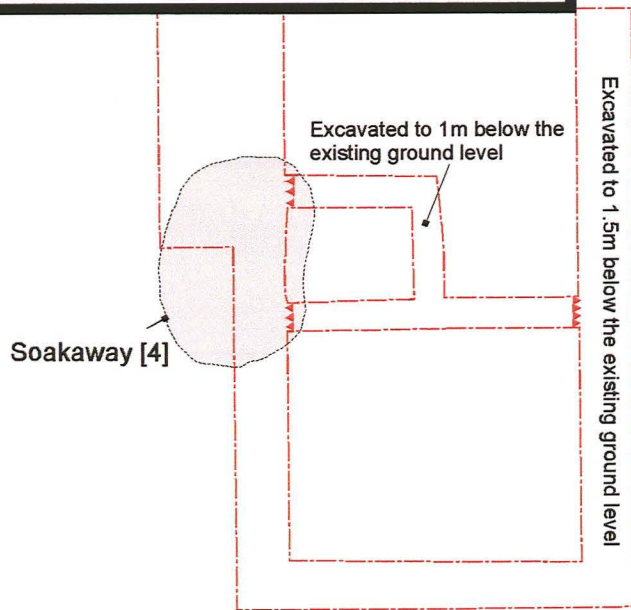


Fig. 2 Trench plan

THE PLATES



PI.1 View of the front of the property, facing south east



PI.2 View of the rear of the property, facing north



PI.3 View to the rear of the property, showing the demolished southern wall and partially completed excavation of the proposed foundations. Facing north east



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PI.5 Typical section showing the natural clay (3) deposits. This profile was common across the entire (excavated) site.



PI.6 Soakaway [4], facing east