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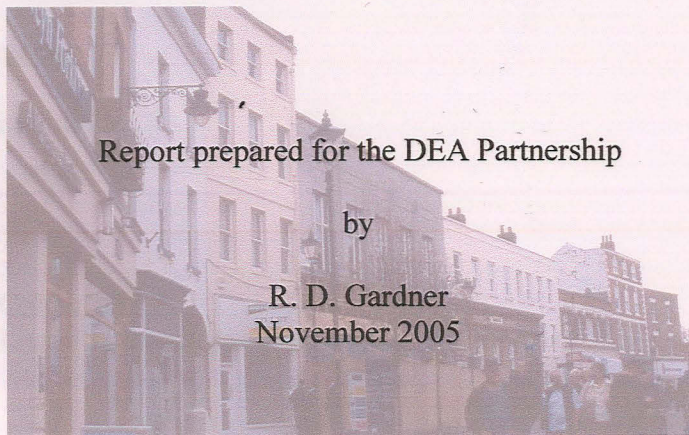
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**12-14 SILVER STREET,
GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site code:	SSGA 05
NGR:	SK 8140 8981
LCCM Acc No:	2005.232
Planning refs.:	M05/P/0394
PCA job no.:	170



Report prepared for the DEA Partnership

by

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for an extension to the rear of 12-14 Silver Street, Gainsborough.
- The development site lies close to the core of the old town, and in the vicinity of a known but undated cemetery, believed to be associated with the medieval Guilds Chapel on the waterside.
- The foundations of several brick buildings of probable 18th / 19th century date were exposed: these were cut into a layer of made ground, believed to date from the 18th century. The groundworks did not completely penetrate this layer, and no earlier remains were encountered.

