

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND
STANDING STRUCTURE REPORT:
16-18 COLLEGE CLOSE, LINCOLN**

NGR: SK 97556 72626
SITE CODE: COCL05
ACC. NO.: 2005.130

Report prepared for Orchid Homes

by

Chris Clay

June 2005



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800
e-mail colin.pca@virgin.net

©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

EL
HOL

Highways & Planning
Directorate

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JUN 2005

Planning & Conservation
HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING
DIRECTORATE

Event: L1 6156 WB
L1 6157 BS

INTERVENTION: L110181
EXCAVATION: L110182

PRN 70459
past medieval

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	4
6.1 Standing structure survey	4
6.2 Watching brief	4
7.0 Discussion and conclusion	5
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	5
9.0 Acknowledgements	5
10.0 References	6
11.0 Site Archive	6
Appendix 1: Colour plates	7
Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts	9
Appendix 3: Summary of information required for Lincoln Urban Archaeology Database	10

List of Figures

- Fig. 1:** General site location (scale 1:25,000)
- Fig. 2:** Site location. The inset shows the location of the development area on College Close, the main plan shows the layout of the foundation trenches in relation to the site boundaries, and also indicates the position of drawn sections in red (inset 1:2500, main scale 1:100).
- Fig. 3:** Representative section, showing wall (003)
- Fig. 4:** Representative section (scale 1:20)

List of Plates

- Pl. 1:** General view of the development area after excavation of the footings. Looking north-west
- Pl. 2:** Northern boundary of the site, looking east-north-east.
- Pl. 3:** West end of the boundary wall, looking north. The scar indicating a possible wall running south is visible above the scale.
- Pl. 4:** East end the boundary wall. The scar defining a former wall is visible to the immediate left of the scale. To the east, a repair in smaller stones is evident. Looking north-east.
- Pl. 5:** Detail of scar at east end of wall. To the west is a possible putlog hole. Looking north.
- Pl. 6:** North-east corner of the foundation trenches, showing the truncated remains of wall 003, which aligns with the scar in the boundary wall, shown in pls. 4 & 5. Looking west.

Conservation
Services
22 JUN 2005
Highways & Planning
Directorate

Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a residential development on land at 16-18 College Close, Lincoln.*
- *The site lies to the north of the Roman and medieval city, in an area where Romano-British suburbs and a medieval market have been identified.*
- *Few archaeological deposits were encountered during the brief, other than part of a wall of a 19th century cottage that formerly stood on the site, and associated layers of made ground.*



Fig.1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)
(O.S. Copyright License No. A1 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Orchid Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief and standing structure survey during the groundworks for the erection of two dwellings on land at 16-18 College Close, Lincoln.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Heritage Team, Directorate of Development and Environmental Services, City of Lincoln 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), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body, the City Archaeologist and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description

The site lies just over 1km north of the centre of Lincoln, on the north side of College Close. The northern boundary wall is of stone construction, with wooden fences of adjacent properties to the east and west. Prior to development, the site was open waste ground with a dense cover of grass and weeds.

The local geology consists of Jurassic deposits of Lincolnshire Limestone and clay (British Geological Survey, 1973).

Central National Grid Reference SK 97556 72626.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the erection of two attached dwellings (Planning ref. 2005/0084/F) on land at 16-18 College Close, Lincoln. This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring on all associated groundworks. A further condition of the planning permission required the photographic recording of the stone wall along the north side of the property, which defines the rear wall of 19th cottages that formerly occupied the site.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest evidence of archaeological activity in Lincoln dates to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, as evidenced by small numbers of flint implements (Jones & Stocker, 2003). More definite evidence of settlement activity belonging to the later Iron Age has been identified around Brayford Pool, on what would have been sand and gravel islands surrounded by a low-lying marshy environment (*ibid.*).

Subsequently, the area was settled by invading Roman forces, first as a legionary fortress of *Legio IX Hispana*, replaced in c.AD71 by *Legio II Adiutrix*, then as a *colonia*, a major civilian settlement of retired Roman legionaries and the local populace, which developed towards the end of the first century AD, and thrived throughout the Roman period. The northern limits of the town were defined by Newport arch, at the south end of Newport. This marks the position of the north gate both of the legionary fortress and the later city. Newport, and the area of the site, in the early military period of the Roman occupation, may have been the site of *canabae*, small suburban settlements providing for the needs of the soldiers housed in the fortress (Jones, 2003). Suburban occupation continued into the following civilian period of Roman Lincoln, with the area to the north of the city being occupied by commercial properties as well as numerous burial grounds (*ibid.*).

