

**95, NETTLEHAM ROAD,
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

Site code	NERD 05
NGR:	SK 98409 72885
LCCM Acc No:	2005.16

Report prepared for M. Potts Builder and Contractor
on behalf of Mr. G. Nicholson

by

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EVENT L15626

INTERVENTION LI 9785
EXCAVATION LI 9786

negative



Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	4
7.0	Discussion and Conclusions	4
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	4
9.0	Acknowledgements	4
10.0	Bibliography	5
11.0	Site archive	5

Illustrations

Fig. 1: Location of site at scale 1:25 000

Fig. 2: Location of site at scale 1:1250, with location plan of the evaluation trench at scale 1:100

Fig. 3: Section of evaluation trench at scale 1:20

Appendices

Appendix 1 Colour Plates

Appendix 2 Context Summary

Summary

- *An archaeological field evaluation took place in advance of a proposed extension to a house at 95, Nettleham Road, Lincoln.*
- *The development area is known to be close to the course of a Roman aqueduct and a parallel Roman road running into the city.*
- *A trench located perpendicular to the rear of the current house contained no archaeological deposits.*

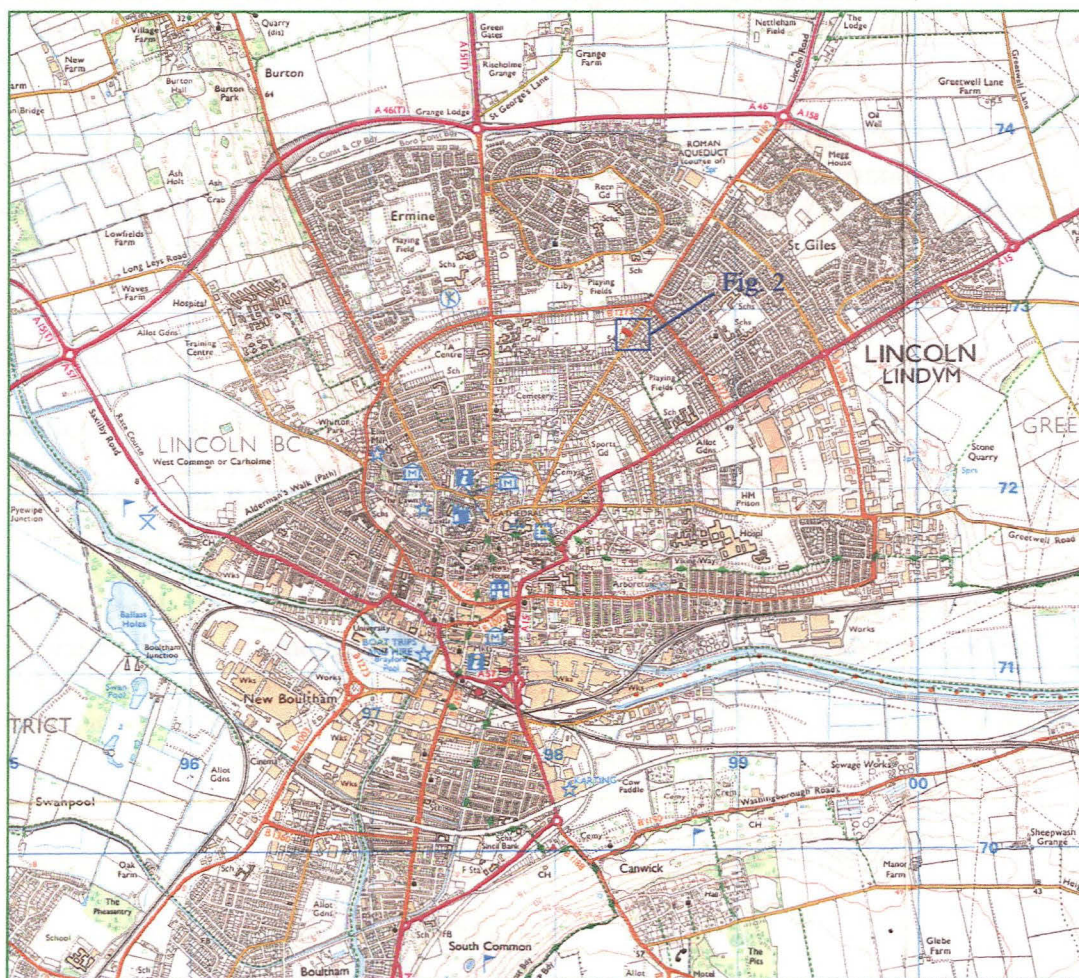


Figure 1: Site location. The development site is marked in red, and the area shown in figure 2 is outlined in blue. Scale 1:25000.
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological trial excavation took place to assess the impact of a proposed extension to a house at 95, Nettleham Road, Lincoln. The work was commissioned by M. Potts Builder and Contractor, on behalf of Mr. G. Nicholson, to fulfil a condition attached to planning permission for residential redevelopment.

The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the City Archaeologist and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), in accordance with the Lincoln City Council Archaeology Section document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (1998)'. 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), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning body, the City Archaeologist, the County Sites and Monuments Record, and the Planning Authority. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied by an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description (Figs 1 and 2)

The site lies on the north side of Lincoln, on the north-west side of Nettleham Road, between Longdales Road and Broadway, approximately 1km north-east of the city centre. Nettleham Road forms one of the main routes in and out of Lincoln, joining the A158 and the A46 some 1.4km to the north-east of the development site.

The present development site consists of an area of land approximately 12m x 10m at the rear of the existing house at 95, Nettleham Road, currently forming part of the back garden. The property is unoccupied; it is bordered by Nettleham Road to south-east, a neighbouring property to north-east, the access to the playing fields of a nearby school to south-west, and by the playing fields themselves to north-west.

There is no drift geology in the area: the solid geology is undivided Lincolnshire Limestone (British Geological Survey, 1973).

National Grid Reference: SK 98409 72885.

3.0 Planning Background

Full planning permission was granted in October 2004 for the erection of an extension to a residential property, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation.

Planning reference: 2004/0720/F.

