



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**60 Boston Road, Horncastle, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 26110 69047**

**Site Code: HCBR 05**

**LCNCC Accn No.: 2005.37**

**Planning Application: S/086/0954/03**

**Report for**

**Mr J. Dean**

**by**

**I. Rowlandson**

**LAS Report No. 806**

**March 2005**

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### **Summary**

*The foundation trenches of an extension to the rear of 60 Boston Road were monitored. The monitoring produced scant evidence for archaeological deposits. Previous development to the rear of the house and landscaping associated with the construction of the associated patio may have truncated any archaeological remains. No finds were found in association with archaeological features. The watching brief was brought to an early conclusion with the agreement of the monitoring archaeologist. Residual ceramics found confirmed the possibility of Roman activity and occupation in the area..*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr J. Dean in February 2005 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 60 Boston Road, Horncastle (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced February 8<sup>th</sup> 2005 and was concluded in consultation with Dr Beryl Lott (archaeological advisor to East Lindsey District Council) after the first day of monitoring. The archaeological watching brief was conducted by the author.

### **Site Location and Description**

The development site is located on the west side of Boston Road, to the south of Horncastle town centre.

### **Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted in 2003 for the construction of a bedroom extension to an existing house, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

### **Archaeological Background**

The development site was located some 500m south east of the known extent of the Roman settlement, which lies south of the later Roman walled defences. It is also within 500m of another Roman site which flanks the River Bain to the west of Boston Road. The potential presence of remains from Roman or other periods in the area was deemed to be high.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

### **Method**

The groundworks were monitored by an experienced archaeologist. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:20, along with 1:20 sections.

The trench bases and sides were hand-cleaned, when appropriate, to reveal features in plan and sections to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded.

### **The Watching Brief**

Groundworks on the site began with the removal of a modern red brick and yellow concrete flagstone patio which occupied the area to the south of the previous extension which was to be developed into the living room extension (1). A bedding layer for the patio was encountered after the removal of the bricks and flagstones which consisted a layer, approximately 0.14m in depth, of a mid brown silt sand with modern bricks and concrete (2). The area for the living room extension was lowered to this horizon and footings were subsequently excavated.

The most northerly footing of the development was excavated first. The foundation trench was laid out up against the boundary wall to the north of the property. It was excavated to a depth of 1.18m below original patio level exposing the foundation of the previous extension at its easterly extent and the boundary wall along its northern extent. Beneath both the boundary and extension walls a mass of dark grey brown silt sand topsoil with occasional quartz pebbles (13) (0.46m in depth) which lay above a similar deposit with slightly more frequent quartz pebbles (14) which produced two sherds of Roman pottery (see **Appendix 2**) (0.16m in depth). A live salt glazed waste pipe (10) was encountered roughly half way across the trench which ran northwest-south east towards a manhole on the south westerly corner of the existing building. No clear cut for the laying of the pipe was visible, if 13 had been deposited before the waste pipe it had been backfilled with the same material. Beneath 13 was a natural yellow sandy gravel (8) which was the depth at which the foundations were laid.

At the base of the trench cut into the natural yellow sandy gravel (8) were two possible post holes. Post hole 4 was an irregular oval 0.34m at its greatest width and 0.04m deep it contained a mid brown very slightly silty sand with 10% angular quartz pebbles (5). The second feature 6 had diffuse edges and contained a mid brown very slightly silty sand with in excess of 20% angular quartz pebbles (7). The relationship between these two features was unclear, feature 6 was almost definitely the result of rooting and the irregular sides and base of feature 4 would also suggest that it had been affected by

plant activity. Neither feature produced any finds.

The second foundation trench monitored was excavated eastwards from the existing extension as a support for the structure. The salt glazed drain (10) was also encountered but a narrow cut (12) excavated up against the foundation of the existing extension was evident cutting a make up layer of modern concrete and mortar fragments (3). Cut 12 contained the salt glazed pipe (10), a bedding of pea gravel (11) and a light brown silty sand with bricks and mortar (9).

### **Discussion**

The site produced little evidence for Roman or other archaeological activity other than the finds retrieved from 14. The location of the new extension on a site which had previously been landscaped for the construction of a patio suggests that any archaeological remains which may have been present could have been subjected to disturbance.

