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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**21 Wragby Road, Lincoln
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SK 988200 ~~71883~~ 498200 371883

Site Code: LEWR 04

LCNCC Accn No.: 2004.126

Report

for

Allison Homes

by

Mick McDaid

**LAS Report No. 775
October 2004**

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Summary

Evaluation at 21 Wragby Road was intended to comprise three machine excavated trenches. Unfortunately, the presence of live services in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 2 made it impossible to open a reasonable sample area because of restricted access. After consultation with the Lincoln City Archaeologist excavation was abandoned in these areas of the site further evaluation of the site may be required as a condition of any planning consent.

Evaluation Trench 3 contained post-medieval levelling material, up to 1.90m deep. Beneath the levelling deposits was a robbed wall and, to the south, the remains of a floor surface. This building was built upon a late 16-17th century deposit, possibly overlying the fill of a quarry pit. Safety precautions prevented exposure of archaeology below c.2.50m.

Impact upon archaeology, at the south end of the site, will occur if a depth greater than 57.44m O.D. (1.90m below the present ground surface) is excavated. Sympathetic foundation design may avoid any impact on archaeological deposits.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Allison Homes in April 2004 to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the letter set by Heritage Services Section, Department of Planning, Lincoln City Council dated 11/06/03. Work commenced on 14/09/04 and was completed the 15/09/04.

Site Description

The proposed development site (Fig. 1) is located on the corner of Wragby Road and Greetwellgate, east of Wainwell Mews. It is currently occupied by the Honda garage and comprises buildings and open areas of tarmac. There is a deep cellar beneath the buildings fronting onto Greetwellgate.

The Site lies wholly within Conservation Area No. 3 (Lindum and Arboretum).

Planning Background

No planning application has been registered.

Archaeological Background

The site is located just east of the Upper Roman city walls in an area which was extensively quarried in the medieval period.

In the pre-Roman period it was probably open ground. This area outside the eastern gates of the fortress may have been used for training and recreational activities in the Roman military era. Excavations in 1987-9 at Winnowsty Cottages, north-west of the site produced evidence for Roman and medieval occupation fronting onto Greetwellgate. Later shafts and tunnels for limestone quarrying were found south of the frontage. The buildings on the site were originally part of a stable complex built for Capt Robert Swan who lived at the Quarry, Wragby Road. The garage has reused some of these stable buildings.

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the enhanced watching brief was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development, which may include further excavation
- provide information for accession to the County SMR and the Lincoln UAD

More specifically this initial evaluation was to attempt to establish if any archaeological remains survive.

Method

The brief requested the excavation of three trial trenches, a 3m square trench close to the Wragby Road frontage, a 3m square trench at the west side of the site and a narrow trench 1m x 1m running north-south close to the Greetwellgate frontage (Fig. 1). However, cat scanning revealed that services in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 2 meant that a reasonable sample area could not be opened up. After consultation with the City Archaeologist, who visited site, it was decided that these two trenches would be abandoned at this stage.

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of two experienced archaeologists. The trenches were machine excavated using a JCB with a braker and toothless bucket to the first archaeological horizon. The trenches were then hand-cleaned in an attempt to reveal features in plan. A full written (single context) and photographic record will be made of the site, to include site plans at a scale of 1:20, and section drawings at 1:20. A plan of the trench was made with section drawings of at least one side. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site shots.

LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

Context numbers were assigned for recording purposes and these are used in bold in the report text and summarised in Appendix 1.

A temporary bench mark (59.94m O.D.) was established on the site from a spot height on Greetwellgate Road (60.00m O.D.). Temporary benchmarks on the Eastgate primary school wall and the wall of No.4 Winnowsty Lane had been removed.