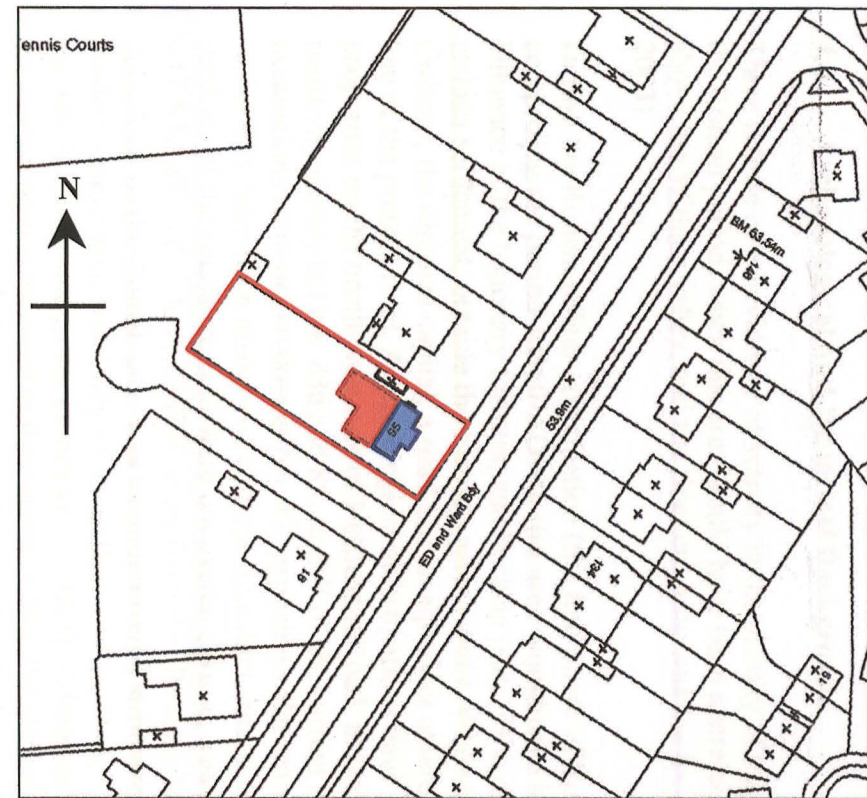
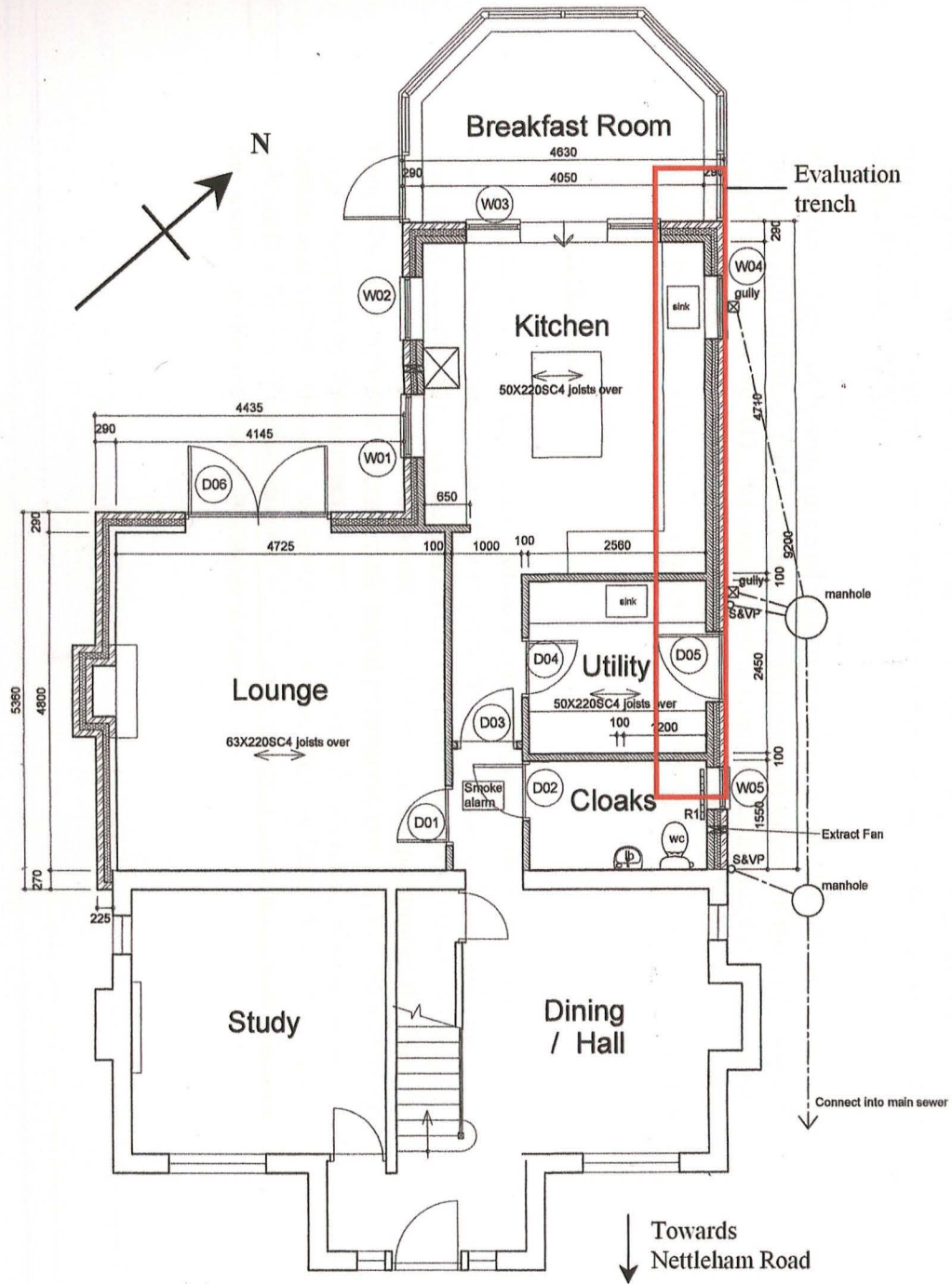


Figure 2: Location plan of the development site at 1:1250 (above), with a plan showing the position of the evaluation trench at 1:100 (left). In the plan above, the present house is shown in blue, and the proposed extension in red; in the plan left, the trench is outlined in red. The walls shown in grey represent the proposed extension, and those in white currently existing walls which will be retained; currently existing walls which will not be retained are not shown.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

There is little or no evidence of activity in the vicinity of the development site before the Roman period, when this area would have been a stretch of the limestone uplands above the Witham valley, and the river crossing was the focus of activity (Jones *et al.*, 2003).

