## RED LION HOTEL, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site code:

RLHC 03

NGR:

TA 1180 0140

LCCM Acc No:

2004.63

Planning ref:

M02/P/0526

Report prepared for Balmer Homes Ltd.

by

William Munford

June 2004



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800
e-mail colin.pca@virgin.net

©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

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EVENT LISOIH SOURCE LI9430 PRN-54976-ROMAN 52691- MEDIEVAL 52690 - EARLY MEDIEVAL

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#### Summary

- A program of archaeological observation and recording took place during the initial groundworks for a residential development on land situated to the rear of the Red Lion Hotel off High Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire.
- Two substantial ditches were recorded, and it is very likely that these represent elements of a
  defensive system for protecting the former Roman small town. Large masonry blocks also
  suggest the close proximity of the ditch to the known circuit wall.
- Late or post-medieval layers of fill and stone structures including a well and numerous walls
  were observed capping and cutting the Roman ditch fills. There is some evidence to suggest
  that the earthwork of the outer ditch served as a trackway during this period. A wall
  foundation trench of 19<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date, possibly incorporating reused Roman masonry,
  was also recorded.

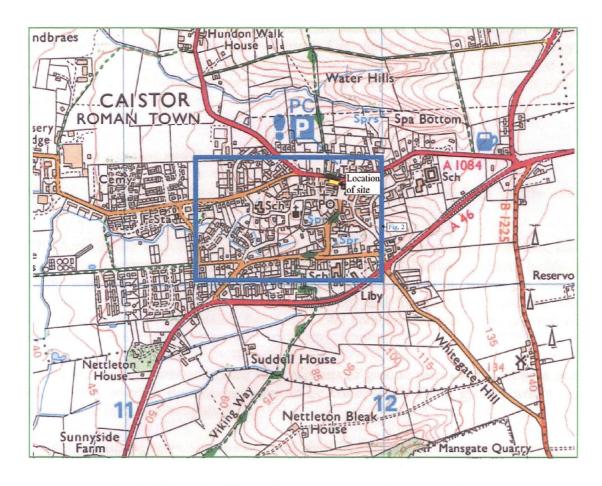


Fig. 1. Site location. The development plot is highlighted in yellow. The blue rectangle represents the area illustrated in figure 2. (Scale 1:12500: OS copyright ref 515 21 A0001).

#### 1.0 Introduction

Balmer homes Ltd. commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording on land situated off High Street, Caistor Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (the Built Environment Team, which advises West Lindsey District Council). This approach complies with the recommendations of Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, Dept. of Environment (1990); Management of Archaeological Projects, EH (1991); Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, IFA (1999) and the LCC document Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998.

The full archaeological programme took place on the  $16^{th}$  and  $17^{th}$  December 2003, the  $15^{th}$  of January 2004, and the  $2^{nd}$  to  $6^{th}$  and  $11^{th}$  to  $13^{th}$  of February 2004.

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. A summary account will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

## 2.0 Site location and description

Caistor is approximately 30km north-east of Lincoln and lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey.

The development site comprises an irregular unit of land approximately 60m long and 30m wide, bordered by Caistor High Street to the north, A Methodist church building to the west, Caistor Market place to the East and residential properties to the South. The site slopes down steeply from east to west, and its southern boundaries are formed by terraces. The derelict Red Lion Hotel complex dominates the east end of the site.

This watching brief was concerned with two sets of ground works at the western end of the site, where 6 new houses were to be constructed. These ground works are indicated in light blue in figure 3.

Caistor is situated upon a promontory of the Lincolnshire Wolds, which consists of Ferriby Chalk with reddened basal beds. Seams of Burnham and Welton chalk are also present beneath the town. (BGS 1982).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 1180 0140

## 3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the existing Red Lion Hotel and car park into eighteen residential units. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a watching brief on all groundworks. As part of this agreement, Balmer homes Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to carry out a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with directives issued by West Lindsey District Council.

The West Lindsey District Council planning reference for this development is MO2/P/0526.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The name of the village is derived from the Old English Caester meaning, 'a Roman station' (Cameroon, 1998). The 'station' referred to was a Roman small town located in the area now occupied by the village core. This settlement may have been the administrative and market centre for the surrounding area, and was sufficiently important to have been enclosed by a substantial limestone wall, with external bastions (Whitwell, 1992). These defences formed an irregular polygon surrounding an area of approximately 3 hectares, with the northern wall lying approximately 10m south of the development site. The defences apparently utilised the natural contours of an outlying promontory of the Lincolnshire Wolds and it is probable that the eastern end of the enclosure, where the ground was more level, was protected by a system of ditches (Whitwell, 1992).

Evidence of Romano-British activity has been identified in the area surrounding the town. Two kilns were discovered in the 1960's, (SMR Nos. 50869 & 52684). They represent elements of a local pottery industry producing greyware vessels in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. A number of tesserae – pieces from a mosaic floor or pavement - have been discovered in a field to the west of the town, (SMR No. 52641). This has led to speculation that there was a villa located in this area, but further structural remains have yet to be identified. Evidence of Romano-British activity is also being uncovered in an on-going watching brief conducted by PCA Lincoln in an area towards the south west of the town. Pottery sherds of relatively high status have been recovered from archaeological features and will be detailed in a future PCA client report.

Definite Roman cemeteries have not yet been located at Caistor but are indicated by inhumation burials to the west and south west of the walled circuit, as shown in figure 3. The site is unusual, as a settlement of some standing, in that it was not obviously connected to the Roman road network. There is a section of road, indicated in figure 3, running west from Caistor possibly towards Ermine Street, but doubt has been cast upon its Roman origin.

Two early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been identified close to the village, Hundon to the North and Nettleton to the south. A bronze bowl recovered from Nettleton cemetery had decoration imitating Roman forms and is therefore thought to be sub-Roman in date (late 4<sup>th</sup> to early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD) (Whitwell, 1992). This may indicate

that the small town continued to be a regionally important settlement after the cessation of Roman political and military involvement in Britain.

There are some indications that Caistor and its hinterland had become a royal estate by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD, and it seems likely that an Episcopal minster was constructed in the town at around this time (Sawyer, 1998); an inscribed stone found at castle hill in 1770 appears to refer to the dedication of a church in the 8<sup>th</sup> century (SMR No. 52681; Pevsner & Harris, 1989). A mint was established in the town in the last quarter of the 10<sup>th</sup> century; this operated during the reigns of Edward the Martyr, Aethered II And Cnut (died 1035).

Following the Norman Conquest, king William retained the manor for himself, but in 1072 he granted the church at Caistor to Rmigius, bishop of Lincoln (Owen, 1971; Sawyer, 1998). In so doing he possibly restored the system of ecclesiastical administration that had pertained prior to the imposition of the Danelaw. The Domesday book indicates that earl Morcar had held the estate prior to the Conquest (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). In 1086 the holding amounted to land for 6 ploughs, 60 acres of meadow, four mills, together valued at £50. There is also a reference to "the Hall of this manor" (*ibid*: section 338c, 66), as well as the church and a priest 'claimed' by the Bishop of Lincoln. The west end of the nave of the present church incorporates megalithic quoins that are thought to be elements of the 11<sup>th</sup> century structure (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

Ridge and furrow earthworks, representing elements of a medieval open field system, survive in fields to the north-west of the town (SMR No. 52718) as do a number of fishponds that are also likely to be medieval in date.

## 5.0 Methodology

The groundworks were monitored by Will Munford on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2003, the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2004, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2004.

A JCB fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket was used to excavate footing trenches, and this work was continuously monitored by P.C.A.

The archaeological fieldwork involved the cleaning by hand of exposed surfaces within the footing trenches, followed by a thorough inspection. All archaeological deposits identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation, in order to assess their nature and dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. The stone-lined well structure discovered on site was fully excavated to a depth limited by health and safety guidelines. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each layer upon standard watching brief context record sheets. Colour photographs, scale sections and plans compliment these accounts.

### 6.0 Results (Figs 2-10)

The archaeological features and deposits recorded on the site are described in the sequence that they were discovered.

