

**EXTRACTION OF EXISTING PETROL TANKS,
FORMER 'SAVE' PETROL STATION,
216-232 MONKS ROAD, LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	PSMR 04
LCCM Acc No	2004.224
NGR (centre)	SK 99280 71425
Planning ref.	2003/0838/F

Report prepared for
M Potts Builder & Contractor

by

S. A. Savage

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

- An archaeological watching brief took place during the extraction of redundant petrol tanks at the former 'Save' Petrol Station, 216-232, Monks Road, Lincoln.
- This activity represented the initial phase of groundworks prior to the construction of 21 apartments.
- The brief identified no features of archaeological significance.



Fig.1: General site location. The development area is highlighted in red and the area shown in fig. 2 is outlined in blue (scale 1:25,000).
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned M Potts Builder & Contractor to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the extraction of petrol tanks at the former 'Save' Petrol Station, 216-232, Monks Road, Lincoln.

The archaeological programme was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Lincoln City Archaeologist, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999), and the Lincolnshire County Council document, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Location and description (Fig. 1, 2)

The redevelopment area is situated on the east side of Lincoln, on the north side of Monks Road, and east of Hillside Approach. The proposed redevelopment comprises the erection of 21 apartments in nine new buildings. The extraction of the existing petrol tanks represents the initial phase of the development.

The geology of the area comprises Upper Lias clay and shale (BGS 1973).

The site centres on NGR SK 99280 71425.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the demolition of an existing petrol station, and the erection of 21 apartments at 216 – 232 Monks Road. This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

The planning reference for this scheme is 2003/0838/F.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Lincoln Urban Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA) shows that throughout prehistory the site lay within an area of hillside springs, streams and pools, on the edge of the limestone uplands.

During the Romano-British period the important villa of Greetwell was established further to the east. The recovery of a number of Roman artefacts from the surrounding area may be an indication that the development site was situated within the villa estate; consequently, there is a possibility that field systems, boundaries and outbuildings existed in this area. The villa continued to be inhabited following the withdrawal of Roman troops in the 5th century AD.

During the high medieval era (9th – 14th centuries AD) the area lay within the Black Monks' estate, and was used both for common pasture and also for limestone quarrying. Both types of land use continued up until the 18th century, when the pasture became enclosed with some reversion to meadow. During this time the Benedictine Priory of St Mary Magdalene (also known as Monks' Abbey) was constructed nearby.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries the area was noted for its limestone and clay quarries.

Some previous investigations have taken place in this area of the city. The Greetwell Villa has been investigated on numerous occasions during the late 19th century, and up until the 1940's, mainly in Jellicoe Avenue (some 200m to the east) and other parts of the Monks Tower Estate. The villa buildings were first discovered in the 1880's/90's, and comprised a bath suite, along with several rooms (some with mosaics of high quality) and a corridor that measured some 87m long. It is generally believed, because of the wealth of the building, that either a wealthy individual or a government official owned the complex.

A north-south orientated limestone wall was exposed during foundation trench excavations at 57 Hillside Avenue. Due to its association with a fragment of Roman pottery and pieces of tile of similar date, it has been suggested that the wall may have been part of an outbuilding associated with the villa. Further Roman (and medieval) pottery, along with a late Saxon crucible and a small bronze distributor were found at 366 Monks Road in 1996.

5.0 Methodology

Two visits were made to the site (on the 27th and 29th September 2004), when the tanks were being removed, when no sections were revealed. A further visit was made on the afternoon of the 30th September, and on this occasion the last remnants of the concrete bases of the tanks were removed and this work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded.

The excavation work was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator employing a 1.8m wide toothed bucket. The resulting pit was 2.5m deep, and this had unstable sides. It was inspected after machine cleaning, and recorded from above. This resulted in the production of scale drawings: a location plan and sample section drawing with written descriptions of each deposit. Colour photographs compliment these accounts.

