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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 7-13 BRIDGE STREET, HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE (HBS 04)



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> Work Undertaken For Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

> > November 2005

Report Compiled by Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 258 696 City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.225 Planning Application No: S/086/00370/03

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 169/05

# Quality Control 7-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle HBS 04

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#### 1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at 7-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of two geotechnical trial pits.

The site lies in an area where evidence for extensive Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) and Romano-British (AD 42-410) settlement has been identified, including a 3<sup>rd</sup> century walled enclosure that lay immediately south of the site. The walled area later became the focus for the medieval (AD 1066-1540) town centre. Mesolithic (10,000-4000 BC) and Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) flint tools have also been recovered from the vicinity.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated and post-medieval deposits. Undated layers include two floor surfaces, a dumped deposit, subsoils and a demolition horizon indicating that the site had probably contained structural remains in the past. Post-medieval remains, including a brick wall and well, are perhaps associated with the standing 17<sup>th</sup> century and later buildings fronting Bridge Street.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include two fragments of medieval roof tile, 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a pantile fragment with two animal bones.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed."

(IFA 1999).

#### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire undertake to archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with refurbishment works at 7-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/086/00370/03. The watching brief was carried out on the 28th February and 1st March 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

#### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Bridge Street is located 75m north of the centre of the town as defined by the parish church of St. Mary at National Grid Reference TF 258 696 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the west side of Bridge Street to the south of the bridge over the River Bain at a height of c. 29m OD.

Local soils are of the Fladbury 2 Association, typically mottled clayey soil (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 196). These soils are developed on a drift geology of river alluvium with Lower River Terrace sands and gravels to the east and west which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

#### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Horncastle lies in an area of dense archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Mesolithic flints have been found along High Street and Neolithic flint tools have been retrieved from Bridge Street. Evidence for a Late Iron Age settlement has been identified on the river terrace gravels to the south of the town (Field and Hurst 1984, 84). Other finds of this period suggest that Horncastle, like Ancaster and Sleaford, was a substantial settlement during the Late Iron Age (Whitwell 1982, 44).

The Iron Age settlement continued into the Romano-British period comprising two zones, a walled centre and an unenclosed area. The walled centre, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, lies immediately south of the site. However, the earliest Romano-British settlement, covering some 54 hectares, appears to be concentrated to the south of the town (Field and Hurst 1984, 85).

Saxon activity is limited but displays a predominantly funerary nature. The material encompasses an early Saxon inhumation with grave goods discovered to the rear of the High Street. Metalwork and pottery of the period has also been retrieved during excavations within the walled circuit.

Horncastle is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, although a Late Saxon coin bearing the inscription 'HORN' has been associated with the town. Referred to as *Hornecastre* in the Domesday Survey, the name derives from the Old English 'horn', meaning a spur of land, and 'cæster' indicating a Roman fort (Cameron 1998, 66).

At the time of Domesday, Horncastle was held by the King from Queen Edith, the wife of Edward the Confessor, and contained 2 mills and 100 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period include the church of St. Mary which was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is unknown if there was a church prior to St. Mary's, although the fact that Horncastle was a

royal estate centre suggests some ecclesiastical importance at the end of the Saxon period (Stocker 1993, 117).

Standing buildings at the site comprise a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century house (Nos. 7-9) and a late 17<sup>th</sup> century house (No. 13) with 18<sup>th</sup> century additions. Both buildings are listed.

A watching brief undertaken during renovation of properties immediately north of the site identified a possible 18<sup>th</sup> century brick floor surface (Cope-Faulkner 1995, 3).

#### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the intensive watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1) were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

#### 4. METHODS

Prior to the commencement groundworks, two trial pits were excavated by machine for water percolation tests. Further monitoring, for service trenches and new foundations, was not undertaken as the building contractor neglected to inform when these were underway. The sides of the two trial pits were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined

and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

#### 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis four phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 4	Recent denosits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

#### Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of Trial Pit A was a layer of reddish brown sand, gravel and silt (007). This measured in excess of 0.2m thick.

The earliest deposit in Trial Pit B comprised a dark grey silt with flint gravel and occasional fragments of limestone (014) that was over 0.8m thick.

#### Phase 2 Undated deposits

Overlying natural deposits in Trial Pit A was a 0.3m thick layer of yellowish white mortar (006). Possibly a former floor surface this had subsequently been sealed by a layer of brown silt and gravel (005) which was 0.92m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). This latter deposit may have been deliberately dumped to raise the ground level.