A substantial ditch, cut [006], was observed in the base of the foundation trenches in the southern set of house footings. It was discovered in the westernmost section beneath the modern brick wall and it continued through the central and easternmost sections of the foundation trenches. It was on a south-east-east north-west-west alignment. It was approximately 4m wide and 2m deep and had moderately sloping sides, which broke gradually to a rounded base. As Section 2 indicates, it is possible that the southernmost side of the ditch was marginally steeper than the northern side. Section 4, which incorporates part of the west facing trench section in the south east corner of the house footings, indicates that a layer of material may have been deposited on the south side of the ditch. The upper extents of the ditch sides visible in Section 1 did not appear to continue through into Section 2 where they were obscured by a level deposit, recorded as (011).

The upper fills of the ditch were all capped by a layer of topsoil, (001), consisting of dark brown friable loam and containing modern inclusions and chalk fragments. At the western end of the house footings, two courses of shaped stone blocks, (002), yielding sherds of pottery of early modern and 18<sup>th</sup> century date and a dark brown silt infill comprised the top fill of [006]. Underlying this was (003); a layer of dark brown silty loam containing chalk and charcoal fragments. Two further layers, (004) and (005), were recorded below this. Both consisted of grey brown silty clay and contained variants of Lincolnshire shell-tempered wares dating from the late 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries respectively. The later fill, (004), contained an abundance of chalk fragments and nodules.

Within Section 2, (recorded in the central foundation trench of the house footings), the top fill of ditch [006] was (011). This consisted of a layer of compact mid brown loam containing rare sub-angular chalk fragments, which was probably a continuation of layer (004). A number of pottery sherds were recovered from this, representing vessels of various fabrics associated with the 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D. including: Humberware, Lincoln Glazed ware and Bourne type D ware. In addition, a number of cow, sheep and pig bones were recovered. Fill (011) overlay a band of mid brown grey clayey loam and abundant chalk nodules. Beneath this was a deep layer of compact dark brown loam, recorded as (009) which was probably a continuation of layer (005). This contained pottery sherds of a late 10<sup>th</sup> to late 12<sup>th</sup> century Lincolnshire Shelled ware, a (probably residual) sherd from a Roman vessel, and modern pottery fragments that may have intruded as the foundations were excavated. (009) in turn overlay a deposit of similar material containing some large chalk fragments, recorded as (008). The basal fill of the ditch consisted of large chalk and limestone fragments with an infill of mid brown loam; layer (007).

At the easternmost end of the house footings, the basal fill of ditch [006] contained two large limestone blocks, recorded as (015). One of these had been extensively tooled or sawn to produce neat right-angled surfaces. They were found approximately 2m apart and measured roughly 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.2m high. At the southeastern corner of the footings a deposit of buried material, recorded as (013),

which appeared to overlay the edge of [006] was observed, (see Section 4). It comprised of rounded and sub-angular chalk fragments with a dark brown silty loam infill. This may represent the remains of a defensive bank. A similar deposit was not observed at the opposite end of the footings, (see Section 3, Figure 6).

The initial groundworks for the northern set of house footings revealed the foundation trench for a brick wall that had formed the site's boundary with the High Street. This was recorded and modern finds were recovered which established that it was not an earlier feature. As the brick wall was removed, parts of its lower courses were revealed to consist of large shaped limestone blocks, similar in appearance to those recorded as (015). These were photographed.

Ground reduction work in the area of the northern set of house footings initially revealed the remnants of a wall, (019), (see Fig. 8). It was constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks, which did not appear to have been mortared. Its alignment was east west and it measured approximately 0.40m wide and 2.3m long. Immediately to the northeast, another possible wall, (021), which appeared to have some undeterminable relationship with (019), was also revealed. It too consisted of rough un-mortared limestone blocks, amongst which several sherds of pottery were discovered. These date to around the late 12<sup>th</sup> century AD and include three sherds of an unusual, relatively high status, Nottingham splashed ware vessel. Several large sherds of another vessel, (022), which was crafted locally sometime between 1150 and 1450.A.D. were found 0.1m north west of the western end of (019) and photographed *in situ*.

Two different archaeological deposits, (020) and (023), were identified to the north of wall (019). (020) consisted of dark grey brown clayey silt containing frequent chalk nodules whilst (023) was a layer of dark brown clayey silt with a contrasting absence of chalk inclusions which contained sheep and geese bones. The relationship between these layers and the probable walls (019) and (021) was not established although fragments of modern ceramic building material were recovered from both, suggesting they post-date the stone built features. Immediately to the south of (019), a modern brick wall, (024), had been built. It appeared to partly respect (019) and was associated with a deposit, (025), to the south, which included numerous modern finds. (024) seemed to truncate the relaitionship between (019) and another deposit of roughly-shaped stone blocks to the south, numbered as (026), which is visible in Figure 7.

The excavation of the foundation trenches for the northernmost area of house footings quickly unearthed the upper fills of a second larger south-east-east to north-west-west aligned ditch, recorded as [027]. Its full depth proved to be 3.9m and although the house footings did not necessitate a section across the whole feature, an extrapolation, based upon its visible northern side, suggests it could have been up to 9m wide. Its northern side was steep, becoming more moderate towards the base of the feature, which was not entirely excavated. Inspection of the visible portion of the base of the returning southern slope indicated that this could have been the steeper of the two sides; in a similar manner to that observed in ditch [006], although it was impossible to verify this in the conditions.

Ditch [027] contained four deposits, beginning with a basal fill of pale grey brown clayey silt, (029). The only find from this was a piece of modern tile, which is likely to represent intrusion occurring as the foundations were excavated. (029) also included large chalk and stone fragments and rare but distinctive green staining in some areas, and was approximately 1m deep. Above (029) was (030), a 1m deep layer of mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional large chalk inclusions. On the northern side of the ditch, layer (030) was overlain by a deposit of angular and sub-angular chalk fragments, (031), with a mid grey clayey silt infill. The entire ditch was capped by 1m of mid grey brown clayey silt, layer (032), which contained occasional small angular and sub-angular chalk and stone fragments and a single sherd from a Torksey ware Saxo-Norman vessel, crafted sometime between 850 and 1070A.D. This lay beneath various layers of modern concrete, rubble and recently disturbed topsoil. A large limestone block, crudely shaped to a cube, and of similar dimensions to those recorded as (015) from ditch [006] was extracted by machine from the level of (030) and recorded ex-situ as (028).

At the southern extent of the north south aligned foundation trench a crude wall of limestone blocks and cobble stones was observed extending to a depth roughly correspondent with the base of layer (032). It was not possible to record its thickness, or course beyond the limits of this trench.

As excavation of the house footings continued, ditch [027] was revealed to extend through them, to the easternmost trench and beyond. Its depth, approaching 4m, was consistent and measurements of its northern side confirmed that's its alignment was almost identical to that of ditch [006].

Excavation of the easternmost north-south aligned foundation trench in the northern house footings, combined with ground reducing work in the same area, revealed another possible wall, (034). It consisted of roughly shaped limestone blocks and large cobbles, and was approximately 0.5m wide. It was not possible to observe its coarse or height but it seemed to be on a similar alignment to feature (019) and extending to a similar depth as feature (033).

Trenching of the southernmost, east west aligned foundation in the northern house footings revealed a substantial pit, [040] in the south-facing section. This truncated the fills of ditch [027], to a depth of 4m, and may have extended further into the natural substrata. It had near-vertical sides and was filled with reddish grey brown silty clay, layer (039), which contained large and small fragments of red and white chalk which contrasted strongly with ditch fills (029), (030) and (032). A piece of modern tile was recovered from layer (039); this is likely to be an intrusive find associated with the sectioning of the feature by machine. When conditions allowed, a closer inspection of this feature revealed that it contained a stone-lined well shaft, [041], which had been partially truncated by the works. This seemed to form the entire upper western quarter of pit [040], suggesting that the latter was a backfilled feature created for the purpose of the construction of [041].

