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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
BRACEBRIDGE HEATH TENNIS COURT,
BRACEBRIDGE HEATH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

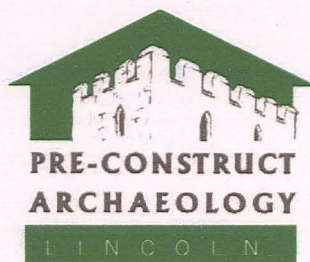
NGR: 4978¹²~~73~~ 367763
SITE CODE: BHTC 05
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Report prepared for Fiesta Homes UK Ltd.

by

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EVENT: L1 6132

INTERVENTION: L1 10171

EXCAVATION: L1 10172

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Summary

- *A series of archaeological test pits were placed through Bracebridge Heath Tennis Court, Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire.*
- *The site lies approximately 20 metres from the Roman road Ermine Street. Roman inhumation and cremations burials have been recovered to the south of the site, and a series of important Anglo-Saxon metal finds were recovered to the north, close to the Bracebridge Heath/ Canwick parish boundary.*
- *Despite the high potential of the area, no archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered, and it would appear that the site has been subjected to considerable truncation/disturbance during the modern period.*



Fig.1: General site Location. (Scale 1:25000)
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Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Fiesta Homes UK Ltd to monitor a series of archaeological test pits prior to the construction of six houses at Bracebridge Heath Tennis Court. Dependant on the nature of the exposed deposits, a contingency for an archaeological watching brief was in place; to be used if necessary during the course of the actual development.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the planning requirements specified by North Kesteven District Council, 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), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the client and the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. Reports will also be deposited at Lincolnshire City and County Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

1.0 Site location and description

The site lies on the northern edge of Bracebridge Heath on the west side of London Road. Bracebridge Heath is approximately 4 km south of central Lincoln.

The development area occupies an area of approximately 0.24ha, the site of the Bracebridge Heath Tennis Club and a previously constructed bungalow, off Churchill Avenue.

The site is situated over a solid geology of Lincolnshire Limestone (British Geological Survey, 1999).

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3.0 Planning background

North Kesteven District Council has approved reserved matters for the erection of four bungalows (ref: N/12/0871/04), following outline approval N/122/1651/03. This approval is subject to conditions, one of which requires a scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme accepted by the local planning authority. The Scheme of works is described as follows:

- A series of test pits will be excavated within the main impact areas, under archaeological supervision, to test the suggestion that the site has been previously quarried and subsequently in-filled.
- If the results of the test pits do demonstrate that the site has been in-filled, to a depth below the development impact, no further visits will be made.

- If made ground is not identified, or is only located in some areas, further site visits will be made during sensitive ground works as guided by the results of the test pitting.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The settlement origins of Bracebridge Heath are uncertain. Prehistoric activity is sparse and is generally concentrated towards the southern extent of the parish. To the south of the development site, occasional worked flints and fragments of beaker pottery have been recovered close to Sleaford Road, to the east of the Bracebridge Heath and Waddington parish boundary (Tann, 2000:54). Immediately to the west of the parish boundary an Iron Age ditch was identified (*ibid.*).

The Roman period saw an increase in the activity within the area. Bracebridge Heath was within close proximity to the Roman *Colonia* of Lincoln. The line of the Roman Road, Ermine Street, runs through Bracebridge Heath, approximately 20m from the development site. A series of Roman inhumations and cremations were located to the west of the Roman Road (Tann, 2000:54). A 3rd century pottery kiln was located approximately 200m to the west of the development site (Jones et al 2003:119).

Bracebridge Heath is not listed within the *Domesday survey* of 1086AD, which suggests that no substantial settlement was within the area at this time. The lands were probably incorporated with those of Bracebridge and Canwick. These lands were the property of Bishop Geoffery and Rodger of Poitou. The lands of Rodger of Poitou incorporated 40 acres of meadow and 2 fisheries; Rodgers man, Erwine, was listed to have 1 plough, 4 freemen, 5 villagers and 1 small holder who plough with 6 oxen. The lands of Bishop Geoffery were listed to have 1 ½ ploughs, 2 freemen on 11 bovates of this land; 12 villagers, 11 smallholders who have 2 ½ ploughs, 3 fisheries and 80 acres of meadow (Morgan & Thorne 1986).