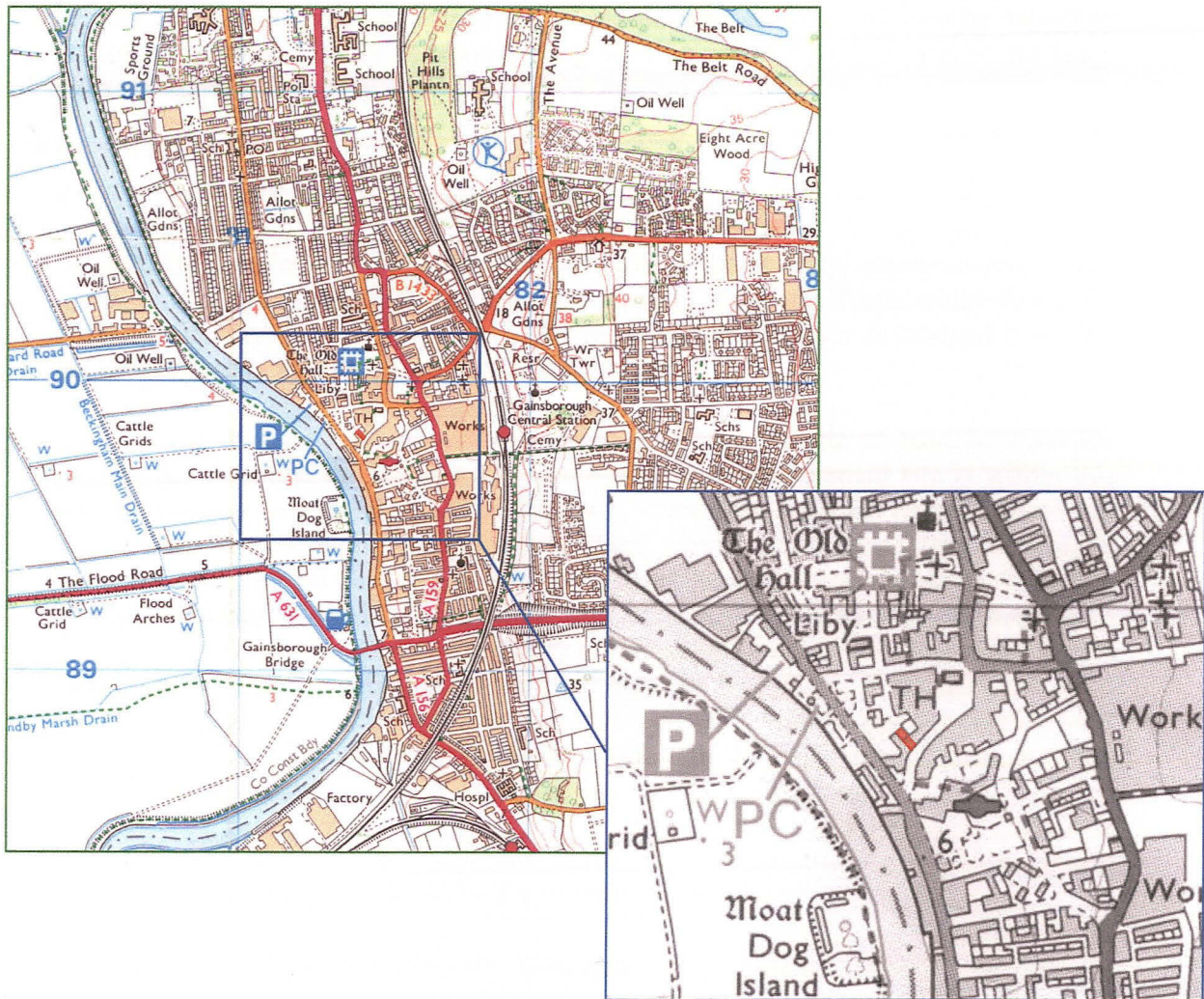


Figure 1: Location map at scale 1:25 000, with an extract at scale 1:10 000. The development site is marked in red on both maps. (OS copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by the DEA Partnership to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for an extension to 12-14 Silver Street, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Built Environment Team for Lincolnshire County Council, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice'* (LCC, 1998), *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 commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at Lincoln City & County Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

Gainsborough is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 23km north-west of Lincoln. It lies on the eastern bank of the River Trent, which forms the boundary between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire: the river is bridged here, but the town does not extend on to the western bank.

The historic core of Gainsborough occupies a narrow triangle of land between the river to the west and the railway line to the east. The development site is within this historic core on the western edge of the town, some 80m from the present riverfront, on the north-west side of Silver Street (a short, curved street connecting the Market Place to the riverside Bridge Street). The Silver Street frontage is occupied by the existing building, which is built of brick with a decorative concrete façade, and stands to the height of the neighbouring 3-storey buildings, although itself consisting of only 2-storeys. To the rear (north-west) of the existing building is a walled yard, with double gates opening on to a public car park (plates 2 and 3), and bounded on the south-western side by the rear wall of the Eight Jolly Brewers public house, a three-storey brick structure apparently of 18th or early 19th century date.

The local drift geology consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, overlying solid Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey, 1967).

Central National Grid Reference: SK 8140 8981.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for a change of use to the existing building at 12-14 Silver Street (from retail use to a public house) and a single-storey extension to the rear of the building.

Planning application ref. M05/P/0394.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record lists no finds or sites known to be of Roman or pre-Roman date in the area of Gainsborough.

The place-name 'Gainsborough' derives from the Old English *burh*, 'a fortress or defended settlement', combined with the personal name *Gaegn* (Cameron, 1998). The implication that Gainsborough was a fortified settlement from the Anglian period, possibly from its inception, is probably due to its position on the Trent, which formed the boundary between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Lindsey and Mercia (Beckwith, 1988).

The earliest written record of Gainsborough is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which records how King Swein Forkbeard of Denmark, after years of raids and attacks on the English coast, brought an invasion fleet via the Humber and the Trent in AD 1013, setting up his campaign base at Gainsborough and leaving it in charge of his son Cnut. Gainsborough may not have been a major settlement at this time: it is likely that its significance to Swein lay in its being the first convenient landing point on the east bank of the Trent (Everson, 1991). Following Swein's death in 1014, Cnut was crowned at Gainsborough before setting out to put down the adherents of the rival king, Aethelred, whom Swein had deposed and driven into exile (Garmonsway, 1953). The 19th century local historian Adam Stark records that the Danish force fortified the town in 1013, and that their defensive works could still be identified at the time of writing (Stark, 1817): there is documentary evidence for a town ditch known as the Burghdyke in the 15th century, but nothing to suggest that it was either defensive or Danish (Everson, 1991).