The backfill of [041] was entirely excavated to a depth of 1.50m for the recovery of datable finds. This revealed a neatly constructed, sub-circular, stone lined shaft with a diameter fluctuating around 0.70m. The stones themselves appeared to be have been subject to water erosion (possibly indicating that they were collected from a water

channel), and a proportion, particularly towards the mouth of the shaft, appeared to have been deliberately shaped. A sherd of pottery dating from the 17th or 18th centuries was discovered amongst them. It is likely that this was an intrusive find associated with the truncation of the shaft by machining. Three distinct layers of fill were observed, beginning with a capping layer, (042), of dark brown clayey silt including small and large stone inclusions and numerous horse cow and sheep bones. Beneath this was layer (043); a deposit of large blocks of angular unshaped stone, with sparse pockets of light brown clayey silt infill and voids amongst them containing the skull of an aged cow and a large number of bones from a single dog skeleton. The lowest layer, (044) of backfill excavated consisted of medium sized angular blocks of stone with a more even, dark brown pliable clayey silt infill. All three layers of fill contained pottery datable to the 15th or 16th centuries including sherds of Beverly orange ware fabric and a late medieval local fabric. Layer (043) contained four different sherds of a single Toynton late medieval ware jug. These had a thick white internal deposit upon them suggesting that the vessel had been used to hold urine. In addition the two layers recorded beneath (042) contained whole handmade bricks of a type dateable to sometime between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The layers of backfill and archaeological deposits at the base of the well shaft were not, and will not be, affected by the development.

A possible posthole, (035), was observed on the northern side of ditch [027] within the section of a north-south aligned foundation trench within the northern house footings. It had a steep slightly undercut profile, which was truncated by [027]. Its main fill, (037), consisted of mid brown clayey silt containing occasional angular and sub-angular chalk fragments.

Close inspection of the upper fills of ditch [027] in the easternmost trench section of the northern house footings revealed a possible layer of metalling at the horizon of layers (030) and (032), consisting of compacted angular and rounded pebbles and chalk fragments. It was impossible to verify the extent or exact nature of this in the conditions.

#### 7.0 Conclusions.

There are a number of indications that ditches [006] and [027] were once part of the defences of the Roman small town at Caistor. Figure 2 shows that they run parallel with the probable course of the town wall at a distance of approximately 12m and 18m which is comparable with other known small town defensive ditch systems such as those at Alchester in Oxfordshire and Irchester in Northamptonshire, (Woodfield, 1995). In addition, they are located close to the market place, where, as has been discussed, the level ground may have necessitated additional lines of defence. Sections 2 and 6 show that that both ditches were possibly marginally steeper on the southern sides. This may be deliberate or may represent a reduced level of erosion associated with possible bank material on the inner sides of the ditches. Deposit (013), which may represent a truncated bank, suggests that the latter was the case. The relative paucity of dating evidence from the ditch concurs with the generally accepted view that Roman defensive ditches were regularly maintained. The large shaped stone blocks found within the ditches imply that they were located in close proximity to a substantial neglected or robbed out structure, such as a defensive wall, when they became disused.

If features [006] and [027] do prove the existence of a defensive ditch system at Caistor, they may add significantly to our understanding of the local Romano-British landscape. "Small towns" are an element of the settlement pattern of Roman Britain, which, in comparison to larger towns and cities, is poorly understood. However, interest in their nature and function has grown, (Burnham, 1995), and defensive features clearly provide evidence of their geography. Perhaps more significantly, they also serve as a measure of the investment deemed necessary to protect small towns, and therefore, of their relative value to Roman society in Britain. The paucity of Roman dating evidence from ditches [006] and [027] will prevent us from establishing the sequence that they, and the known wall circuit, were constructed in. However it is generally accepted that many towns of varying status received earthwork defences in the second half of the 2nd century AD, which were subsequently converted to stone faced walls in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, (de la Bedoyere, 1992). If this scenario were to be applied to Caistor it could be postulated that ditch [006] was the original defensive system at this end of the settlement and that its earthwork rampart was converted to a stone faced wall. In turn this would have necessitated the construction of a replacement defensive ditch in the form of, [027], at an appropriate distance from the wall to render it effective, (see discussion, Wilson 1980). The demolition of the original rampart or the excavation of a new ditch could both have led to the deposition of the chalk rich layers (007) and (008) found within ditch [006] and explain their absence in ditch [027]. A problem with this hypothesis is the distance from the known wall circuit of ditch [006]. Without a full section incorporating both ditches within the full width of the site it will be impossible to establish the reality beyond speculation.

It is probable that the stone courses discovered within ditch [006] towards the western end of the footings represent periods of ground levelling in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This, along with the seeming medieval deposits beneath it, implies the continuation of the feature as a substantial earthwork; centuries after it had become disused. The same is indicated in the case of ditch [027] by layer (032), which, according to its early medieval find date is likely to have formed long after the Roman period. The probable

metalling horizon between (032) and (030) discovered at the eastern end of the northern house footings may even indicate that the ditch earthwork was deliberately used as a track or droveway prior to the deposition of layer (032). Medieval roads were rarely formally constructed or engineered but often incorporated sunken stretches depending upon the local topography, (Hindle, 1989). The sides of these holloways would have served the same purpose as walls and hedges when livestock was being moved and it is possible that the ditch earthwork was deemed a convenient channel for such traffic during the post-Roman development of the town.

Of the three definite walls recorded in the area of the northern house footings, (033) and (034) were both observed to extend approximately 1m into ditch fill layer (032). In the conditions it was impossible to establish whether they were originally free standing and consumed by the build up of layer (032) (and therefore, of early medieval date), or whether they truncated it as foundations for more robust, (and later), structures. The sturdy nature of wall (019), suggests the latter case, as does the discovery of well shaft (041), which certainly proves that later medieval features truncated the ditch fills. Alternatively, the presence of the aforementioned layer of mettaling at the approximate level of the base of (033) and (034), lends some support to the former scenario. Either way, the pottery indicates that there was occupation in the area from at least the 11th century if not earlier, and occupation on this site from the last quarter of the 12th century through to the early modern period, (Young, 2004). That the walls and pottery finds, including the sherd of relative high status Nottingham splashed ware, were discovered beyond the extent of the Roman small town is interesting. This is because it supports the aforementioned theory that Caistor continued to be a regionally important settlement long after the cessation of Roman political and military involvement in Britain. It may even indicate that the town actually grew in influence and size in the early medieval period.

The form of well shaft (041) is fairly typical of the late medieval period. Its construction pit (040) would have been excavated first and backfilled in stages as the stone lined shaft was assembled on the western side. It is not clear why the backfill of the construction pit has a reddish hue, which contrasts strongly with that of the surrounding ditch fills, as it is most probably the same material that was excavated.

The shaft presumably reached to the base of the construction pit but disappeared from the lower reaches of the recorded section because of its decreasing diameter and the sloping nature of the foundation trench wall. Once the well shaft became disused it was apparently backfilled. The large stone blocks of layer (043) suggests this was a deliberate and rapid process, an idea supported by the relative consistency of pottery dating between layers (044), (043) and (042). The presence of the cow's skull, dog's skeleton and urinal suggest that the shaft also served as a waste pit as it was backfilled.

It is probable that the location of the well was chosen to exploit the fills of ditch [027], which would have been easier to excavate than the surrounding hard chalk natural. The upper fills of the ditch at this time were probably obscured by earlier features such as (019) and (021), which implies an interesting awareness of the Roman feature and its extent in the late medieval period.

The probable reuse of shaped masonry within the modern wall, (018), implies that Roman or medieval masonry was evident on or near the site well into the modern period and records of William Stukely and other antiquaries since his day support this, (Burnham & Wacher, 1990).

#### 8.0 Effectiveness methodology

The watching brief methodology employed did not allow an appropriate level of recording. The two Roman defensive ditches merited a full section across the width of the site to record the subtle links between them. This may have enabled a confident interpretation of the sequence of their construction. The complex medieval and later urban archaeology discovered in the area of the northern house footings required excavation in plan in order to establish the extent and nature of the features. In addition much needed dating evidence was difficult to recover because the practicality of accessing the revealed sections, and intrusive finds associated with rapid excavation by machine was a frequent problem. Fortunately, the construction staff were patient and helpful throughout the watching brief and frequently adjusted their scheme of works to accommodate the level of recording made viable by the applied methodology.

### 9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Balmer Homes Ltd for commissioning this report, for assistance during the watching brief itself, and for providing some of the drawings used during the preparation of this account.

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#### 11.0 Site Archive

The site archive (documentary) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2004.63.