6.0 Results (Figs. 3, 4)

The uppermost layer recorded was the concrete hard standing of the former petrol station (001).

Below 001, was a mid grey-brown silty clay, which contained frequent rubble fragments and modern finds (002). This material was 0.3m thick and was interpreted as made ground for the concrete apron above. Context 002 sealed a 1m thick dark grey/reddish brown silty clay layer containing frequent angular stone fragments (003),

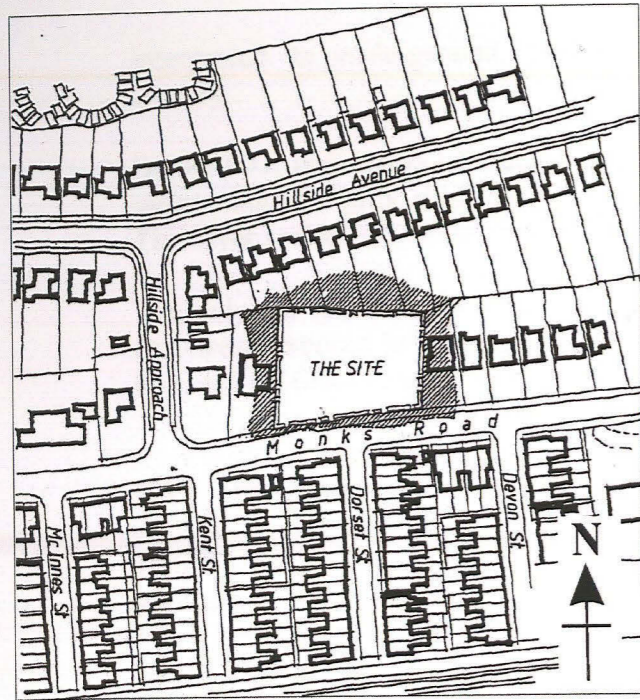


Fig. 2: Site location plan. Based on developer drawings. Scale 1:2500

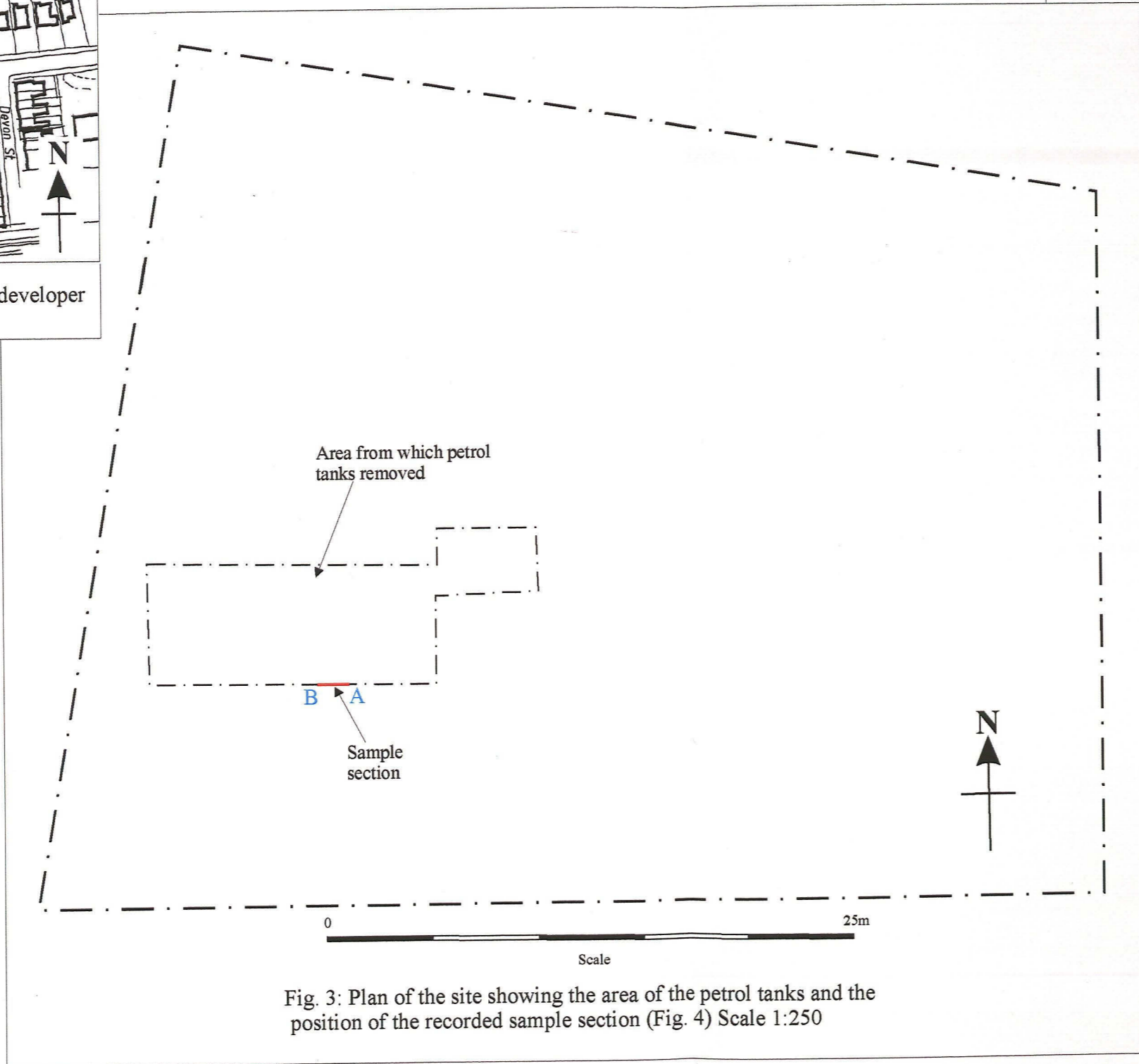


Fig. 3: Plan of the site showing the area of the petrol tanks and the position of the recorded sample section (Fig. 4) Scale 1:250