Gainsborough appears in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 as a single manor, part of the estate of Geoffrey de la Guerche. Prior to the Norman Conquest, this estate had contained 8 carucates of arable land, sufficient to employ 12 plough teams, but in 1086, only 8 teams were occupied there, and the estate's taxable value had fallen from £6 to £3; it also contained 40 acres of meadow and 80 acres of 'scrubland', and had a recorded population of 16 households (Martin and Williams, 1992). The sharp fall in the value of the estate was probably caused by the long-term effects of the 'Harrying of the North', William the Bastard's reprisal in AD 1069 for the insubordination of the northern earls.

At the time of the Lindsey Survey, compiled in AD 1115-1118 under Henry I, Gainsborough was still a single manor owned by Nigel de Albaneio (Foster and Longley, 1924). Neither this reference nor the entry in the Domesday Survey indicate

that Gainsborough was anything other than a rural manor, suggesting that any effect of King Cnut's occupation had been ephemeral (Everson, 1991).

The earliest reference to a church in Gainsborough is in AD 1180, when Roger de Talebu granted the living, at the time only a rectory, to the preceptory of the Knights Templar at Willoughton. (Beckwith, 1988). Gainsborough parish church, All Saints', was rebuilt in classical style in 1744, but the 14th century Perpendicular tower remains (Pevsner and Harris, 1995). Gainsborough received a market charter in AD 1204, and the right to hold an annual fair was granted in 1243 (Beckwith, 1988).

The *Itineraries* of the Tudor civil servant John Leland, an account of his travels across the country in King Henry VIII's service between 1533 and 1545, record that '*In the southern part of Gainsborough is an old stone chapel, where the townspeople say that many Danes were buried. In the same part of the town beside the Trent is a wooden chapel which has now been abandoned.*' (Chandler, 1993). The stone chapel has been identified as the medieval Guilds Chapel, which stood at the junction of Caskgate Street and Silver Street, adjacent to Chapel Staith on the riverside. It is possible that the abandoned wooden chapel had been superseded by the stone one (Gardner, 2005).

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Gainsborough continued to develop as a port. In the 18th century, Gainsborough was the largest port in Lincolnshire: it was overtaken by Grimsby in the following century (Field, 1996). River traffic rose rapidly during the Napoleonic Wars, when more than 300 tons of munitions passed through the town every week (Stark, 1817) and expanded afterwards to European trade. The population of Gainsborough doubled in the first half of the 19th century, from 4506 in 1801 to 8293 in 1851, and only at this time did the town begin to expand beyond its medieval footprint (Field, 1996). Stark's history of Gainsborough, printed in 1817, describes the town as being '*a river port of considerable consequence*', as it was still the highest point on the Trent which could be reached by sea-going vessels. Before the opening of the Grand Junction canal, which at the time of printing was beginning to siphon off Gainsborough's business, most of the wares of the Staffordshire Potteries, as well as cast-iron work from the Derbyshire foundries, were shipped to London via Gainsborough and the Trent, including, in 1815-16, the cast-iron sections of London's Vauxhall Bridge (Stark, 1817).

A directory of Gainsborough for the year 1882 lists the premises in this part of Silver Street as follows: Francis Gamble, wine merchant, at no. 10 (towards the market place); the Monson's Arms Inn, proprietor Jos. Hunt, at no. 12; Jos. Hunt, grocer, at no. 14; Spouncer & Sons, chemists, at no. 16, followed by Ship Inn Yard – Staffordshire Warehouse, proprietor C. W. Hind (Hardy-Ouzman and Taylor, 1882). Ship Inn Yard is a narrow, arched walkway off Silver Street directly south-east of the development site, so the Staffordshire Warehouse must be the building now used as the Eight Jolly Brewers; the same name occurring at nos. 12 and 14, Silver Street indicates that the current development site has effectively been a single plot since at least the late 19th century.

In 2002, workmen excavating pits for the planting of trees at the junction of Silver Street and Bridge Street, directly to the north of the car parking area containing the current development site, uncovered human remains, necessitating a rescue excavation and emergency watching brief. Six articulated skeletons were exposed,

and the disarticulated bone associated with them indicated that up to nine burials may have been present. No grave goods were found, which together with the east-west orientation of the least disturbed burial indicates that the cemetery may have been Christian. The only datable material present was a sherd of 12th-13th century pottery, which cannot be taken as a reliable indication of the date of the cemetery, particularly since the varying depths of the burials suggest a long period of use. The burials are presumably associated with the Guilds Chapel, although the minimal dating evidence recovered places them more than two centuries after the Danish occupation (Clay, 2002). The full extent of the burial ground is not known, but 2 human skeletons were found below the pavement of Silver Street in 1969 (HER ref. 52049), and another was found at the junction of Lord Street and either Bright Street or Caskgate Street in 1981 (HER ref. 52055).