Sealing this dumped layer was a further surface, also of yellowish white mortar (004) that was 50mm thick. This was

subsoil (003) comprising greyish brown clayey silt from which two fragments of medieval roof tile were retrieved.

A subsoil was also identified in Trial Pit B where it overlay natural deposits. This was a light brown silt with gravel (013) and was 0.4m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3).

Overlying the subsoil was a layer of compacted silt and mortar (012), perhaps representing demolition of a building in the vicinity.

#### Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

Overlying the possible demolition deposit (012) in Trial Pit B was a subsoil or former topsoil of brownish yellow clayey silt with mortar (011). This was 0.3m thick.

Cut into this deposit in the northeast corner of the trial pit was a linear feature (010) identified as a foundation trench. This was 1m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3). Constructed within the trench was a brick wall (008) and the trench had then been backfilled with grey silt with mortar (009).

Located to the rear of No. 7, and identified during the site clearance, was a circular feature (020). This was 0.65m in diameter and c. 7.5m deep and contained a brick well (018) cemented with brownish yellow mortar (017). This had been backfilled with grey silt (019). Surrounding the well was a brick surface (015).

#### Phase 4 Recent deposits

Sealing the deposits in Trial Pit A was a layer of grey sandy silt (002) into which flint cobbles (001) had been set to form a yard surface.

Capping the well (018) was a concrete slab (016).

Most other recent deposits had been

removed as part of the initial site clearance.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sands, silts, gravels and limestone of the underlying river terrace deposits.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise mortar surfaces, dumped deposits, subsoils and a possible demolition layer. These remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material, though two fragments of medieval roof tile were retrieved from a subsoil. These deposits indicate that buildings were present to the rear of the site and perhaps are as early as the medieval period, sealed as they are beneath post-medieval levels.

A brick wall, a subsoil or topsoil and a well were identified as belonging to the post-medieval period (Phase 3), specifically the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As such, they are likely to be associated with the standing buildings fronting Bridge Street.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a pantile fragment, medieval roof tile and two fragments of animal bone.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Bridge Street, Horncastle, as the site lay in close proximity to Roman and medieval settlement. Additionally, the works were being undertaken during refurbishment of two post-medieval buildings.

No evidence for Romano-British activity was identified at the site and natural deposits were sealed by undated floor surfaces, dumped layers, subsoil and a demolition deposit. Though no date could be assigned to these layers it is probable

that they are medieval or later in date. Post-medieval remains include a brick wall, a subsoil/topsoil and a brick built well, all perhaps associated with the buildings fronting Bridge Street.

A small quantity of medieval and postmedieval artefacts, much of it building material, was recovered together with faunal remains.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Paula Judson of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire commissioning for fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. John Sutton provided continual support throughout the project. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Pete Watkins
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