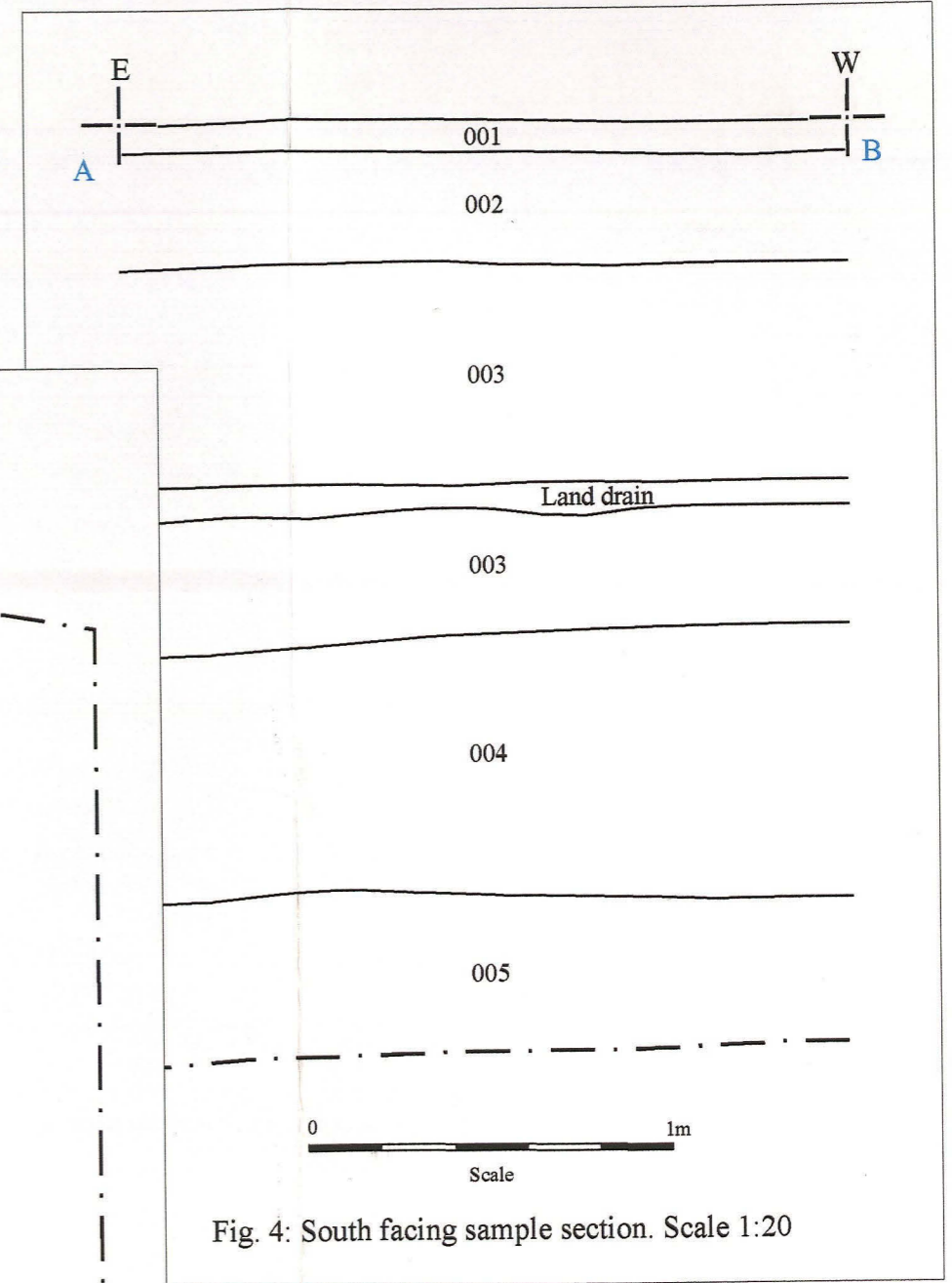


Fig. 4: South facing sample section. Scale 1:20

interpreted as made-ground, probably associated with local terracing in the 19th century.

Below 003, two layers of natural clay were exposed. The uppermost of these was a moist mid/dark grey silty clay containing occasional white rounded pebbles – 004. This layer sealed 005, which was similar in all respects, but darker.

The only cut feature seen in the exposed sections of the pit was a land drain running east-west; exposed in the south section face. Only modern finds were noted in context 002, and no other datable objects were recovered.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

In this area of the development, only modern deposits were exposed overlying natural geology. No features of archaeological significance were exposed by the watching brief. It would appear, therefore, that this area, which is situated to the south-west of the known Roman villa and in a gap between the present surrounding street-frontage properties, was never developed and has only been utilised in the past as pasture/garden areas.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed was adequate to determine that no features of archaeological significance were present in this area of the development.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank M Potts Builder & Contractor for commissioning this work. Thanks are due also to W Munford, who undertook the fieldwork, for his hard work on site.

10.0 Bibliography

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11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The paper archive will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number, 2004. 224.

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body, the City Archaeologist, the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire, and the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1 (above): General view of the development site with petrol tanks removed, looking south-west.

Plate 2(right): View of the development site, showing the pit excavated to remove the petrol tanks, looking west.

Appendix 2: Context summary.

Context	Description
001	Concrete hard standing of the former petrol station
002	Mid grey brown silty clay, with frequent rubble fragments and modern finds - make-up below 001
003	Dark grey/reddish brown silty clay layer containing frequent angular limestone fragments – made ground
004	Moist mid/dark grey silty clay containing occasional white rounded pebbles - Natural Clay
005	Moist dark grey silty clay containing occasional white rounded pebbles - Natural Clay