During the Roman military occupation (the first phase of Roman imperial rule, comprising the period AD60-AD90), this area would have lain within the direct influence of the legionary fortress, and became part of the *canabae*, or informal civilian settlement, outside the fortress gates (*ibid.*). When Lincoln became *Lindum Colonia*, the regional capital, a road and an aqueduct entered the city on roughly the line of the present road. Archaeological investigations have taken place on several properties on the north-west side of Nettleham Road: in the light of the results of a resistivity survey at Nos. 83a and 85, to SW of the current development site, excavations were undertaken at No. 87, exposing a flat stone platform of Roman date which may have been associated with the aqueduct, and at Nos. 93 and 101, where sections of the aqueduct itself were uncovered (Wood, 1981). The Lindum aqueduct, which is believed to have carried water from the 'Roaring Meg' spring some 1¾ miles north-east of the Roman city, was an underground structure not dissimilar from a modern trunk main, consisting of an earthenware pipeline, with a bore of 145mm, encased in a concrete jacket (Jones *et al.*, 2003). A fragment of the pipeline had previously been discovered in the garden of No. 103 (Whitwell and Wilson, 1969). Further investigations between Nos. 93 and 95, which identified the construction methods of the aqueduct, also exposed a section of Roman metalled road (Wood, 1981). However, a watching brief carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services during the construction of a rear extension at No. 99 noted natural limestone brash directly under the topsoil, and no remains of either the road or the aqueduct were exposed (Angus, 2000).

After the collapse of Roman imperial rule in Britain, around 410 AD, elements of the city were still inhabited, and the Roman roads remained in use. In the high medieval era (9th – 14th century AD), the site lay within Lincoln's common fields. This area continued to be arable land until it was developed for housing in the 20th century, between the wars, and so can be expected to have been ploughed by heavy machinery.

5.0 Methodology

The evaluation took place on 24th January 2005. A single 9.0m x 1.0m trench was excavated, running north-west from close to the back of the existing building. Following consultation with the contractor, the trench was positioned on the north-east side of the proposed development area, in the eventual position of the foundation trench for the north-east external wall. Initial excavation was carried out with a mini-digger supplied by the contractor, using a 1.0m toothless bucket; after the removal of topsoil and modern deposits, all further work was done by hand. As there were no sub-surface layers of archaeological significance, machine excavation was halted on the surface of the underlying limestone natural.

The maximum depth of the trench was 0.10m, allowing convenient site access. The trench base and sides were cleared by hand and checked for cut hazards. Remediation was done on standard working brief recording sheets, and a site drawing made of the south-west facing trench section as no archaeological features were present. A plan drawing was made. A colour side photographic record was made, a selection of which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

The evaluation was supervised by the author, assisted by two experienced archaeologists, it was completed on the same day.