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 1996 on a development at nos. 39-43, Silver Street. The evaluation exposed only modern cellars backfilled with rubble, cutting natural river deposits; a quantity of animal bone was retrieved from the river silts, presumably representing the dumping of waste, and so possibly marking an earlier position of the river bank, but no datable material was present (Holbrey, 1996).

5.0 Methodology

At the beginning of the watching brief, the development site was partly covered by asphalt over hardcore, with patches of hardcore on the ground surface elsewhere; the ground surface otherwise consisted of the compacted made ground 003, with several sycamore trees near the north-west side, which were felled and uprooted during the groundworks. A brick building in the western corner of the development area had recently been demolished (its foundations were recorded as [006]), leaving the rear wall, adjoining the rear wall of the Eight Jolly Brewers, standing: the demolished part of the building appeared to have consisted of much more recent brickwork than the foundations and the remaining wall. Directly outside the back doors of the existing building was a lowered area 2.2m wide, reached by two steps down from the main yard, at the eastern end of which a flight of steps led down to the building's cellar: the groundworks did not extend into this area.

The groundworks began on 31st October 2005 with the removal of the modern overburden within the building footprint to a depth of some 0.4m, using a 180° excavator fitted with a smooth bucket. Spoil was loaded into a truck and removed. The foundation trench – a single U-shaped cut without interior divisions – was then excavated using a 0.6m wide toothless bucket; its depth ranged from 0.8m to 1.0m below current ground level. An area some 2.5m x 2m in the eastern corner of the development area, within the foundation trench, was subsequently excavated to a depth of 0.9m: this area represented the location of the 'glass wash' room within the proposed extension.

Structures and deposits observed were recorded on standard watching brief record sheets; a general site plan at a scale of 1:100 was maintained (fig. 2) and sample sections were drawn in the foundation trench at a scale of 1:20 (fig. 3). A colour photographic record was maintained, selections from which are reproduced in Appendix 1.

The watching brief was completed on 1st November 2005, and was carried out by the author.

6.0 Results (figs. 2 and 3)

The foundation trench did not expose any natural deposits: all of the structures exposed lay on or within a layer of made ground, recorded as context 003. This was a very mixed deposit, chiefly compact sand but with bands of clay and softer sand in a variety of colours and deposits of loose limestone fragments, and contained building rubble (brick and limestone), cobbles, occasional sheep and cow bones, and fragments of blue and white china and clay pipe stem, which were not retained.

The initial strip of modern overburden 001 exposed a brick shaft, structure [002], at the top of the steps leading down to the back doors of the existing building. The shaft measured 0.60m x 0.50m, and was some 1.60m deep: it was covered with a limestone slab with an iron T-handle in the centre. The bricks were dark red and irregular in shape, measuring approximately 230mm x 120mm x 70mm; nine courses of bricks were visible above the waterline.

On the eastern side of the site, the strip exposed the foundations of a brick building, structure [004], with a partial concrete floor. The foundations were five courses deep, on a concrete footing 0.18m thick, and were of mid red, sharp-edged bricks approximately 230mm x 110mm x 75mm (similar to those in the existing building). The concrete floor was lifted during the initial strip, showing the south-eastern 'room' of the structure to be filled with a mixture of lime mortar fragments, crushed mortar, sand and small fragments of brick. This deposit, 007, sealed a stone-flagged floor (plate 8), which was only seen in the deeper strip in the corner of the site: floor [008] was only 1.25m wide NW-SE (its full extent NE-SW was not exposed), bordered by a double row of bricks which did not appear to correspond to any part of structure [004], and may have represented a remnant of a previous building. Lead water pipes and earthenware drainpipes were particularly frequent within the area of this building.

