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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

29 Queen Street, Louth, Lincs.

**NGR: TF 3302 8739
Site Code: LQS04
LCNCC Accn N° : 2004.262
Planning Application: N/105/00982/04
Listed Buildings Consent: N/105/00988/04**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report

for

Harris Building Services

on behalf of

Mr and Mrs R. Eldridge

by

Richard Pullen MA PIFA

LAS Report No. 791

February 2005

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**Queen Street Louth, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the machine excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the rear of 29 Queen Street, Louth, Lincs. In order to locate below ground services an observation pit was excavated in the passageway at the front of the property. The exposed deposits consisted solely of disturbed 19th century demolition and build-up layers. The foundations of a modern brick wall were exposed and found to be constructed on dressed limestone blocks bonded together using a modern lime cement based concrete.

Any surviving archaeology that may exist on the site lies protected in situ beneath at least 0.75m of modern build-up (100) thus the impact of the development on the archaeological record was negligible due to the shallow depth of the foundation trenches.

Introduction

In November 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Harris Building Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to the construction of a new single storey extension to the rear of 29 Queen Street, Louth, Crowland, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

Site Location and Description

Louth is a country market town of late Saxon origin located on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Queen Street is situated within the medieval core of the town, east of the Market Place. Number 29 is located on the north side of Queen Street. The site consisted of an area of level ground c.5.50m x 6.50m at the rear of the existing two storey 18th century building. Prior to clearance the site was occupied by a wooden shed and a 19th century single storey red brick outbuilding.

Planning Background

Planning permission N/105/00982/04 and listed buildings consent N/105/00988/04 were granted by East Lindsey District Council for an extension to an existing house to provide a bathroom and bed/sitting room on the site of an existing outbuilding and shed which have now been demolished. The permission was subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of the construction.

Archaeological Background

Louth is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it belonged to the Bishop of Lincoln both before and after the Norman Conquest. This was clearly an important Anglo-Saxon settlement which had a market by 1086. There is little physical evidence of Anglo-Saxon Louth and there is no evidence for a Roman origin to the town. Much of the area around the market place still retains the medieval street layout and the proposed development site is within this area. Queen Street was formerly known as Walkergate and before that as Fullers Street. In the medieval period the street was part of an area where woollen cloth was dyed and processed.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any surviving archaeological material that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

Method

Demolition of the existing structures and stripping of the first c.0.30m of the site was carried out in early 2004. The new extension was to be placed on a concrete raft with a 0.45m deep foundation trench running around the outside. Excavation of the raft footprint, building foundations and a services observation pit began on the 2nd December 2004 and took two days to complete. All excavation was observed by LAS Project Officer Richard Pullen MA. The trenches were 0.50m wide and had an overall depth of 0.45m below the level of the newly stripped area.

Results

In order to locate existing below ground services an observation pit was excavated in the passageway at the front of the property. The pit was 1.60m in length and 0.55m wide with an overall depth of 0.60m. A single 19th century ceramic sewage pipe was located at the base of the pit. Due to existing pipes the exposed deposits in the observation pit consisted of backfilled material and no finds or features were noted. The raft footprint and foundation trenches consisted solely of disturbed modern build-up. The exposed layers were assigned a group context of **100**. Several fragments of pottery were recovered from **100** with a date range covering the mid 19th to the mid 20th century. These were discarded after examination by Jane Young. The foundations of the red brick garden wall that forms the western boundary of the site were exposed and found to be constructed of dressed limestone blocks with an average individual size of c. 0.30m x 0.40m. The blocks had been bonded using a modern lime cement based mortar.

Conclusion

Any surviving archaeology that may exist on the site lies protected in situ beneath at least 0.75m of modern build-up **100**. Four sherds of pottery dating from the 19th and 20th centuries was located in the mixed layers cut by the foundation trenches. This is to be expected on almost any urban site that is being re-developed after previous long term occupation. The impact of the development on the archaeological record was negligible due to the shallow depth of the developers excavations.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Michael Harris and the groundworkers from Harris Building Services. The watching brief was conducted by Richard Pullen. The pottery was identified by Jane Young and the illustrations were produced by the author, some from drawings supplied by the architect Lee Holmes.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
18th February 2005

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 04/133 and 0/159

Archaeological Finds. 4 pieces of modern pottery, discarded after examination by specialist.

THE FIGURES



Fig.1 Location of Louth. c) reproduced from the 1:50,000 Explorer Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO © Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. AL10002165.