Despite a substantial degree of abandonment following the Roman withdrawal from Britain, the town continued to be occupied, with the arrival of Danish settlers in the 9th and 10th centuries and the subsequent Norman Conquest leading to a period of growth and redevelopment of the city. During the medieval period, Newport was a suburb of the city, defined by a bank and ditch on its east, west and north sides. The current site lies within this area, approximately 35m from the western boundary of the suburb, and to the west of the medieval market, Newport Green, which fronted onto Newport (Vince, 2003).

Lincoln entered a long period of decline in the later medieval period, only coming to an end with the agricultural boom in the 18th century, a process accelerated by the arrival of the railway in 1846 and heavy industry in the 19th and 20th centuries (Kemp, 1993). The current site was occupied by part of a terrace of 19th century stone cottages, which ran along the north side of College Close. These were demolished in the mid 20th century, the only surviving fragment being the north wall of the site. College Close itself was formerly known as Lark Lane (until 1939), and was widened in 1914.

5.0 Methodology

Prior to the commencement of the excavation of the building footings, the north wall of the site was subject to a standing structure survey, involving detailed measurement and a colour photographic record. Subsequent excavations were carried out using a JCB fitted with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket, excavating to a depth of between 0.5 and 0.75m below the modern ground surface.

Plan and section surfaces were examined and intermittently cleaned, to examine the stratigraphic sequence. 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 groundworks were carried out over a period of two days; Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June, 2005, and were monitored at all times by the author.

6.0 Results

6.1 Standing structure survey

The stone boundary wall along the north side of the site has a length of 16.8m, a width of 0.5m and a height of 2.25m above the modern ground surface. It is largely composed of evenly sized dressed limestone blocks, set in a pale creamy sandy mortar with occasional gravel and brick fragments. At the east end of the wall is a probable later repair, which is composed of smaller more irregular fragments of dressed limestone in a dark brownish grey cement. To the west of this repair, is a noticeable vertical scar in the wall, which may represent the former position of a wall extending southwards into the development area. Immediately to the west of the vertical scar, a small rectangular hole in the wall face may represent a putlog hole, used to support timber scaffolding during the construction of the wall. A similar vertical scar was observed towards the west end of the wall, again believed to indicate a wall running south. A single large limestone block, which crosses this break, may indicate a later repair, when the cottages were demolished and the wall was maintained as a property boundary.

Both the east and west ends of the walls also appear to have been subject to later repair, using large, neatly dressed blocks. This most likely followed the demolition of the cottages, with the ends of the wall at this location being repaired to serve as a boundary wall. The east end of the wall is adjoined by a wooden boundary fence, while to the west, the north side of the wall adjoins the south wall of No. 2 Kenneth Street, which forms the remainder of the north boundary of the site.

The top of the wall is covered with two overlapping courses of ceramic pantiles sloping downwards to the south.

6.2 Watching brief

Prior to the excavation of the footings, the area was stripped of surface vegetation, revealing a dark grey/black loamy former garden soil, 001. Subsequent excavations showed this deposit to survive to a depth of 0.2m. Throughout the footing trenches, this sealed a ubiquitous dark brownish grey clayey sand, 002, containing frequent limestone chunks and fragments of ceramic building material (fig. 4). This extended beyond the maximum depth of excavation.

The only exception to this sequence occurred in the north-east corner of the footing trenches, where the truncated remains of a former wall, 003, were observed. This was directly below the topsoil and extended southwards into the foundation trenches for approximately 1.9m. For the most part, the excavations revealed a mixed rubble

deposit of poorly sorted limestone chunks, although some dressed limestone blocks were observed in the west side of the footing (fig. 3). The wall aligned with the easternmost of two vertical scars in the boundary wall and appears to represent a component of one of the 19th century cottages that occupied the site. This feature appeared to cut deposit 002, suggesting that it had been dumped prior to the construction of the cottages, perhaps to level and raise the ground surface.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The recording of the stone boundary wall along the north side of the site identified some rebuilding/repair, which was most likely to have been associated with the conversion of the structure from being the north wall of a row of cottages to a boundary.