The foundations of another brick building, [005], were observed during the excavation of the foundation trench: it had not been exposed by the initial strip. It was unclear whether [005] had been a free-standing structure or had shared walls with the structures to north-west and south-west of it, as the foundation trench truncated the walls at both corners; however, the exposed foundation of building [006] to the north-west had no break or disturbance in it, suggesting that [005] and [006] had been separate buildings, while the foundations of the Eight Jolly Brewers did show a patch of disturbed brickwork opposite the south-west end of [005], as though this wall had been built against it (plate 5). Structure [005] varied from 6 to 11 surviving courses of thin, irregular mid-red bricks with distinctive light yellow inclusions, measuring approximately 240mm x 115mm x 55mm. It had a brick floor, although this was only seen in the trench sections, which was laid on a bed of sand and covered with a concrete skim.

The western quadrant of the site had previously contained a standing building, which had been demolished prior to the beginning of the watching brief. The broken edges

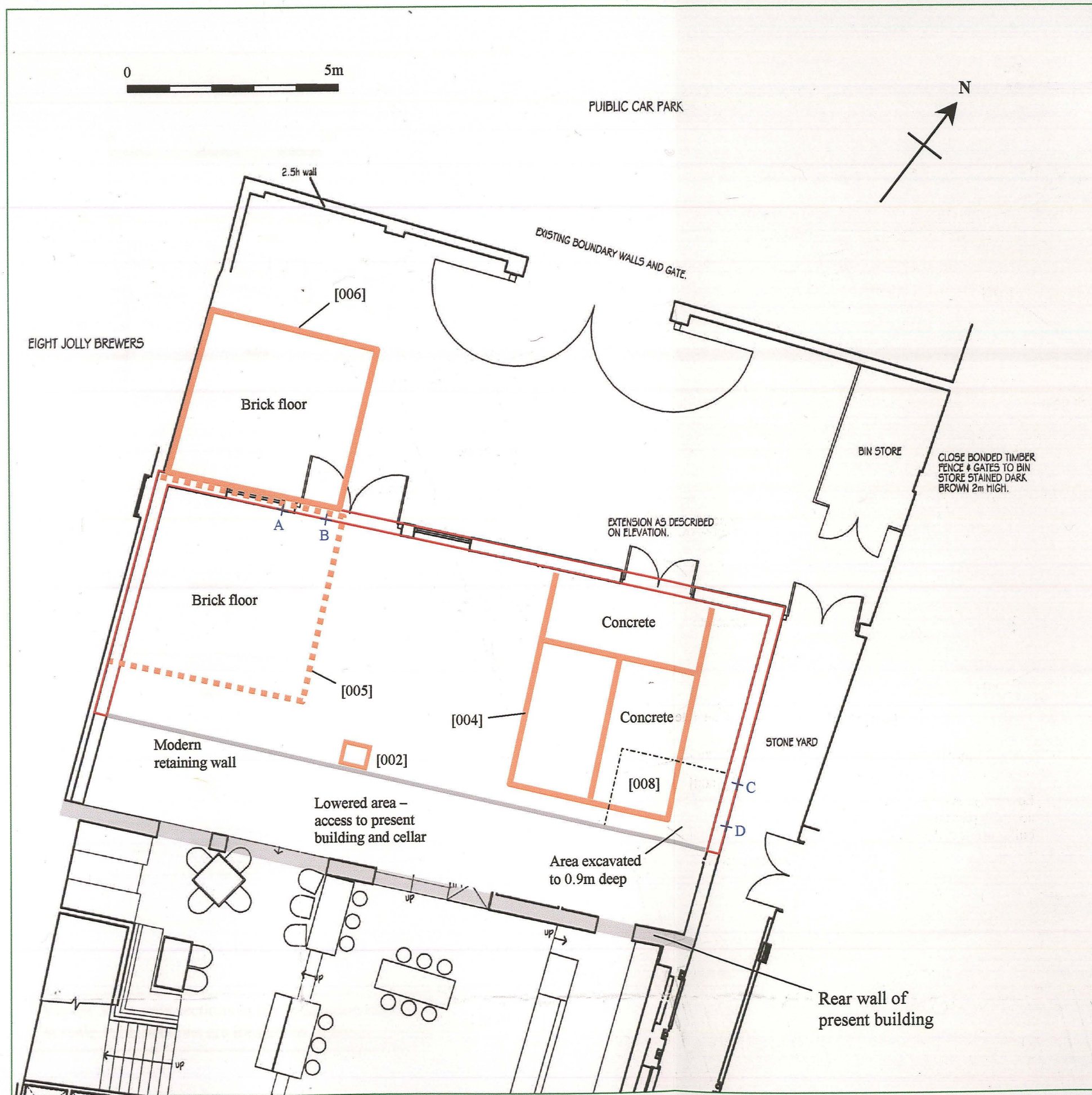


Figure 2: Extract from the architect's plan of the proposed development at scale 1:100, showing the extent of the foundation trench in red and the structures exposed during the groundworks in orange.