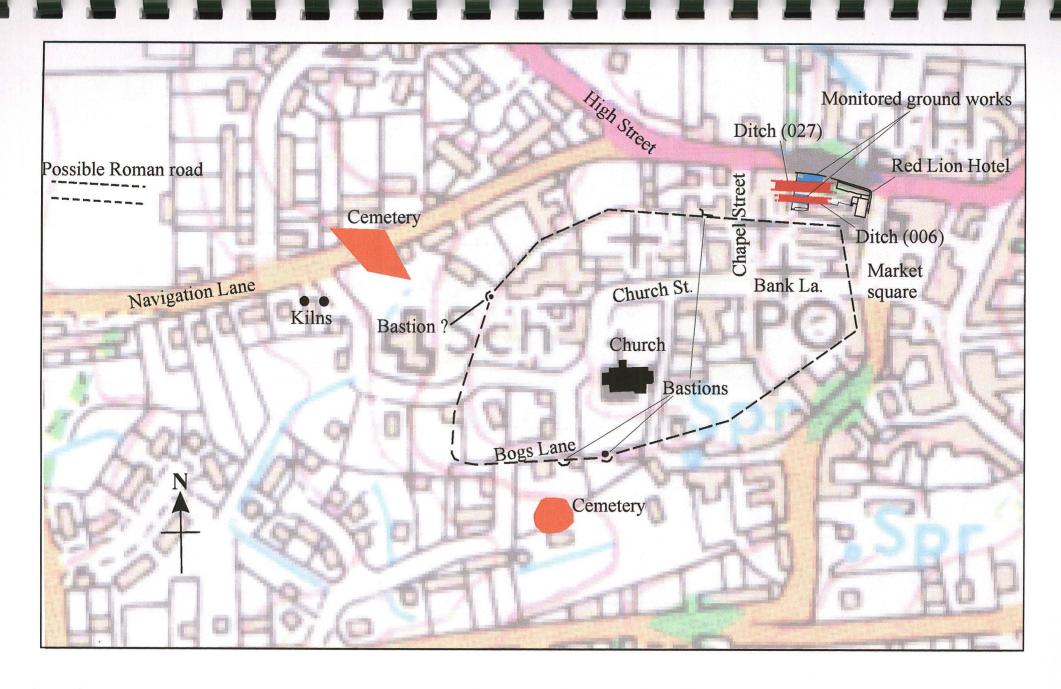


Fig. 2. Map showing the location of the Red Lion Hotel watching brief in relation to the location of known and probable elements of the local Roman landscape. (Scale 1:2500: OS copyright ref 515 21 A0001).

# High Street.

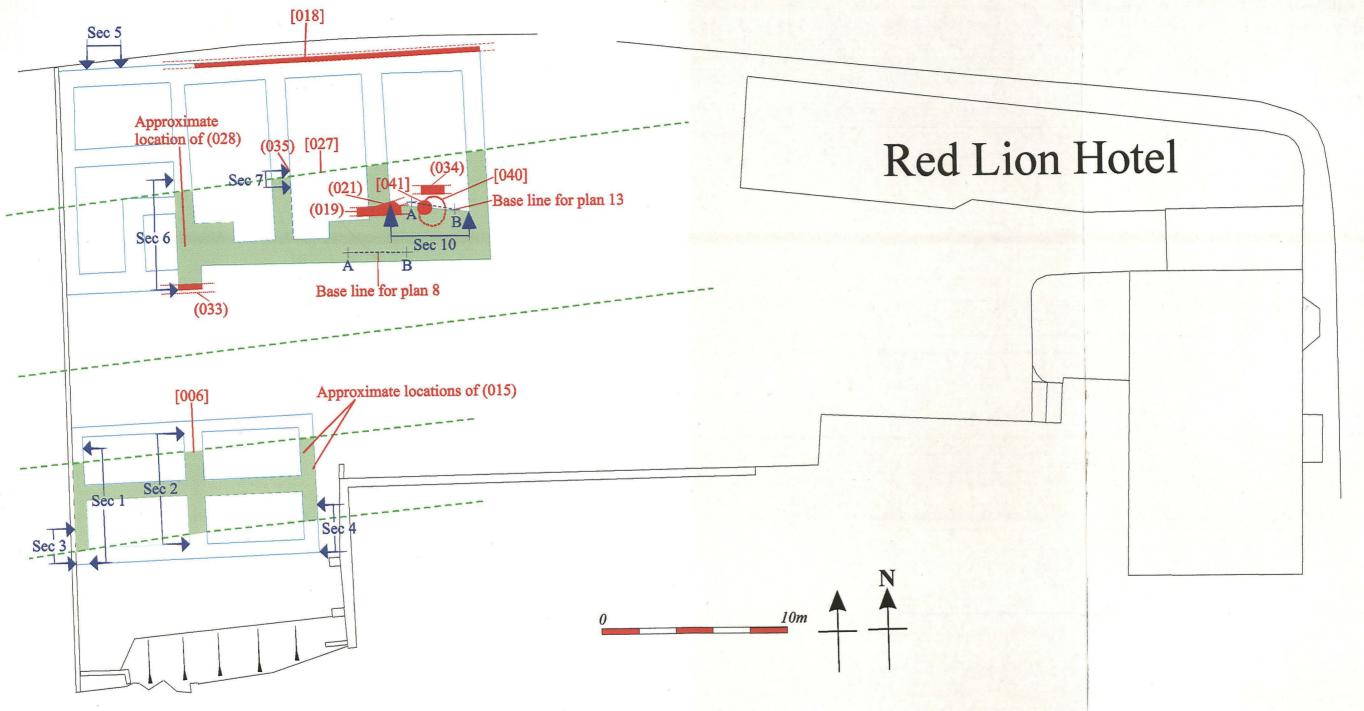


Fig. 3. Site map showing groundworks monitored during the watching brief in blue, the position of the large parallel ditches in green, later archaeological features in red and the position of drawn sections in dark blue (Scale 1:200)

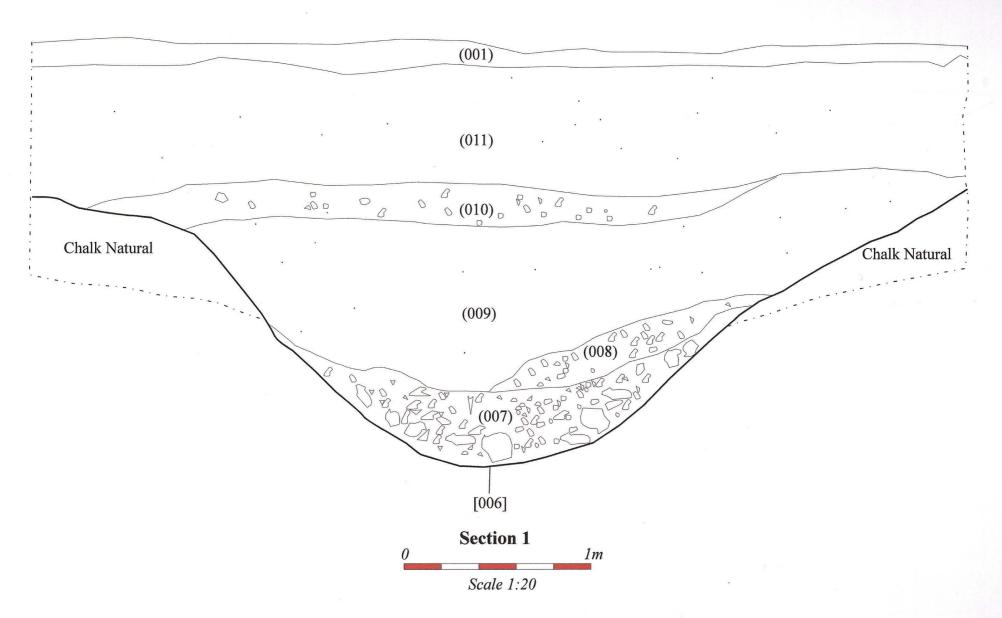


Fig.4. Section 2. Section of [006] facing east. (Scale 1:20)