The only feature of archaeological significance exposed during the watching brief was the remains of part of a wall of the former cottages that occupied the site, which was related to a scar in the north boundary wall. The wall exposed in the foundation trenches probably represents a party wall between two of the terraced properties. No other buried walls were observed, despite the presence of another scar in the wall towards its western end.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen was appropriate to the development. It allowed a rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site, which was deemed to be limited.

9.0 Acknowledgements

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

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1973. *Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Jones M.J. & Stocker D., 2003, 'Settlement in the Lincoln area in the prehistoric era. A. The archaeological account', pp.19-33, in Jones M.J., Stocker D., Vince A., *The City by the Pool. Assessing the archaeology of the city of Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No.10, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Kemp S.J., 1993, 'Evolving Lincoln', in Bennett S. & Bennett B., *An Historical Atlas of Lincoln*, pp.132-3, The University of Hull Press, Hull

Jones M.J., 2003, 'The Roman military era. A. The archaeological account', pp.36-53, in Jones M.J., Stocker D., Vince A., *The City by the Pool. Assessing the archaeology of the city of Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No.10, Oxbow Books, Oxford

Vince A., 2003, 'The new town: Lincoln in the High Medieval era'. A. Archaeological account', pp. 159-296 in Jones et.al., *op.cit*

11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. 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 2005.130.