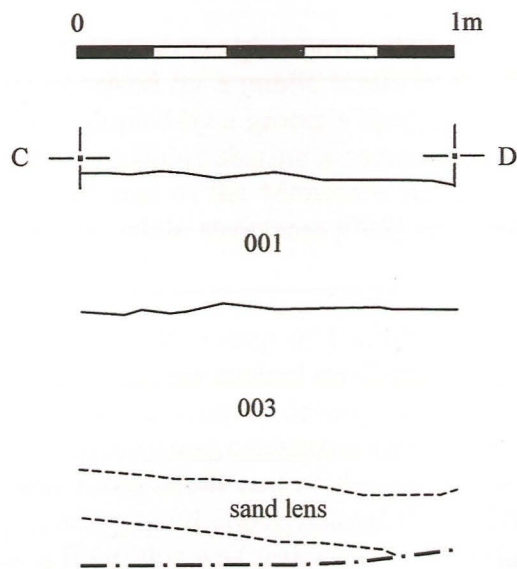
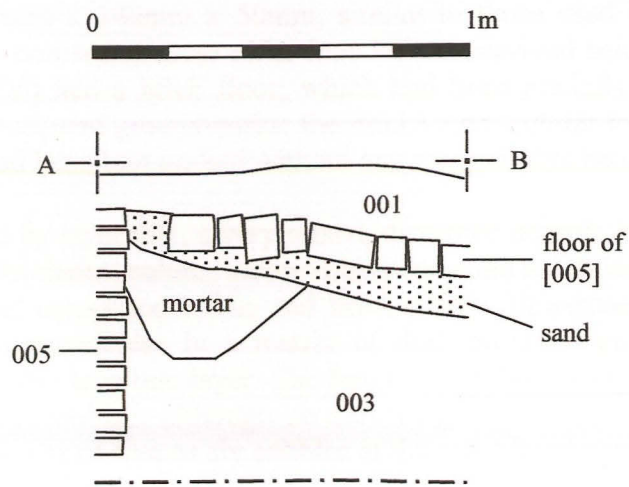


Figure 3: Sample sections in the foundation trench, at scale 1:20. Sections are located on figure 2.

of the demolished walls were of modern bricks, but the rear wall, which stood back-to-back with the rear wall of the Eight Jolly Brewers and had previously contained a connecting doorway (recently blocked), and the foundations exposed during trenching (structure [006]) were of much older bricks, a mid reddish-brown colour and approximately 230mm x 140mm x 50mm, similar to those used in the Eight Jolly Brewers itself. Ten courses of these older foundations survived below current ground level. Structure [006] had a brick floor, which had been partially destroyed during demolition and subsequent groundworks: the bricks were similar to those used in the foundations, and had been laid on-bed without any recognisable bedding layer.

The site was sealed by layer 001, a very mixed, disturbed deposit, but distinguishable from layer 003 by its darker colour, looser consistency and much higher proportion of rubble. This deposit comprised bricks and brick rubble, limestone fragments (some worked) and irregular cobbles in a matrix of dark brownish-grey sand, and was interpreted as a modern levelling layer. The frequency of the cobbles suggests that the yard was previously cobbled, although no surviving areas of cobbled surface were exposed: several groups of five or six cobbles at the same level may have represented remnants of such a surface.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The watching brief demonstrated that relatively recent made ground – deposit 003 – had obliterated any traces of previous activity to a greater depth than that affected by the current development groundworks.

The 1882 directory of Gainsborough shows that the north-eastern half of the development site was occupied by a public house in the late 19th century, while the south-western half was occupied by a grocer's shop, and that both premises appear to have had the same owner, probably sharing a communal cobbled yard. It seems likely that structure [004], to the rear of the Monson's Arms, is the remains of an outside lavatory for the customers, while structures [005] and [006] may have been storage rooms connected with the shop.