Results

Trench 1 (Figs 1, Pls. 1 and 2)

Prior to excavation evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 were cat scanned. Readings indicating the presence of live services were noted within the proposed trench locations, reducing the size of the trenches to such a degree that a reasonable sample area could not be opened up. Alternative areas were scanned adjacent to the trenches but with the same results. The City Archaeologist was called to site to decide on a course of action. He agreed that the areas could not be opened up, because of access requirements of the garage, but that these areas of the proposed development site should be investigated post determination.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, Pls. 3 and 4)

This trench had to be moved further west than originally intended due to the presence of drains and services. The 0.09m deep tarmac, **1**, and 0.17m deep reinforced concrete, **2**, were broken up using a JCB with a braker. Below lay a 0.22m deep brick hardcore layer. The bricks were modern (0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m). A substantial, 0.43m deep, friable black sand silt, **4**, devoid of inclusions lay below. This sealed 0.08m thick light to mid grey brown silt clay, **5**, which sealed a 0.38m deep crushed limestone and grey silt clay deposit, **6**. Pottery and brick from this deposit dated to the 18-20th century. A grey ash and crushed limestone layer, **7**, 0.30m deep lay below, covering a similar ashy deposit, **9**.

An earlier brown clay silt, **14**, 0.34m deep at its south end, was cut by east/west aligned robber trench, **12**, over 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, filled by light to mid brown silt clay **11**, containing 18-20th century brick and tile fragments and mid-13th-mid-15th century pottery. A buff clay floor surface, **8**, over 0.18m deep at its north end, lay south of the robbed wall.

Below the building was a brown clay silt layer containing frequent limestone fragments, **10**. This layer contained two sherds from a mid-16th -17th century black-glazed mug. A hand excavated sondage in the south-west corner of the trench established that **10** was 0.30m deep and sealed a similar deposit lacking the limestone inclusions, **13**, over 0.38m in depth. This layer contained a single sherd of 10th century Lincoln shelly ware pottery

Discussion

Trenches 1 and 2 have shown that extensive modern disturbance of the ground by services has occurred and that caution must be undertaken when dealing with these areas. The concrete in Trench 3 is not believed to have extended as far as Trench 2's location, suggesting the cat scan readings were not for the metal mesh within the reinforced concrete.

Trench 3 revealed that below the 0.50m deep modern deposits (1 -3) are 1.40m of post-medieval levelling material (5 -7 and 9). The building, whose east/west robbed wall and floor were exposed, cannot be dated. Based upon the pottery coming from the deposits below and from the wall's robber trench we can say it was constructed after the early 17th century.

The deposits below the building (10 and 13) could be filling medieval quarry pits. Investigation on land to the west by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit exposed medieval quarry pits over 5m deep and there was extensive quarrying on the east side of Wragby Road, diagonally opposite the garage, as shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Conclusion

Much of the proposed development site has been disturbed by modern development and service trenches. In the one trench which was investigated there is evidence for occupation of the site in the early post-medieval period which overlies medieval quarrying. Impact upon archaeological remains at the south end of the site will occur if the groundworks penetrate deeper than 57.44m O.D (1.90m below the present ground surface).

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Allison Homes Mrs S Emilliani and Mr Hudson the JCB driver. The evaluation was carried out by Mick McDaid and Ian Rowlandson. Post Roman pottery and tile report was by Jane Young. Naomi Field edited the report.

Mick McDaid
October 21st 2004

References

Hill, Sir F 1948 *Medieval Lincoln*. Reprinted 1990, Paul Watkins Publishing, Stamford.

Jones, M, Vince, A and Stocker, D. 2003 *The City By The Pool*. Oxbow Books.

Contents of Site Archive

13 context sheets

1 plan at 1:20, and 1 sketch location plan

2 section drawings at 1:20

Photographs LAS film nos 04/103/9-35

Finds

Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive for 21 Wragby Road, Lincoln (LEWR04)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	date
06	PEARL	Pearlware		dish	2	1	41	transfer print	BS	late 18th to early/mid 19th
10	BL	Black-glazed wares	GRE	mug	2	1	31		base & BS	mid 16th to early/mid 17th
11	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	4		BS	mid 13th to mid 15th
13	LSH	Lincoln shelly ware	E	?	1	1	5		BS	10th
15	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		hollow	3	1	69		BS	18th to 19th

Ceramic Glossary

cname	full name	earliest date	latest date
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750
BOU	Bourne D ware	1450	1650
CEP	Chinese export porcelain	1640	1850
CIST	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830
DST	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1230
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	1900
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450
MP	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600
NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900
PORC	Porcelain	1700	1900
ST	Stamford Ware	970	1200
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800
SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900