No evidence for a subsoil layer was evident and both 13 and 14 appeared to look like topsoil. If layer 13 was the product of landscaping during the previous extension the work was conducted prior to any building works because it contained no mortar or building rubble. The layers may have been built up from material from the excavation of the footings of the previous extension and material removed from the garden to the west. The sherds of Roman grey ware in layer 14 were of mid to late Roman date but given the amount of Roman activity in the surrounding area could have been imported to the site.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the presence of two sherds of Roman pottery in the buried topsoil layer there was little by way of archaeological activity disturbed during the construction of the extension.

Ian Rowlandson MA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
March 11<sup>th</sup> 2005

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mr Dean and the ground works team for their help. Illustrations were produced by Russell Priest and the author. The Roman pottery archive report was by Barbara Precious. The fired clay was looked at by Alan Vince. This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

One sheet of plans and sections

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 10 Digital photos dated 8/2/2005

Specialist's report- 2 sherds Roman pottery

## APPENDIX 1

## APPENDIX 1

**60 Boston Road, Horncastle, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief  
Context Summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Structure	Modern red brick and yellow concrete flagstone patio
2	Layer	Mid brown silt sand with modern bricks and concrete
3	Cut	Make up layer of concrete and mortar fragments
4	Cut	Possible post hole or rooting action
5	Fill	Fill of 4, mid brown very slightly silty sand, 10% angular quartz pebbles
6	Cut	Rooting action
7	Fill	Fill of 7, mid brown very slightly silty sand 20% angular quartz pebbles
8	Layer	Natural yellow sand gravel
9	Fill	Fill of 12, light brown silt sand with bricks and mortar
10	Fill	Fill of 12, light brown salt glazed pipe
11	Fill	Fill of 12, pea gravel
12	Cut	Cut for waste pipe
13	Layer	Dark grey brown silt sand with occasional quartz pebbles
14	Layer	Dark grey brown silt sand with occasional- moderate quartz pebbles



**APPENDIX 2**

Roman pottery archive from 60 Boston Road, Horncastle watching brief (HCBR) for LAS

07/03/05hcb05.xls

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Novess	Dwg no	Alter	Comments	Join	Shs	Wt
14	GREY	CLSD					BS THICK POSS BWM DK GRY CORE LROM		1	25
14	GREY	CLSD					BS THICKISH DK GREY; MID-LROM		1	7
14	CRUC?				D1	DEPOSIT	RIM; METAL DEPOSIT; ANALYSE; DATE?		1	4
14	ZZZ						METAL WORKING; PARTING?			
14	ZDATE						LROM			