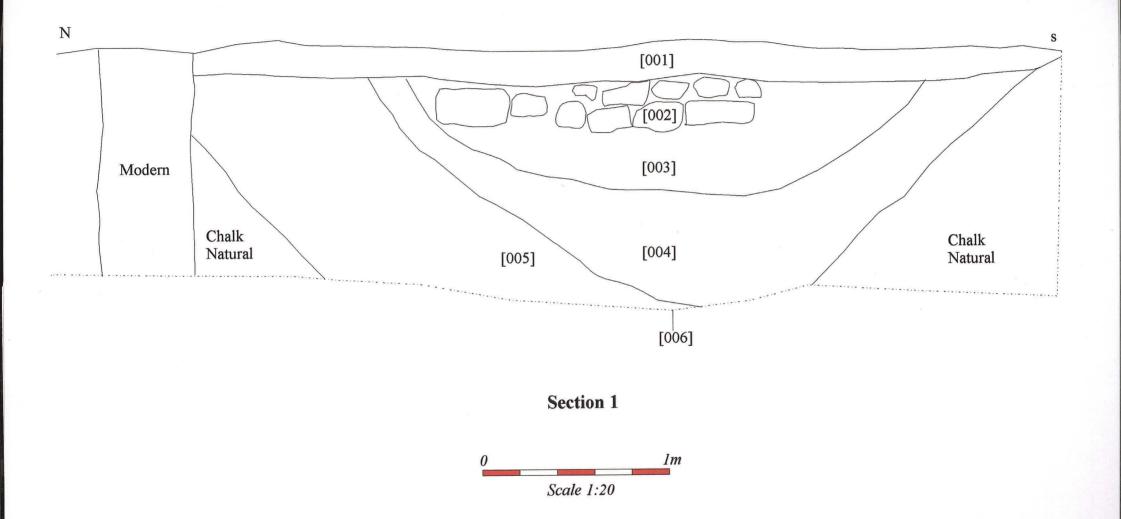
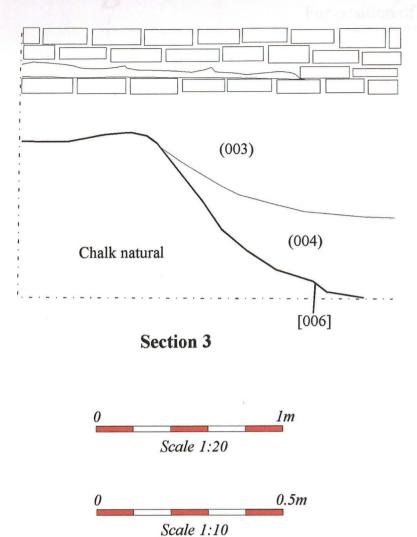
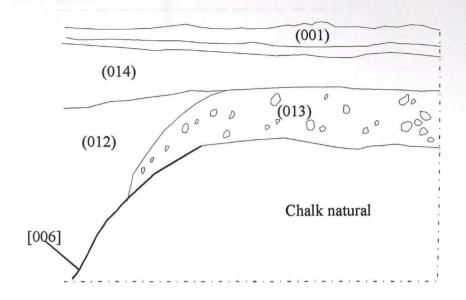


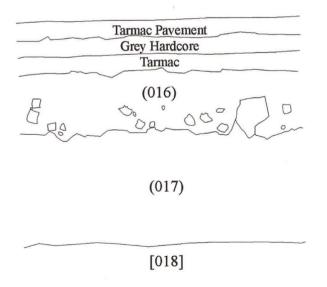
Figure 5: Section 1, [006] facing west, (scale 1:20)



**Fig. 6.** Section 3 facing east, Section 4 facing west, (scales 1:20) and Section 5 facing south, (scale 1:10).



**Section 4** 



**Section 5** 

Figure 7: Probable wall (019), (scale 1:20)

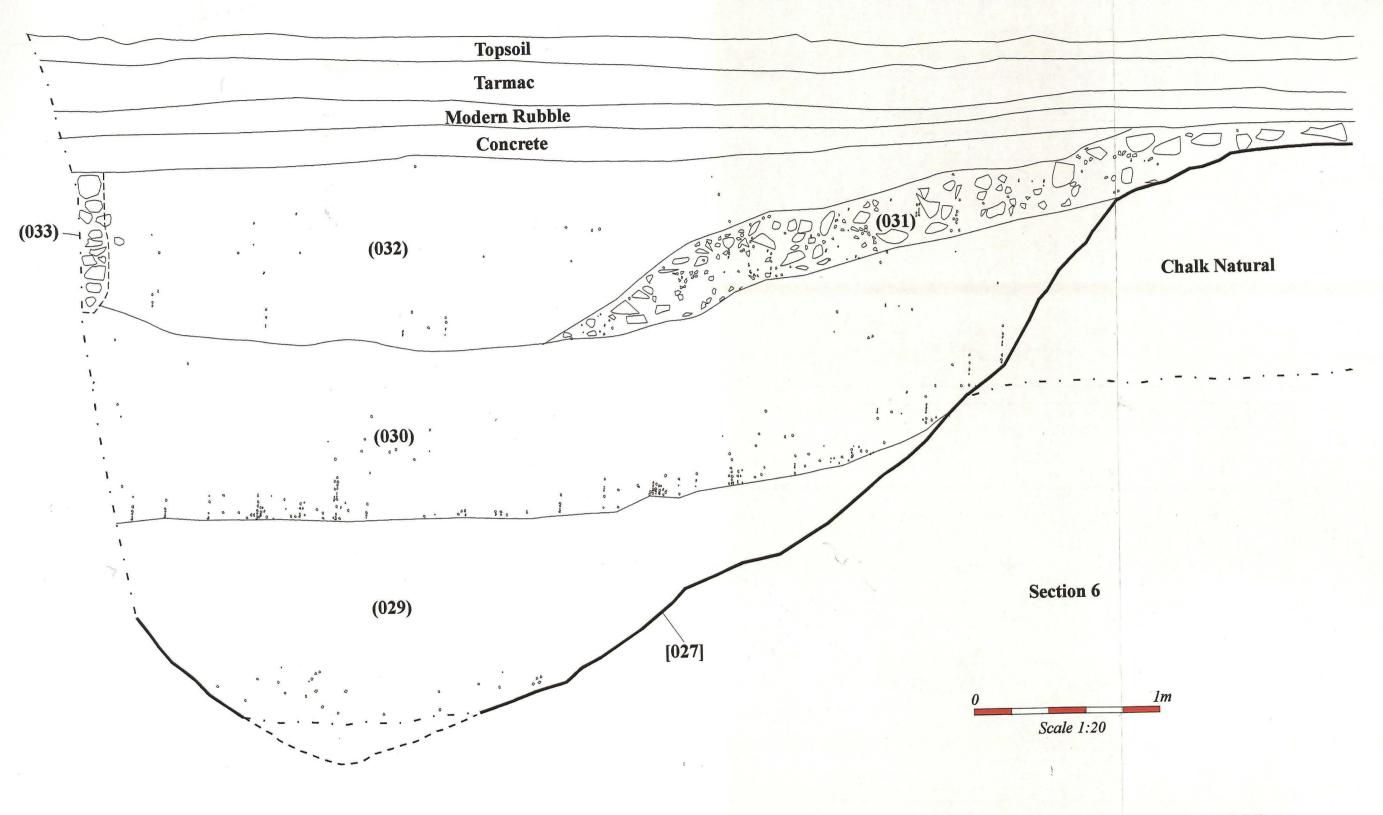
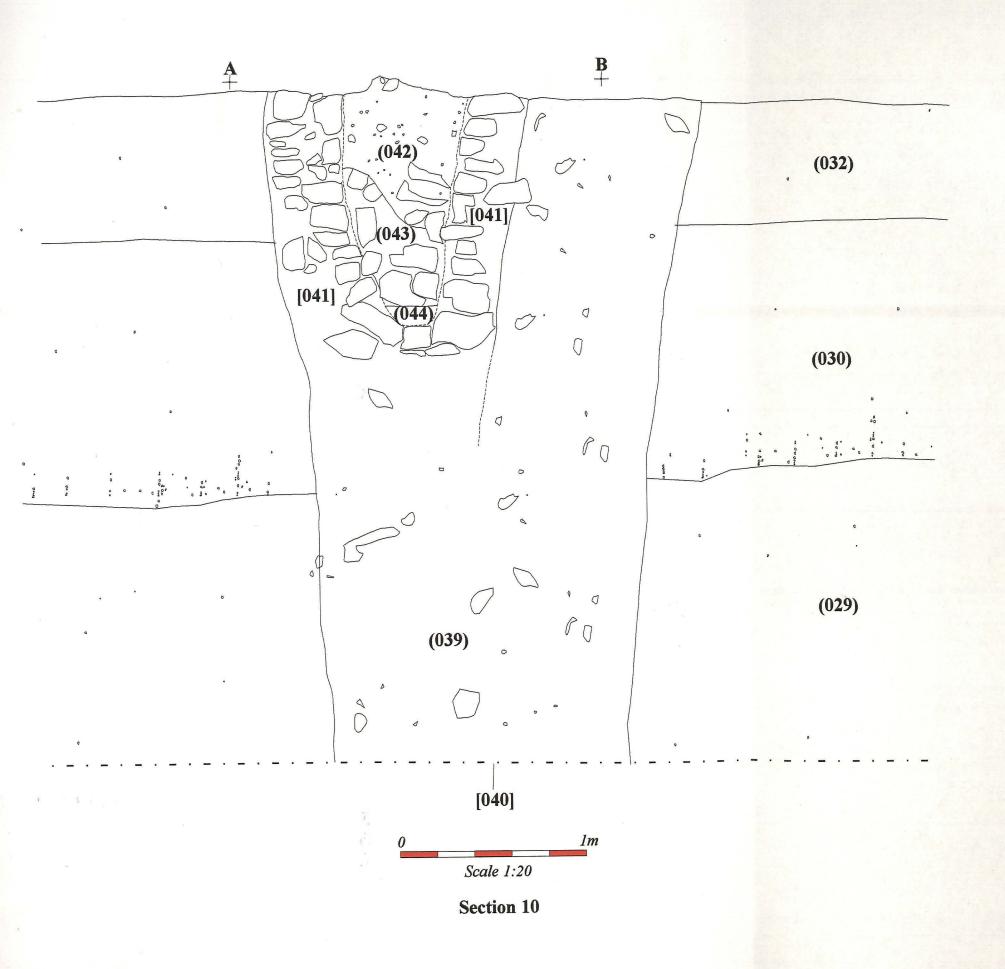