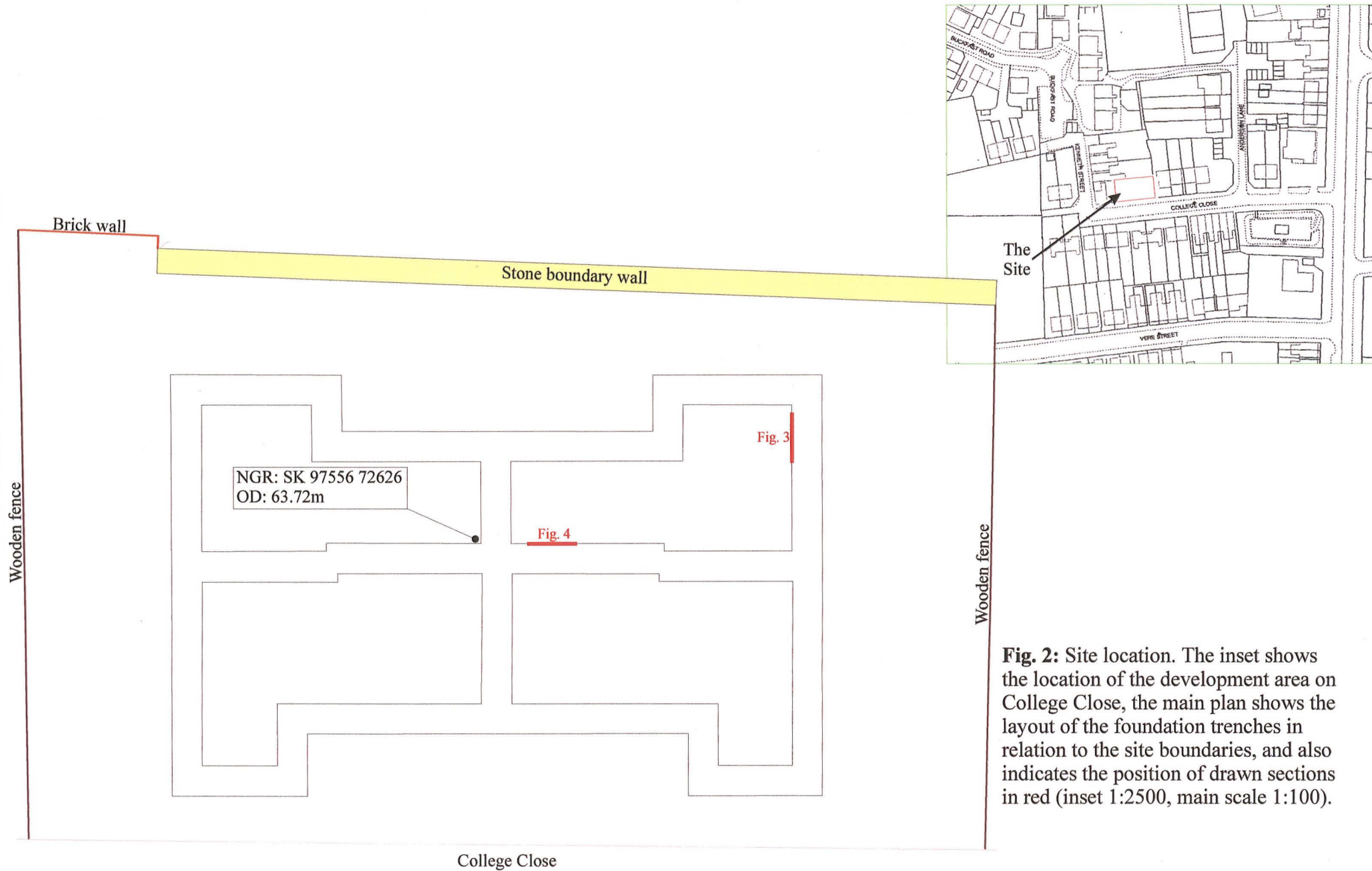


Fig. 2: Site location. The inset shows the location of the development area on College Close, the main plan shows the layout of the foundation trenches in relation to the site boundaries, and also indicates the position of drawn sections in red (inset 1:2500, main scale 1:100).

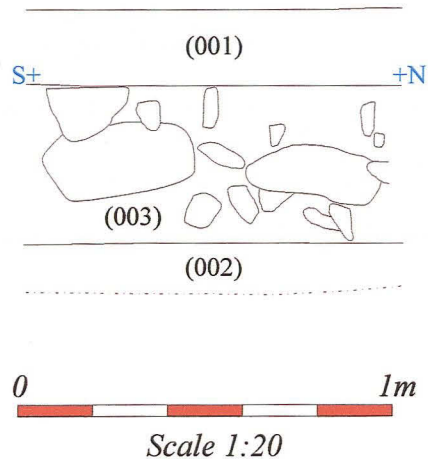


Fig. 3: Representative section, showing wall (003)

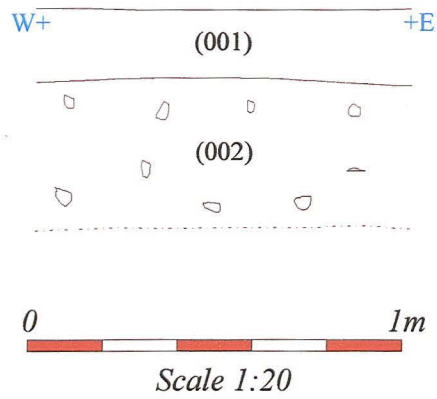


Fig. 4: Representative section (scale 1:20)

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



Pl. 1: General view of the development area after excavation of the footings. Looking north-west



Pl. 2: Northern boundary of the site, looking east-north-east.



Pl. 3: West end of the boundary wall, looking north. The scar indicating a possible wall running south is visible above the scale.



Pl. 4: East end of the boundary wall. The scar defining a former wall is visible to the immediate left of the scale. To the east, a repair in smaller stones is evident. Looking north-east.



Pl. 5: Detail of scar at east end of wall. To the west is a possible putlog hole. Looking north.



Pl. 6: North-east corner of the foundation trenches, showing the truncated remains of wall 003, which aligns with the scar in the boundary wall, shown in pls. 4 & 5. Looking west.

APPENDIX 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Dark grey/black loamy former garden soil.
002	Layer	Dark brownish grey clayey sand, frequent limestone & CBM frags. Ground raising/ levelling associated with former cottages.
003	Structure	Truncated remains of former wall of cottage. Cuts 002.

APPENDIX 3: Summary of information required for Lincoln Urban
Archaeology Database

Sources Database

Author: Chris Clay
 Title: Archaeological watching brief and standing structure report:
 16-18 College Close, Lincoln
 Issued: June 2005, Lincoln.
 Publisher: Unpublished client report

Recognition Events Database

Site Name: 16-18 College Close, Lincoln
 Location: College Close, Lincoln
 NGR: SK 97556 72626
 Type: Archaeological watching brief
 Dates: 06-06-05 to 07-06-05
 Reporter: Chris Clay
 Organisation: Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
 Archive/finds locn.: At time of publication stored at offices of PCA, will be
 deposited at LCCM within 6 months
 LCCM accession no. 2005.130

Monuments Database

Monument name: Boundary wall
 Date: pre 1842 – 1950s
 Monument type: see below
 NGR (site centre): SK 97556 72626
 Description: Stone boundary wall: north wall of terrace of 19th century
 cottages, reused as boundary wall. Wall extending southwards
 exposed during watching brief.

Deposit Model

LOCATION	PERIOD	AOD
SK 97556 72626	MODT	63.72m