**THE FIGURES**



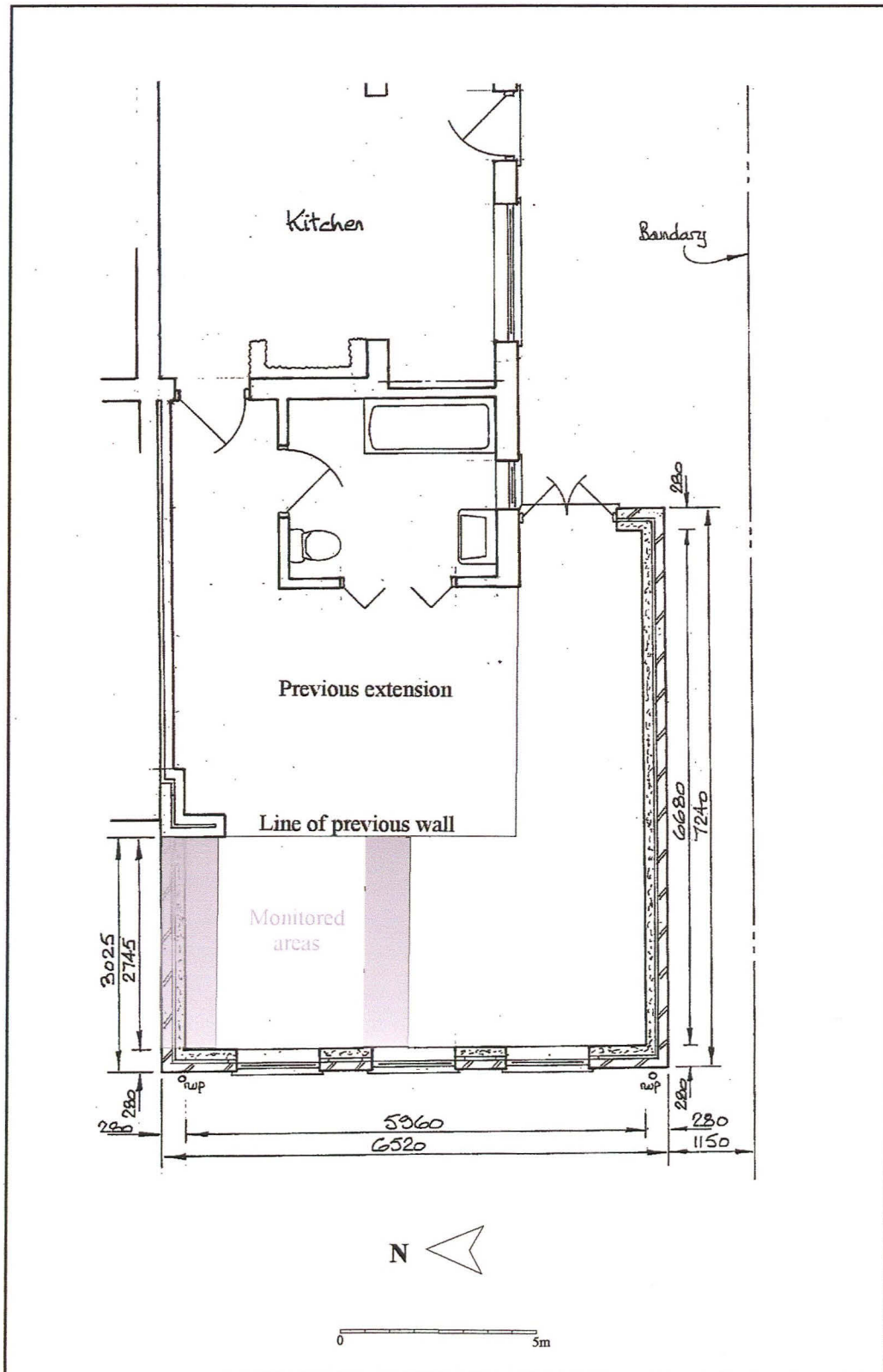
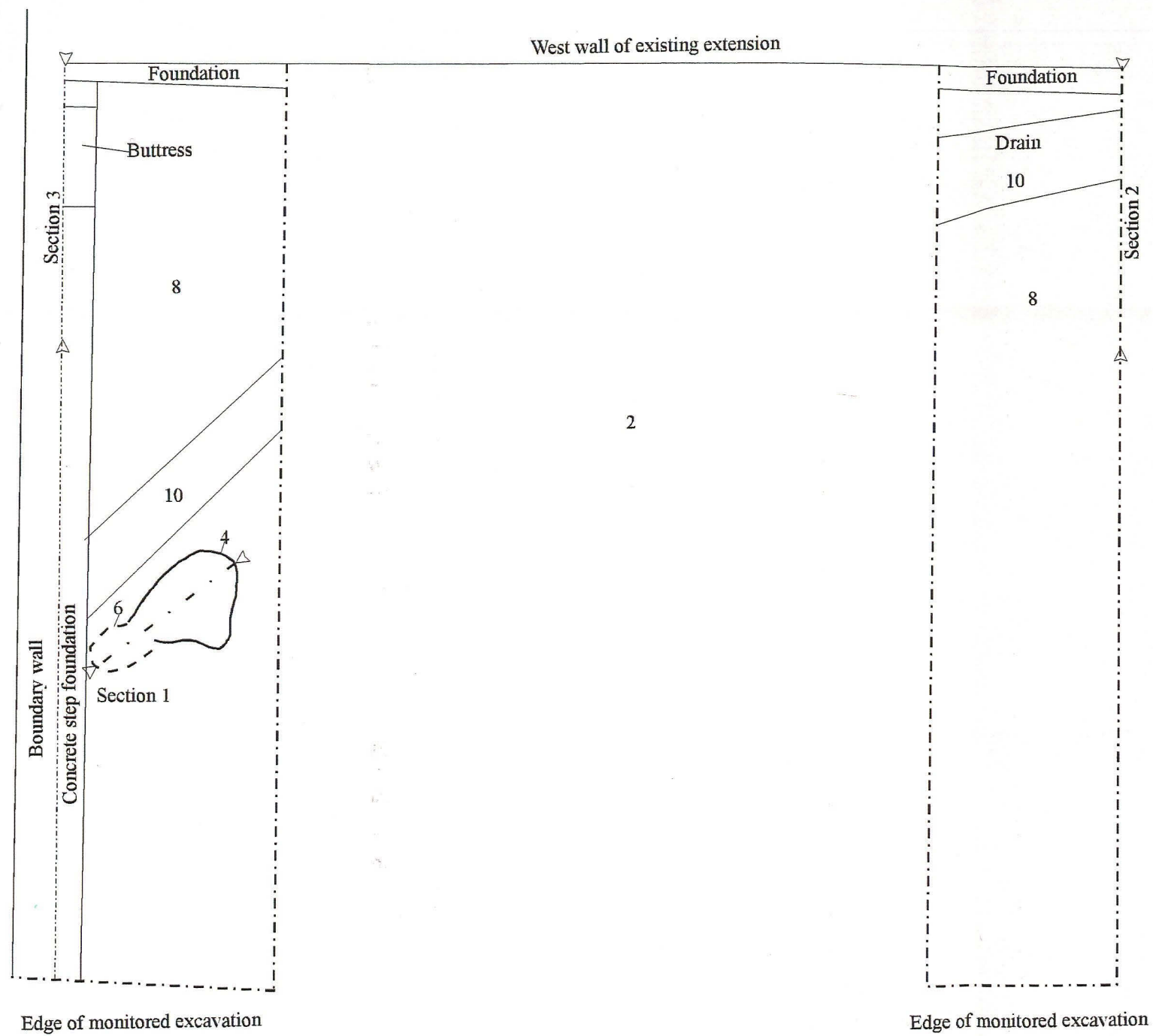
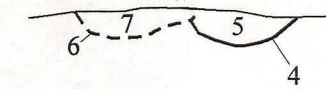