APPENDIX 3

Ceramic Building Material Archive for 21 Wragby Road, Lincoln (LEWR04)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
06	BRK	Brick	poor fabric comm clay pellets/shale	1	2680	mortar;110x220x55mm; complete;	late 18th to 20th
06	BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)	poor fabric comm clay pellets/shale	1	1042	mortar incl over breaks;handmade	18th to 20th
06	BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)	orange sandy fabric	1	910	mortar incl over breaks;handmade	18th to 20th
06	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)		4	850		late 18th to 20th
10	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	180	flat roofer;corner;mortar	13th to 16th
10	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	100	flat roofer;mortar	13th to 16th
10	RTIL	Roman tile		1	180	? TEG	Roman
10	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	odd fabric comm fe	1	90	flat roofer;mortar	13th to 16th
11	BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)	poor shaley fabric	1	330	handmade;mortar	18th to 20th
11	BRK	Brick	poor shaley fabric	1	600	handmade;100x58mm	18th to 20th

Ceramic Building Material Glossary

cname	full name
BRK	Brick
BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)
DAUB	Daub
MISC	Unidentified types
MODTIL	Modern tile
MODTILDISC	Modern tile (discarded)
NIB	nibbed tile
PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile

THE FIGURES

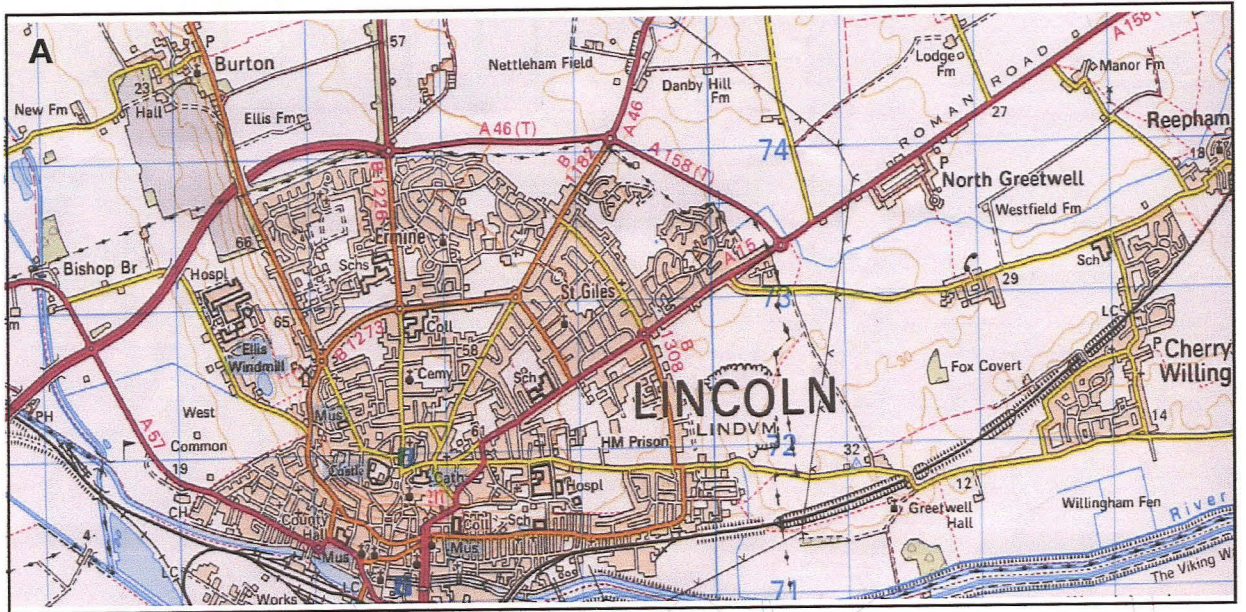


Fig. 1 Location of 21 Wragby Road and the evaluation trenches, based on (A) 1:50, 000 OS Map and (B) 1:125,000 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165.