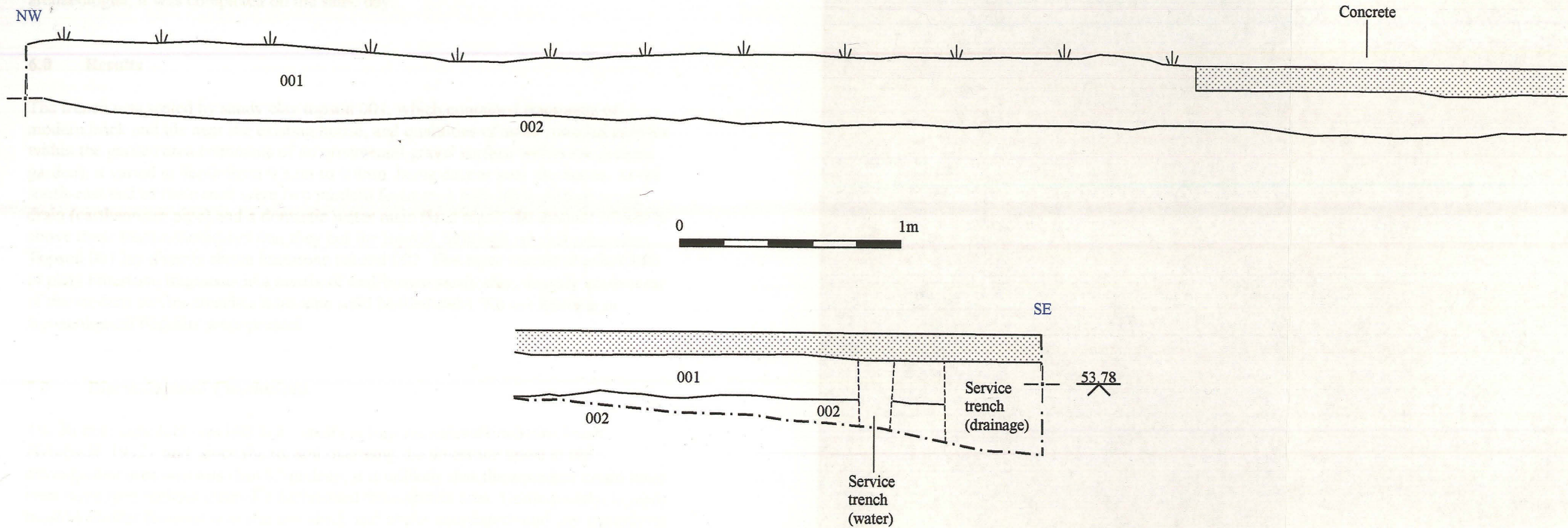


Figure 3: SW facing section of the evaluation trench at scale 1:20.

The maximum depth of the trench was 0.50m, allowing unrestricted safe access. The trench base and sides were cleaned by hand and checked for cut features. Recording was done on standard watching brief recording sheets, and a scale drawing made of the south-west facing trench section: as no archaeological features were present, no plan drawing was made. A colour slide photographic record was maintained, a selection of which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

The evaluation was supervised by the author, assisted by one experienced archaeologist; it was completed on the same day.

6.0 Results

The trench was sealed by sandy clay topsoil 001, which contained fragments of modern brick and tile near the existing house, and quantities of small rounded pebbles within the garden area (remnants of an ornamental gravel surface within the present garden); it varied in depth from 0.32m to 0.48m, being deeper near the house. At the south-east end of the trench were two modern features, a redundant surface water drain (earthenware pipe) and a domestic water main (lead pipe): the amount of rubble above these features indicated that they cut the topsoil, although no cuts were seen. Topsoil 001 lay directly above limestone natural 002. This layer consisted principally of platy limestone fragments in a matrix of mid-brown sandy clay; directly north-west of the modern service trenches it became solid bedded slabs. No cut features or archaeological deposits were present.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The Roman aqueduct was laid in a trench cut into the natural limestone brash (Whitwell, 1992), and, since the topsoil overlying the limestone brash in the development area was less than 0.5m deep, it is unlikely that the aqueduct could have been destroyed without trace if it had passed through this area. Consequently, it seems most likely that the course of the aqueduct, and of the associated road, lay outside the footprint of the proposed extension.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed in this project was sufficient to demonstrate that the Nettleham Road Roman aqueduct will not be affected by the proposed works.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank M. Potts Builder and contractor for this commission and for their co-operation during the evaluation. Thanks are also due to S. Jackson for diligence and enthusiasm in extremely inclement conditions.

10.0 Bibliography

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11.0 Site archive

The documentary and physical archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months from the completion of the project.



Plate 1 (left): General shot of the development area during machining, looking SE towards the rear of the current house.

Plate 2 (right): Machining the evaluation trench, looking NW from the rear of the house.



Plate 3 (bottom left): The completed evaluation trench, looking SE. The disturbed area containing modern services is visible as darker material at the far end of the trench.

Plate 4 (bottom right): The completed evaluation trench, looking NW. The modern water pipe is visible at the near end of the trench, directly above the number board and north arrow; the area of larger stones in the foreground is naturally bedded limestone.



Appendix 2: Context list

- 001 Mid brownish-grey sandy clay topsoil
- 002 Natural limestone brash overlying bedded limestone