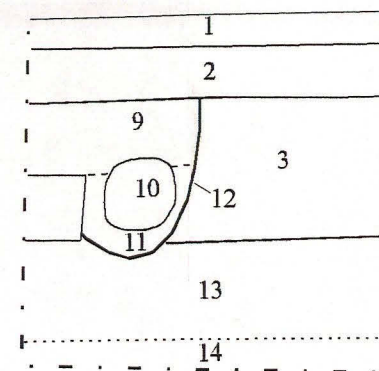
Fig. 2 Plan of development at 60 Boston Rd, Homcatle, with monitored foundation trenches marked (after plan supplied by the client. (Ray Cartwright 6237-6-03)).



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

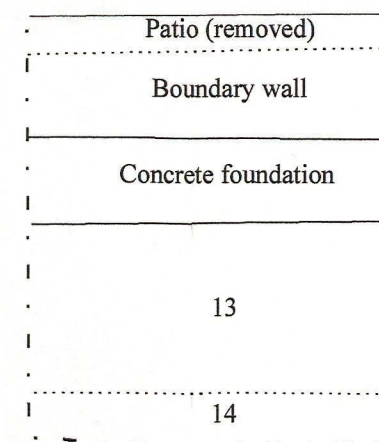


Fig 3 The plan and sections

**THE PLATES**



PI. 1 View of the rear of 60 Boston Road Horncastle during the removal of the patio, looking east.



PI. 2 View of northern footing excavated to the natural sandy gravel (8), showing foundation of party wall, looking north (scale 1m).





Pl. 3 (above) Features 4 and 5, looking north east (scale 0.30m).



Pl. 4 (left) View of central footing, looking east (scale 1m).