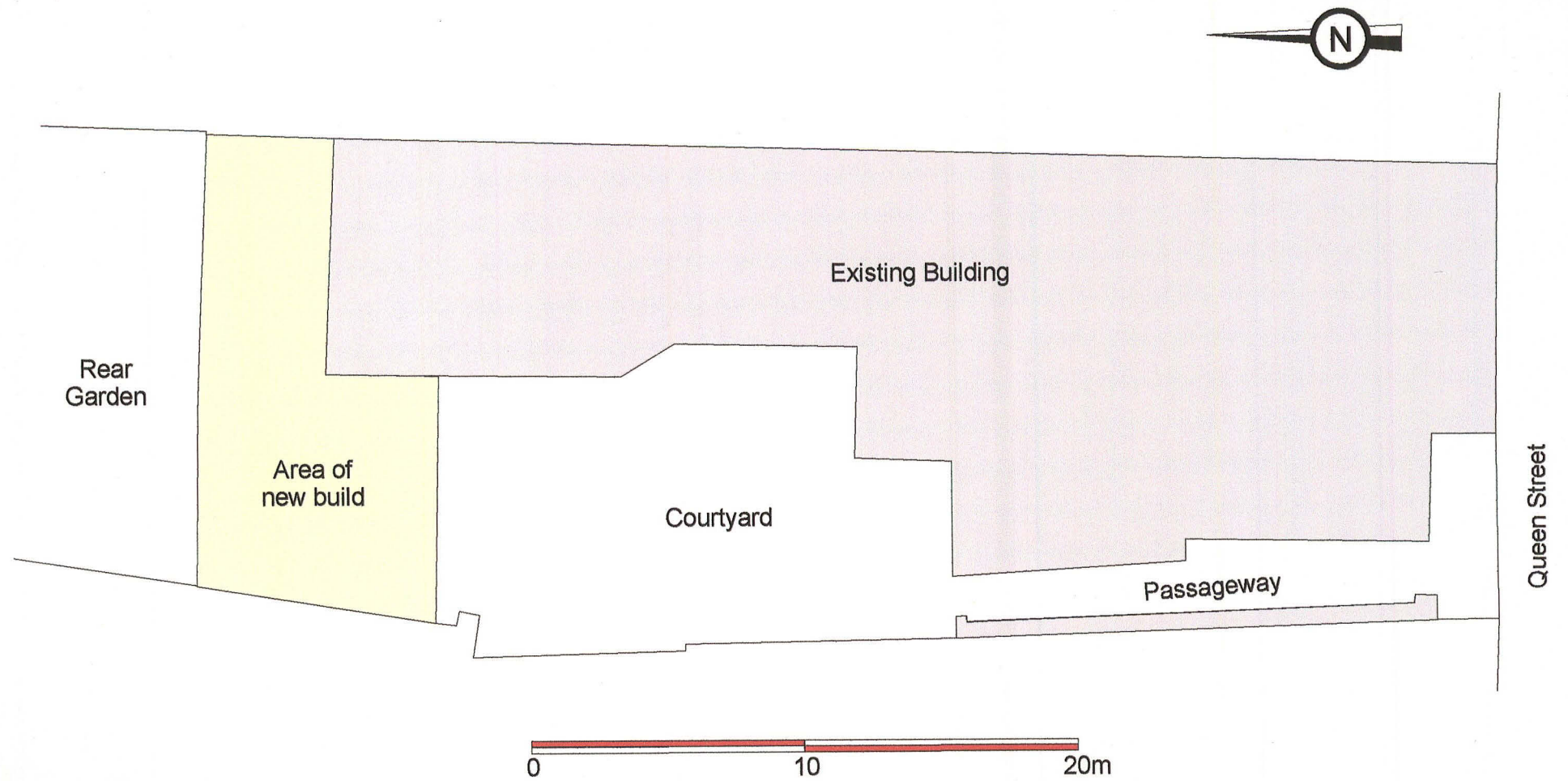


Fig. 2 Plan showing the area of development at 29 Queen Street, Louth (based on a plan supplied by the architect Lee Holmes)

THE PLATES



Fig. 1 Observation pit in entrance passage of 29 Queen Street



Fig. 2 Looking north across the partially stripped site



Fig. 3 Looking south at the freshly demolished outbuildings adjacent to 29 Queen Street



Fig. 4 General view showing the stripped site and the western boundary wall



Fig. 5 Looking west at stone foundations of modern brick wall



Fig. 6 Foundation trench showing final formation depth and stone foundations of boundary wall.