Figure 8: Section 6, [027] facing east, (scale 1:20)



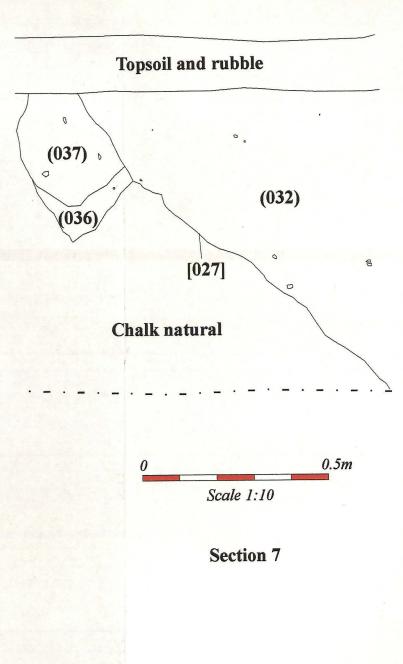
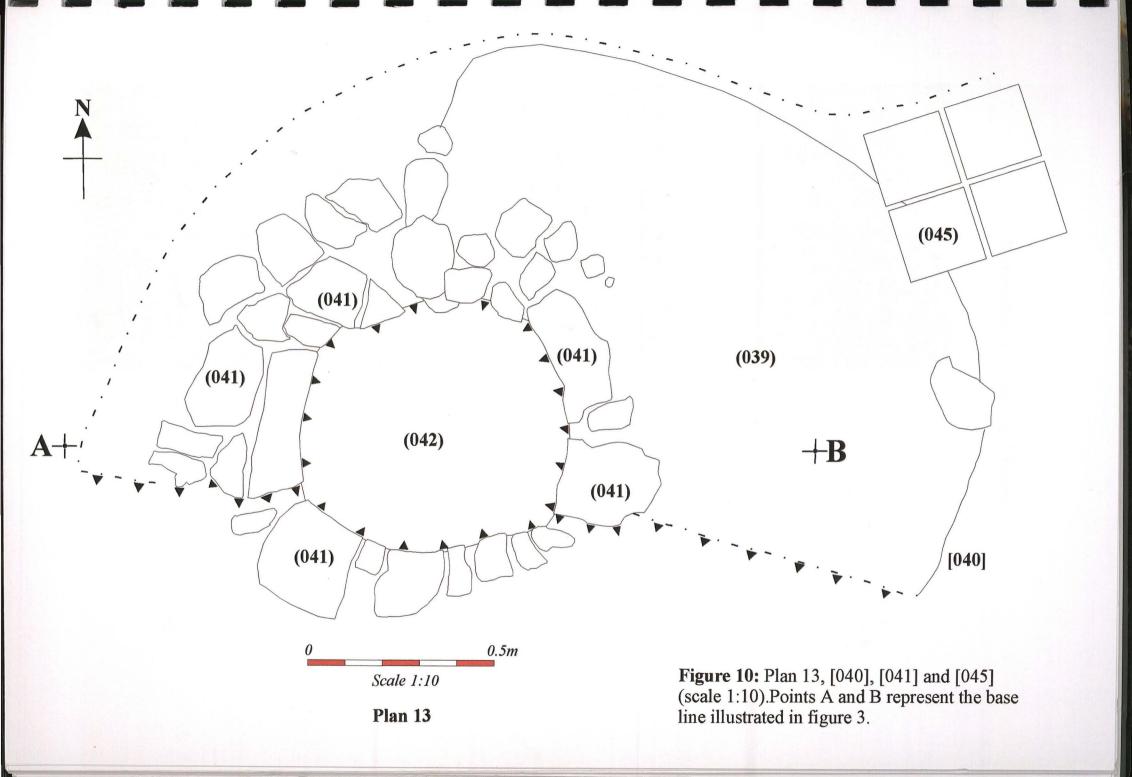


Figure 9: Section 10, [040] and [041] facing south, (scale 1:20) and Section 7, [035] facing west, (scale 1;10)



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates.



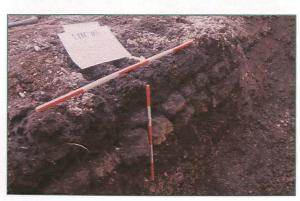
Pl. 1. Overview of the house footings within which ditch [006] was observed, looking north east.



**Pl. 2.** The same house footings, looking west.



**Pl.3.** Ditch [006] revealed at the western boundary of the site, looking west.



PL.4. Ditch [006] section, looking north, showing masonry (002).



**Pl. 5.** Ditch [006] section looking east.



**Pl. 6.** Ditch [006] section looking north east.



Pl.7. Southern side of ditch [006] at western boundary of site looking west.



Pl.8. Southern side of ditch [006] at eastern boundary of site looking east. Layer (013) is visible.



**Pl. 9.** Shaped Stone recorded as (015) removed from situ.



**Pl. 10.** Shaped Stone recorded as (015), in situ, looking west.



Pl. 11. Possible reused shaped stone recorded in the foundation of the modern brick wall northern boundary of the site, looking north east.



**Pl. 12.** Wall (019) exposed by machining. Looking east



Pl. 13. Fragments of (022) in situ.



Pl. 14. Ditch [027] looking south east. The masonry visible at the end of the trench is probable wall (033).



**Pl. 15.** Masonry cube (028), ex situ.



Pl. 16. The northern side of ditch [027] cutting the natural chalk just beneath modern layers.



**Pl. 17.** Excavation of the fills of [027] in progress looking east.



**Pl. 18.** Well construction pit [040] and shaft (041) in section, looking north east.



**Pl. 19.** Possible post hole (035). Looking east.



**PI. 20.** Horse skull within well shaft fill (043), looking north.



**Pl. 21.** Well shaft (041) looking north.



Pl. 22. Well shaft (041) in plan.



Pl. 23. Well construction pit [040] and shaft (041) in plan. Tiles (045) are visible.