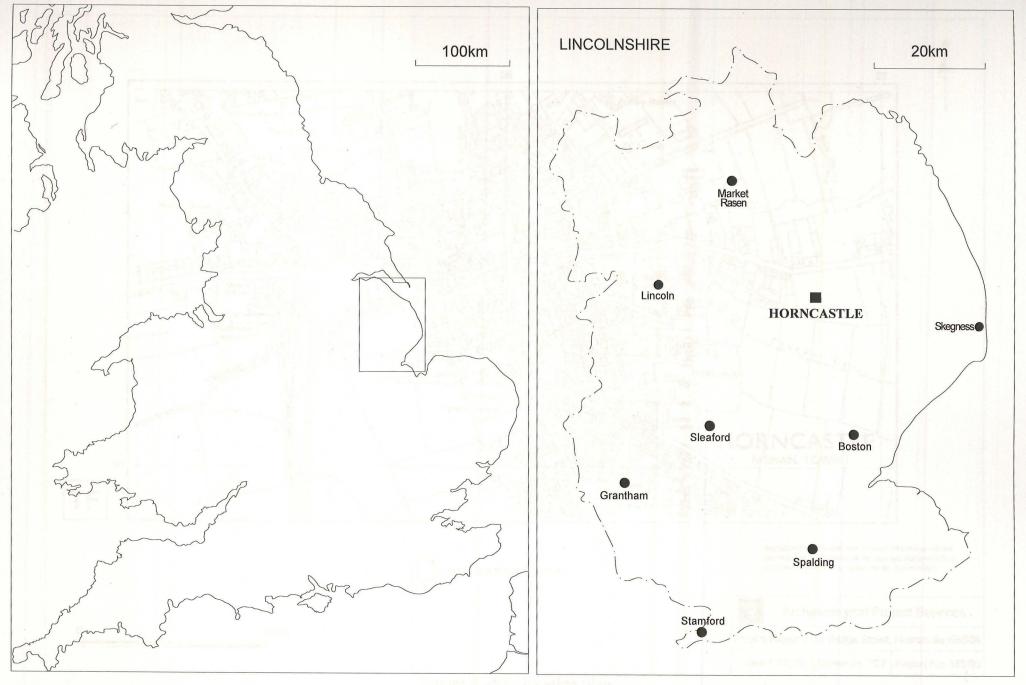


Figure 1 - General location plan

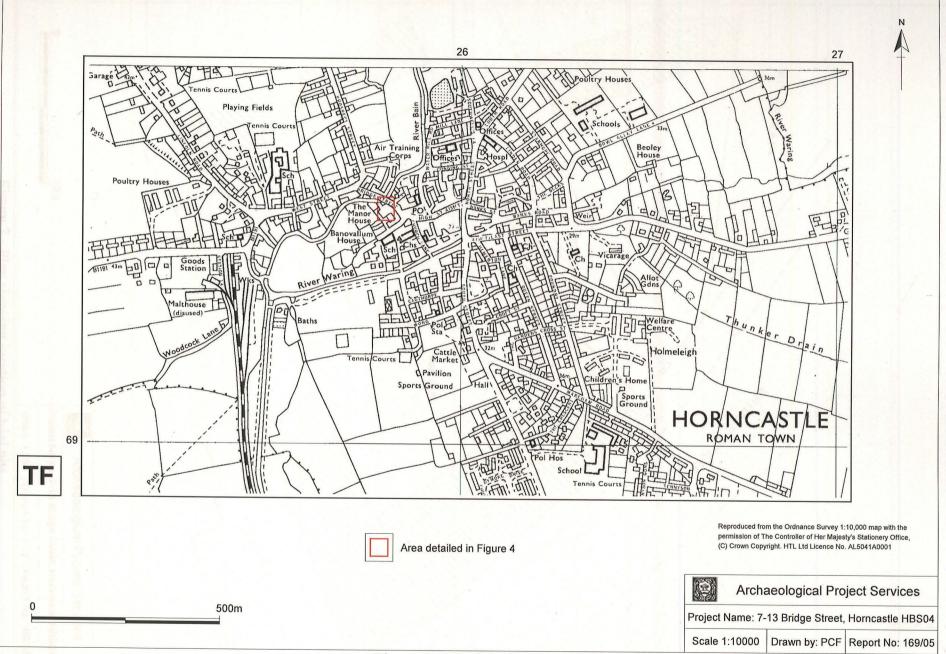


Figure 2 - Site location plan

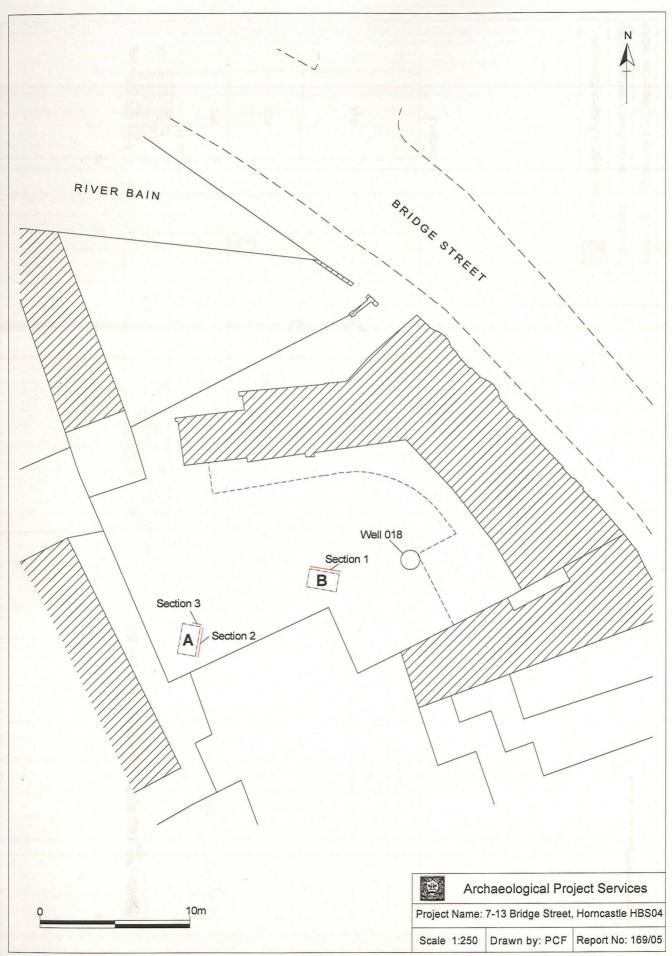


Figure 3 - Plan showing location of trial pits

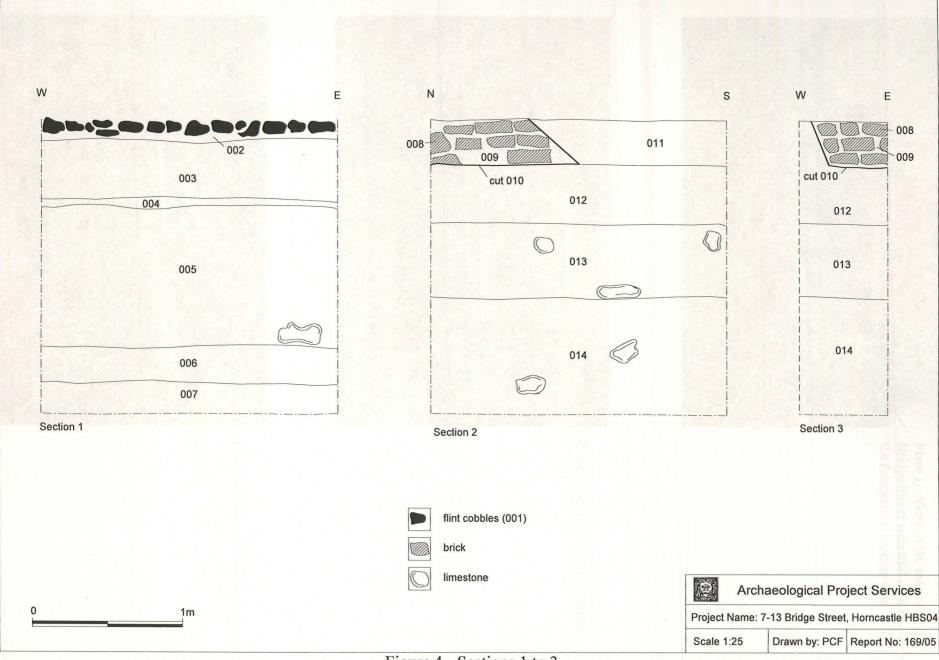


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 - View to the rear of Bridge Street with trial Pit A in the foreground, looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 2, looking east



Plate 4 - Post-medieval well (018), looking west

# LAND AT 7-13 BRIDGE STREET, HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during development at 7-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance near the core of the medieval town and a short way north of the walled precinct of the Roman town. Post-medieval remains have previously been found at the site, which encompasses two Grade II Listed Buildings of late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during works involved in the refurbishment of 7-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development is located on the west side of Bridge Street, 100m west of the Market Place and 100m northwest of the church. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 258 696.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Applications for planning permission (S/086/00370/03) and listed building consent (S/086/00369/03) were submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the refurbishment of existing buildings on the site. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Horncastle lies in the valley of the rivers Bain and Waring. The site lies close to the centre of Horncastle, on the south bank of Old River Bain at approximately 30m OD. Local soils are of the Fladbury 1 Association typically pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on flat valley floors (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 194). These soils overlie a drift geology of recent alluvium and lower terrace deposits.

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period through to recent times have been identified in and around the town of Horncastle. Prehistoric finds in the area are limited, but are

represented by Mesolthic flint tools found along the High Street and early Neolithic tools from Bridge Street. Neolithic polished stone axes have also been found in the town. A Bronze Age perforated basalt hammer was found to the south of the River Waring.