Silver Street does not appear on a map of Gainsborough drawn up in 1748, which depicts the town as a small nucleus centred on Gainsborough Old Hall, to the north of the development site, with a ribbon development running along Bridge Street (Gardner, 2005). An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2004 on the site of the Sure Start centre, some 150m south-east of the current development site, exposed a layer of 18th century made ground above natural river silts, which was covered by a clay layer, apparently a floor; this was sealed by a further layer of made ground, dated to the mid-18th century. It was concluded that this area was first occupied in the early 18th century, when the expansion of the town required the stabilisation of land previously considered unsuitable for building (Savage and Brett, 2004): it seems likely that the area where Silver Street currently stands was also not seen as usable building land before this time, and that layer 003 also represented 18th century made ground.

No indication of the previously identified medieval cemetery was found. It is not impossible that burials are present on the site at greater depths than those reached by

the present groundworks, which did not penetrate the modern made ground, but the contractors were scrupulous about stopping works when any loose bones were seen in these layers, and all such bones proved to be from domestic animals.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed was sufficient for the requirements of the archaeological record, demonstrating that no deposits of archaeological significance were present at the depths affected by the current groundworks.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank the DEA Partnership for this commission, and Di Furia Contractors for their co-operation during the watching brief.

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11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited with Lincoln City & County Museum within six months from the completion of the project: access to the archive may be gained by quoting the LCCM accession number, 2005.232.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1 (right): General shot of the north-west side of Silver Street, looking north-east from the junction with Bridge Street. The building being redeveloped, behind which the watching brief took place, is in the centre of the picture, behind the lamppost.



Plate 2 (left): General shot of the rear of the present building, looking south-east through the yard gates into the development site.



Plate 3 (above): General shot of the site during the initial strip, looking west from the north corner of the present building.

Plate 4 (left): Working shot: excavation of the foundation trench in the area of section C-D, looking north-west.

Plate 5 (right): View looking north-west along the eastern foundation trench. The exposed foundations of the Eight Jolly Brewers are on the left of the trench; in the foreground are the remnants of structure [005], and at the end of the trench is structure [006], with the broken edge of the demolished building visible directly above the photographic scale.



Plate 6 (left): The exposed foundations of the Eight Jolly Brewers. The disturbed area visible on the left of the picture indicates that structure [005] abutted these foundations.

Plate 7 (right): Sample section C-D in the western foundation trench, showing the layers of modern made ground, looking south-east.

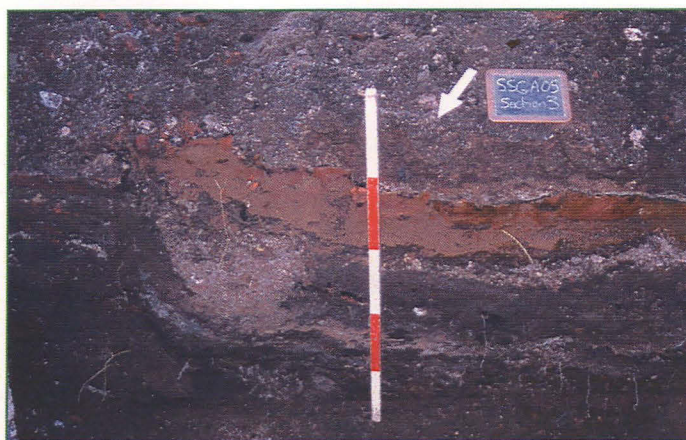


Plate 8 (left): Stone floor [008] partially exposed in the lower area of the strip, looking south-west; the brick foundation of structure [004] is visible to the left.

Appendix 2: List of contexts

- 001 Modern overburden: very mixed deposit containing cobbles and brick and limestone rubble
- 002 Rectangular brick shaft, probably access to a surface water drain
- 003 Made ground below 001, probably 18th-19th century
- 004 Brick foundation with concrete floor in the eastern quadrant of the site, possibly an outside lavatory associated with an earlier public house
- 005 Brick foundation with brick floor in the southern quadrant of the site, possibly storage associated with an earlier shop
- 006 Brick foundation with brick floor and recently demolished, more modern superstructure in the western quadrant of the site
- 007 Mortar and rubble fill under the concrete floor of structure [004]
- 008 Stone flagged floor below fill 007