**Pl. 24.** Well shaft (041), looking north east.

## Appendix 2

## **LHC 03 Context summary**

- 001 Topsoil
- 002 Masonary capping ditch 006
- 003 Ditch fill of [006]
- 004 Ditch fill of [006]
- 005 Ditch fill of [006]
- 006 Roman Ditch
- 007 Ditch fill of [006]
- 008 Ditch fill of [006]
- 009 Ditch fill of [006]
- 010 Ditch fill of [006]
- 011 Ditch fill of [006]
- 012 Ditch fill of [006]
- 013 Poss bank material
- 014 Ditch fill of [006]
- 015 Masonry within [006]
- 016- Foundation trench fill from [018]
- 017- Foundation trench fill from [018]
- 018- Foundation trench cut for modern brick wall
- 019- Crude wall
- 020- Layer immediately to north of (019)
- 021- Crude wall
- 022- Pottery just to north west of west end of (019)
- 023- Layer immediately to north of (019)
- 024- Modern brick wall
- 025- modern layer with glass
- 026- Crude stone blocks immediately to south of (019)
- 027- Massive roman ditch northern most
- 028 block from within (027)
- 029 Fill of (027)
- 030 Fill of (027)
- 031 Fill of (027)
- 032 Fill of (027)
- 033 Wall cutting within (032)
- 034 Crude wall
- 035 Poss posthole at point of sec 7
- 036 Posthole fill of (035)
- 037 Posthole fill of (035)
- 038 Void
- 039 Well construction pit fill of [040]
- 040 Well construction pit cut

041 - Neat stoned line well shaft to side of [040]

042 - Well fill of (041)

043 - Well fill of (041)

044- Well fill of (041)

045- Tiles cutting construction pit fill.

#### APPENDIX 3

THE POST-ROMAN CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM A WATCHING BRIEF AT THE RED LION HOTEL, HIGH STREET, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE (RLHC03).

#### JANE YOUNG CERAMIC CONSULTANT

#### INTRODUCTION

In total, fifty sherds of pottery representing thirty vessels, four fragments of brick, three fragments of roof tile, one floor tile and one miscellaneous fragment were recovered from the site. One vessel is of Roman date. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using fabric codenames agreed locally and nationally.

## CONDITION

The pottery is mainly in a slightly abraded to fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the medium to large range (above 10grams). In total eight vessels are represented by more than one sherd. Five vessels have exterior soot residues showing that they have been used over an open fire. White internal 'kettle fur' deposits caused by the heating of water or containment of urine were found on four vessels. The Toynton ware vessel in context 043 has a thick white internal deposit but no external sooting, suggesting that it was used to hold urine rather than to heat water and may in fact be the base of a urinal.

#### THE POTTERY

In total twenty-nine vessels in nineteen identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types were recovered together with fragments of four bricks, two tiles and a fragment of fired clay (Table 1). The range of form types is limited with examples of various types of jug, jar and bowl forming the body of the assemblage.

Table 1 Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	1100	1230	3	2
BEVO1T	Beverley Orange-type ware Fabric 1	1100	1230	2	2
BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	1	1
BOU	Bourne D ware	1450	1650	1	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	2	2
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	2	2
LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	1	1
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	2	1
LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	8	5
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	1350	1550	1	1
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320	1	1
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	12	3
NLST	North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered	1180	1450	1	1
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	1100	1230	3	1

R	Roman pottery	40	400	1	1
REST	Red stoneware	1730	1780	1	1
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1070	1	1
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1250	1450	2	1
TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1450	1550	5	2

## Saxo-Norman

Six vessels are of Saxo-Norman type with five vessels dating to the period between the late 10th and late 12th centuries (LFS) and one vessel to between the late 9th and mid/late 11th centuries (TORK). The Torksey ware sherd is almost certainly of pre-conquest date as Torksey ware appears to be absent from post-conquest assemblages both in Lincoln and York. None of the sherds have any diagnostic features to enable close dating of the vessels.

## Early medieval

Six vessels predate the end of the second quarter of the 13th century and post-date the early 12th century. Most of these probably date to the last quarter of the 12th century. A single shell-tempered sherd (LEMS) is the only coarse ware vessel that can definitely be dated to this period, however some of the LFS vessels are probably of 12th century date. The other vessels comprise jugs from Beverley (BEVO1), an unknown possibly North Lincolnshire source (BEVO1T) and Nottingham (NSP).

#### Medieval

Overall, twelve of the pottery vessels submitted for examination are of medieval to late medieval type and can be dated to the period between the early 13th and mid 16th centuries. The assemblage includes vessels from Toynton All Saints (TOY and TOYII), Beverley (BEVO2), Lincoln (LSW2) and the Humber area (HUM) and well as vessels probably made more locally (MEDLOC and LMLOC). Jugs are the most common vessel type recovered. Context 22 contained the almost complete base of a large medieval jug in a local fabric (MEDLOC), fresh machine breaks on this vessel suggest it was substantially more complete on deposition. The base of a possible urinal in Late Medieval Toynton ware was recovered from context 43, again, fresh machine breaks on this vessel indicated that the vessel was more complete on disposal.

## Post-medieval to Early Modern

A group of five vessels post-date the 15th century, the vessels comprise mainly Lincolnshire made bowls (GRE) and a jug or jar (BOU) with one industrial 18th century fineware (REST) and one miscellaneous earthenware fragment (LERTH) also present.

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

Four handmade bricks were recovered from the site. All are of late medieval to post-medieval type and date to between the 15th and 17th or 18th centuries. Three fragments of early modern pantile were found as well as an unglazed floor tile of similar date. A single small miscellaneous fragment may be from a handmade brick.

#### **DISCUSSION**

It is impossible to make precise statements about the status or function of the site due to the limited size of the assemblage and the archaeological method of recovery (watching brief). However, it is possible to suggest that there was occupation in the area from at least the 11th century if not earlier and occupation on this site from the last quarter of the 12th century through to the early modern period. The

assemblage appears to contain mainly vessels for use in the kitchen or for drinking, although the presence of a Nottingham Splashed ware jug amongst the later 12th century material in context 21 is most unusual and could suggest a higher status group. The condition of much of the pottery (fairly fresh, sharp sherds, which fresh breaks from machine damage suggest may originally have been of a much larger size) suggests that artefact survival on the site was good. Two sherds of the possibly locally produced fabric (MEDLOC) have been taken for the temporary Fabric Type Series held at 25 West Parade, Lincoln. The entire collection should be kept for future study.

## Pottery Archive RLHC03

Jane Young

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description
002	REST		teapot?	1	1	9	moulded/sprigged dec	BS		
002	GRE		large bowl	1	1	41		base		
004	NLST		large bowl/jar	1	1	59		base		soot
005	LFS		jar/bowl	1	1	44		base		fe corrosion int
009	R		jar	1	1	21		BS		
009	LFS	*	?	1	1	4		base		fe concretion
009	LERTH		vessel/pantile	2	1	19		BS		soot
011	HUM		jug	1	1	25		BS		
011	BOU	sandy fabric	jug/jar	1	1	68		BS		? ID
011	MEDLOC	light OX/R;fine	jug/jar	1	1	60		BS	Fabric Type	abundant fine-med quartz mod fe
occ		sandy;hard							Series	ca;slightly abraded
011 slip	LSW2		jug	1	1	43		BS		fresh breaks; cu glaze over white
011	BEVO1T		jug	1	1	14		BS		pocked glaze
021	BEVO1T		jug/jar	1	1	11		BS		
021	BEVO1	A	jug	2	1	61		BS		splashed glaze
021	NSP	fine-sandy	jug	3	1	52		BS		splashed glaze; fe corrosion int
021	BEVO1	A	jug	1	1	5		BS		suspension glaze with cu specks

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description
021	LFS		small jar ?	2	1	13		base		soot
021	LFS		small jar	3	1	12		BS		abraded
021	LEMS		jar ?	1	. 1	10		BS		
022	MEDLOC	dull	large jug	10	1	808	sets of 5 thubings at	base &	Fabric Type	reduced glaze spots;soot;abundant
fine-med		OX/R/OX;fine-med					basal angle	BS	Series	quartz occ larger mod fe;
022	MEDLOC		jug/jar	1	1	12		BS		soot;reduced glaze spots
032	TORK		?	1	1	4		BS		
039	LFS		bowl	1	1	10		rim		soot;11th
041 white deposi	TOY t		jug/jar	2	1	34		BS		? ID or MEDLOC;thick internal
041	GRE		large bowl	1	1	37		BS		late 17th to 18th
042	LMLOC	dull oxid;med	jar	1	1	5		BS		brown glaze; abun subround quartz
occ ca occ		sandy;hard								flint
043	TOYII		jug/urinal	4	1	207		base		thick internal white deposit
044	BEVO2	В	?	1	1	1		BS		
044	TOYII		?	1	1	1		BS		white internal deposit
044	HUM		jug	1	1	9		BS		

## Appendix 4

# REPORT 165 ON POTTERY FROM THE RED LION HOTEL, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE, RLHC03

## for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

M.J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

May 2004

The Roman finds amounted to a single sherd, weighing 18g, found residually in context 009.