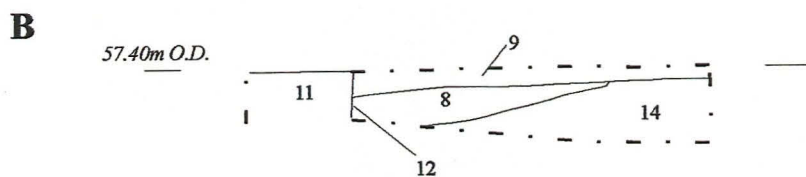
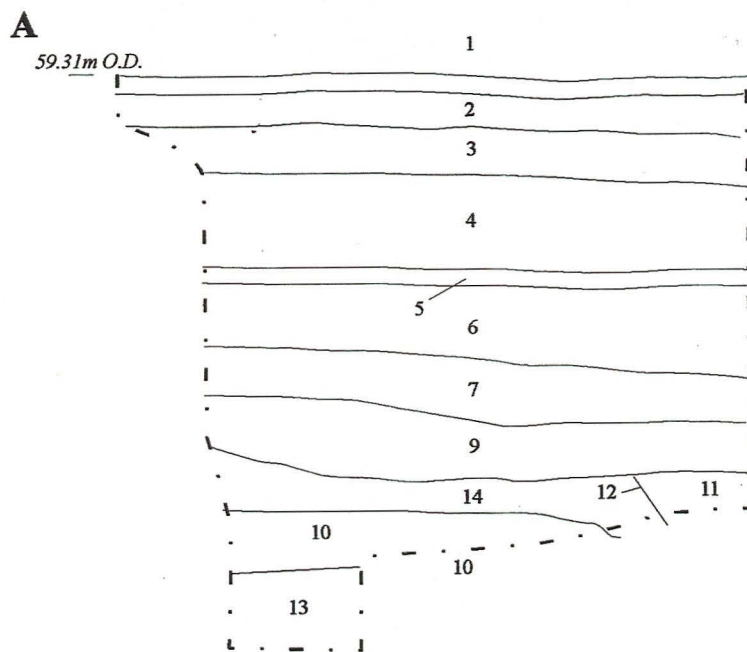
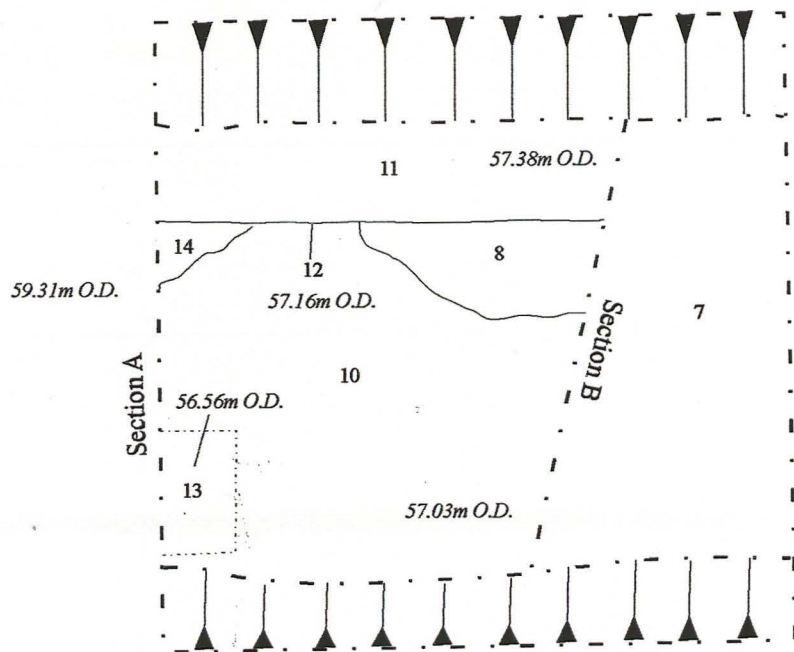


Fig. 2 Trench 3 plan and sections.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Location of Trench 1, looking south.



Pl. 2 Location of Trench 2, looking north - west.



Pl. 3 Trench 3. Robbed wall 12 and surface 8, looking north- north-west. Scales 1m.



Pl. 4 Trench 3. East facing section. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Pl. 5 Trench 3. Deposit 13 exposed in sondage. Looking west. Scale 0.50m.