The current settlement generally developed from 1841 to house the increasing population of Lincoln (Rodgers 1985:117). The Bracebridge Heath Settlement was dominated by the still remaining St John's Hospital; the County Pauper Lunatic Asylum completed in 1852 (Pevsner & Harris, 1990:177). The settlement has greatly expanded in recent years in response to population demand.

5.0 Methodology

Prior to the excavation of the test pits, overgrown vegetation and excess topsoil was removed from the northern extent of the site.

The test pits were excavated using a tracked 360° machine with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket. Each pit was approximately 4m in length, excavated to the depth of natural deposits.

Three test pits were placed at spaced intervals within the impact areas across the development site (see location plan, figure 2). A fourth pit was placed between test pits 2 and 3 to establish the extent of the quarried area.

An experienced archaeologist inspected all of the test pits. All plan and section surfaces were examined to determine the stratigraphic sequence. The pits were accurately located on a site plan, and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50). Context information was recorded on standard watching brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was carried out by the author on Wednesday 6th April 2005.

6.0 Results

Test Pit 1.

The tarmac tennis court surface (001), occurring to a depth of 0.37m, directly overlay a deposit of builder's rubble (002) containing brick, glass, wire and breezeblock mixed with mid-orange sand. The builder's rubble occurred to a depth of 1.74m, directly overlying natural limestone (003).

Test Pit 2.

A remnant topsoil (004) was removed, revealing the builder rubble deposit (002), occurring to a depth of 1.81m. This layer overlay the natural limestone (003).

Test Pit 3.

The remnant mid-brown sandy silt topsoil (004) was removed, exposing a mid orange/brown subsoil (005) at a depth of 0.54m. The subsoil layer overlay the natural limestone (003).

Test Pit 4.

The thin topsoil layer (004) was removed. The rubble deposit (002) occurred directly beneath this, to a depth of 1.30m. Deposit (002) overlay the natural limestone (003).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The test pits have determined that the site has been extensively quarried to a maximum depth of approximately 2m. The quarried area does not occur within an 8m proximity of the northern extent of site. According to the construction plan, this area will be under minimal impact as it has been designated as garden plots.

The site lies in an area of high archaeological interest. However, the deposits exposed during the current brief relate to activities taking place in the last century and are of limited archaeological significance, except to establish the extent of recent truncation. Any potential Roman activity within the proposed development footprint would presumably have been removed during the quarrying of the area.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen was appropriate to the proposed scale of development. It allowed an appraisal of the archaeological significance of the site, without adversely affecting the building programme, and it served to demonstrate that the proposed development will have little or no impact on the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Fiesta Homes UK Ltd for this commission.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey 1999, *Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50 000 Provisional Series.* (Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey)

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Morgan, P & Thorn, C (ed.), 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire,* Phillimore

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Rogers, A.1985, *A History of Lincolnshire.* Phillimore and Co. Sussex

Tann, G. 2000, Bracebridge Heath and Waddington in *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* Vol. 35:54

11.0 Site archive

The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This 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 2005.74

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1. General view of the development area, looking North-East



Plate 2. South facing section of test pit 1



Plate 3. South facing section of test pit 2



Plate 4. South-East facing section of test pit 3



Plate 5. North facing section of test pit 4.

APPENDIX 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Tarmac surface from the tennis court
002	Layer	Builders rubble
003	Layer	Limestone natural
004	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt, topsoil
005	Layer	Mid orange/brown sandy-silt, subsoil



Figure 2. Location of test pits.
House Plots represented in dashed lines.
Scale 1:500