This has been archived according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*.

The sherd is a body sherd from a jar or more probably a large bowl, in a grey quartz-gritted fabric. This is decorated with a combed wavy-line zone below a groove and burnishing. The style of decoration is one found mainly in the later Roman period, from the later 3rd to 4th centuries.

© M.J. Darling, 2004

## Appendix 5. The Red Lion Hotel, Caistor

#### **Animal bones**

A small collection of 203 animal bones was made during a watching brief of groundworks at the Red Lion Hotel. The material has been identified and catalogued (attached) and the finds are summarised in Table 1. Several of the bones were fragmented and the dog skeleton accounted for ninety eight of the bones. All the bone is in a good state of preservation.

Table 1. Frequency of identified fragments of each taxa by context.

context	002	005	011	023	029	032	042	043	044
Horse	(0.4.5) 0.4.520000000000000000000000000000000000						2	ATT	
Cattle			2		1	1	5	4	2
Cattle size			1				4	1	2
Sheep/goat	1		1	1			2	2	
Sheep			1	1					1
Sheep size		1							
Pig			1					2	
Dog							1		2
Dog skeleton								1*	1*
Goose				2					
Unidentified								1	

<sup>\*</sup> both contexts contain bones from the same dog skeleton

Several of the bones show evidence of butchery and a few have been gnawed by dogs. One sheep skull was split down the middle to remove the brain and a cervical vertebra of a cow was chopped down the middle suggesting that the carcass was split into sides during its primary butchery. The sample is insufficient to sustain any analysis although cattle bones dominate.

Context 043 includes a large part of the skull of an aged cow and fragments of this skull also occur in context 044 as do bones of the dog skeleton in context 043. The latter is an adult dog, with some development of lipping around the vertebral epiphyses and one or two of the long bone articulations. This latter suggests a fairly old animal, although the lipping is not so severe as to have been an appreciable impediment to the animals locomotion.

Immature, adult and aged cattle are present in the assemblage but no calves. The ageable sheep bones are all adult and the two pig bones indicate the presence of immature and subadult animals.

© D.James Rackham 10<sup>th</sup> July 2004

## Archive Catalogue of Animal bone from the Red Lion Hotel, Louth – LHC03

site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path.	comment	preser
LHC03	002	OVCA	ним	1	R		69			EL-MATERIAL MODELLY CO. THEY			DISTAL SHAFT	4
LHC03	005	SSZ	RIB	1	F	1			1				MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
LHC03	011	BOS	FEM	1	R	PJDN	1234567					1	COMPLETE-SL DAMAGE- 2 PIECES-IMMATURE	4
LHC03	011	CSZ	RIB	1	F	1	1						MIDSHAFT- 2 PIECES	4
LHC03	011	BOS	MTC	1	R	DF	345						DISTAL END	4
LHC03	011	SUS	UM3	1	W					K6			UNWORN	4
LHC03	011	OVCA	UM2	1	R	1				J11			COMPLETE	4
LHC03	011	OVI	SKL	1	F		3	СН					POLLED-OCCIPTAL AND PARIETAL AND PARTS FRONTAL	4
LHC03	023	OVCA	INN	1	L	EF	359	ne ominimo o de cominimo e	DG				ACETAB AND PART ILIAL SHAFT-ANT CHOPPED	4
LHC03	023	OVI	НС	1	F		1	-	1				DISTAL TIP OF CORE	4
LHC03	023	GOOS	CMC	1	L						GL-88 Dp-20.5		COMPLETE	4
LHC03	023	GOOS	CMC	1	L						GL-86.2 Dp-21.6		COMPLETE	4
LHC03	029	BOS	НС	1	L	-	1	СН					TIP LOST-BASE CHOPPED	4
LHC03	032	BOS	SKL	1	L		5						SUPRA-ORBITAL FRAGMENT	4
LHC03	042	BOS	INN		R		4						ANT PUBIS FRAGMENT-JUV	4
LHC03	042	CSZ	UNI		F				-				RIB OR TP	4
LHC03		OVCA	SKL	1	F		1483	СН					LEFT SIDE POST & VENTRAL SKL -CHOPPED DOWN MIDDLE- 11 PIECES	4
LHC03	042	CAN	FEM	1	L	PF	1234						PROX END AND SHAFT-SHORTISH	4
LHC03	042	EQU	RIB	1	R								PROX AND MIDSHAFT- 2 PIECES	4
LHC03	042	EQU	RIB	1	R								PROX AND MIDSHAFT- 2 PIECES	4
LHC03	042	CSZ	RIB	1	F				-				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
LHC03	042	CSZ	RIB	1	F								SHAFT- 3 PIECES	4
LHC03	042	CSZ	RIB	1	R								PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
LHC03	042	BOS	CEV	1	R	CJAN		СН					RIGHT SIDE-CHOPPED DOWN MIDDLE	4
LHC03	042	OVCA	CAL	1	R	PF	123				GL-57.6		PROX END DAMAGED	4
LHC03	042	BOS	SKL	1	F								CRANIAL FRAG- 3 PIECES-POROUS	4
LHC03	042	BOS	MTC	1	R	DF	12345				GL-200 Bp-57.4 Dp36.5 SD-29.8 Bd-58 Dd-30.6		COMPLETE	4
LHC03	042	BOS	MTT	1	R	DF	12345				GL-211 SD-25.1 Bd-49.3 Dd-30.4		PROX END DAMAGED- 2 PIECES-SHAFT POROUS-IMM	4
LHC03	043	BOS	SKL	1	F		148906			GH13I16J1 5K15			MOST LEFT SIDE-NASALS AND FRAGS RIGHT SIDE- 22 PIECES	4
LHC03	043	CAN	SKEL	1	Р							Р	MOST OF SKELETON- ADULT-SMALL-MEDIUM SIZE ANIMAL-82 BITS-SOME LIPPING ON ARTICS	4
LHC03	043	BOS	INN	1	L	EF	4	СН	DG				PUBIC FRAG ACETB-CHOPPED THRU ACETAB-PUBIS CHEWED	4
LHC03	043	OVCA	HUM	1	R		5690						SHAFT	4
LHC03	043	BOS	FEM	1	L	PF	1	***************************************	-				PART OF FEMUR HEAD	4
LHC03	1 - 1 -	sus	INN		Ī	EF	34579		DG				ACETAB + ILIAL AND ISCHIAL SHAFT-BOTH ENDS CHEWED-POROUS-IMM	4

site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path.	comment	preser
LHC03	043	BOS	FEM	1	F				DG				SHAFT-POROUS-IMM- 8 PIECES-DISTAL SHAFT CHEWED	4
LHC03	043	SUS	TRV	1	F		1						SPINE	4
LHC03	043	CSZ	UNI	1	F								INDET	4
LHC03	043	OVCA	LMP4	1	L					H12			ANT CUSP	4
LHC03	043	UNI	UNI	1	F				A programment complete combat agreement				INDET	4
LHC03	044	BOS	SKL	1	F								PARTS OF ABOVE SKL IN 43-15 PIECES	4
LHC03	044	CSZ	CEV	1	F	AN		CH					POST EPIPHYSIS-CHOPPED THRU MIDDLE	4
LHC03	044	OVI	SKL	1	F		3						DORSAL FRAG OCCIPITAL	4
LHC03	044	BOS	ULN	1	F	PJ							FRAGMENT PROX END	4
LHC03	044	CAN	SKEL	1	Р							р	PARTS OF SKELLY IN 043- 16 BONES	4
LHC03	044	CAN	SKL	1	F	harquist to comment a transmission		des para esta esta esta esta esta esta esta est		\$ 1000000000000000000000000000000000000		cocurato (nativo) de accionación (nativo)	TEMPORAL AND PARIETAL FRAG OF SECOND DOG	4
LHC03	044	CSZ	UNI	1	F								INDET	4