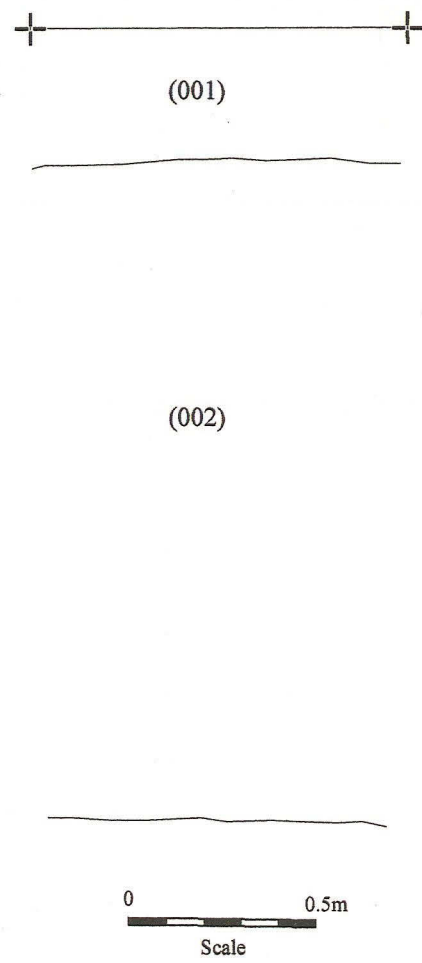


Figure 3. Representative section of test pit 1.
Scale 1:20

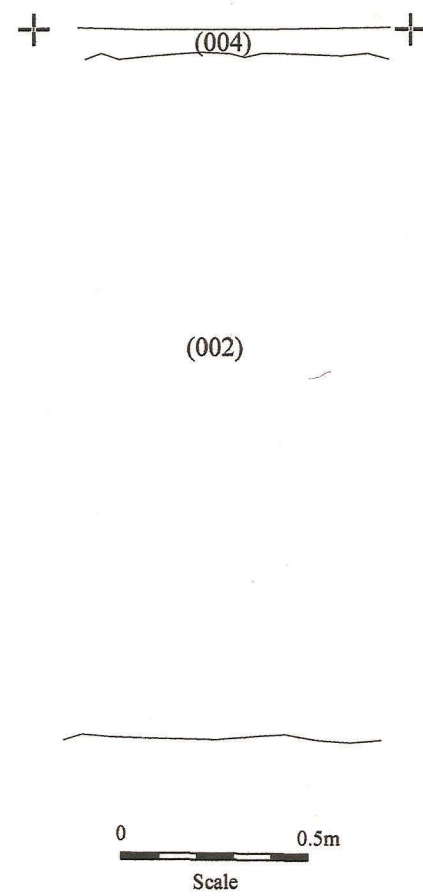


Figure 4. Representative section of test pit 2.
Scale 1:20

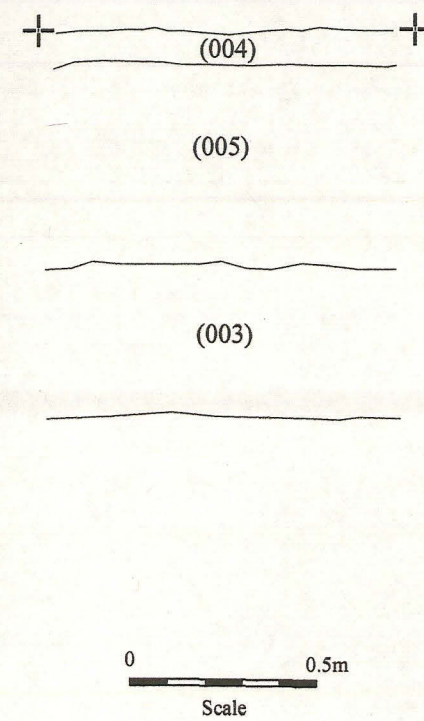


Figure 5. Representative section of test pit 3.
Scale 1:20

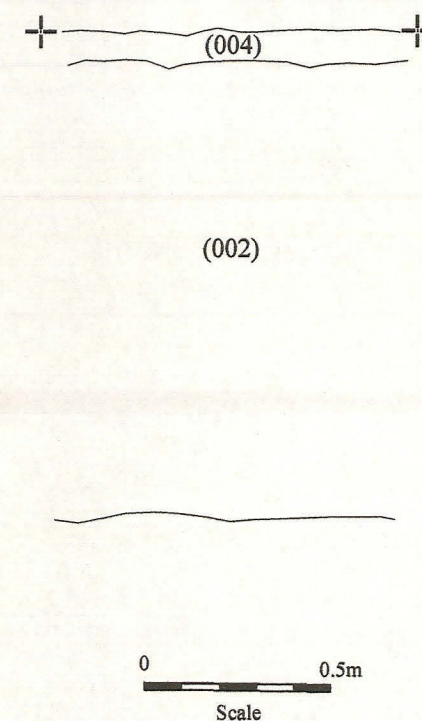


Figure 6. Representative section of test pit 4.
Scale 1:20