- Romano-British settlement is well known in Horncastle with Roman defences in the town centre dated to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century. However, the earliest Romano-British settlement appears to be concentrated to the south of the town, along South Street, Boston Road and Mareham Road.
- The development site is approximately 40m north of the northwest corner of the late Roman stone-walled military enclosure, the line of which has been accurately identified and located (Field and Hurst 1984, 49). An Anglo-Saxon burial with grave goods and associated features has been found on the east side of the Romano-British stone-walled enclosure (Taylor 1993).
- The present parish church of St Mary, located approximately 100m south of the development, was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is not known whether there was a church prior to St. Mary's, although the fact that Horncastle was a Royal estate centre owned by William the Conquerer at Domesday, could suggest some ecclesiastical importance at the end of the Saxon period (Stocker 1993, 117). The present market place, located immediately northeast of the church and approximately 150m from the proposed development, is likely to have formed the focus of the medieval town.
- Part of the site, 11-13 Bridge Street, are Grade II Listed Buildings of late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century origin. Previous investigations at the site revealed post-medieval remains including a brick surface (Archaeological Project Services 1995).

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
  - 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
    - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
    - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
    - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
    - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 8 SITE OPERATIONS

#### 8.1 <u>General considerations</u>

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

#### 8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as appropriate.

#### 9 POST-EXCAVATION

#### 9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

#### 9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

#### 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - Description of the topography of the site.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

#### 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long-term storage and curation.

#### 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

#### 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section. They will be given as much notice as possible in writing before the commencement of the project.

#### 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

#### 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

#### 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon-later - J Young, Independent Specialist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

#### 17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 18 COPYRIGHT

- Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project

Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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Specification: Version 1, 30 September 2004

#### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Flint cobbles (150mm x 150mm),	Floor surface
002	Loose mid to dark grey sandy silt, 120mm thick	Bedding for (001)
003	Loose mid to light greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm mid to light yellowish white mortar, 50mm thick	Floor surface
005	Loose mid to light brown silt with frequent gravel, 0.92m thick	Dumped deposit
006	Firm mid to light yellowish white mortar, 0.3m deep	Floor surface
007	Loose mid to light reddish brown sand, gravel and silt, 0.2m thick	Natural deposit
008	Brick structure, aligned north-south	Wall
009	Loose mid to dark grey silt with mortar	Backfill within (010)
010	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1m wide by 0.3m deep, steep sides and flat base	Foundation trench for (008)
011	Loose to well cemented mid to light brownish yellow clayey silt with mortar, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
012	Compacted silt and mortar, 0.4m thick	Demolition deposit
013	Loose mid to light brown silt with frequent flint gravel, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
014	Loose dark grey silt with frequent angular flint gravel, 0.8m thick	Natural deposit
015	Brick surface	Floor surface
016	Indurated mid grey concrete, 25mm thick	Floor surface
017	Well cemented mid to light brownish yellow mortar with frequent limestone fragments	Mortar for (018)
018	Brick (300mm x 100mm x 80mm) circular structure	Well
019	Firm mid to dark grey silt	Backfill within (020)
020	Circular feature, 0.65m diameter, revealed in plan only	Cut for (018)

#### THE FINDS

#### by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. Five fragments of pottery weighing 174g and representing 3 individual vessels were recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, all of it tile, comprising 3 items weighing a total of 589g, was retrieved.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 2 stratified fragments weighing 145g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from subsoil (003) and foundation trench backfill (009).

It is probable that all of the pottery was made in Staffordshire. However, it is likely that the ceramic building materials were manufactured in proximity to Horncastle.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date	
009	TPW Blue and white transfer printed ware, sanitary ware?, 19 <sup>th</sup> century		3(no link but same vessel)	140		
	WHITE White glazed tableware, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century		1	10	19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	
	Unglazed red earthenware, plant pot stand, abraded, 19 <sup>th</sup> century		1	24		

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	СВМ	Tile, reduced core, 20mm thick, medieval	1	277	Medieval
	СВМ	Tile, reduced throughout, 17mm thick, medieval	1	270	Medievai
009	CBM	Pantile	1	42	19 <sup>th</sup> century

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Materials

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments	
003	cattle	metatarsus	1	13		
009	sheep sized	metatarsus	1	132	With copper staining	

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

#### Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Horncastle, including elsewhere on Bridge Street, that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

As a small collection of predominantly early modern material the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance. The medieval tile is slightly more significant and may indicate structures of this period in the vicinity, or could be material that was recycled and reused.

The lack of any material earlier than the medieval period is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this date are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

#### References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

#### **GLOSSARY**

Alluvium A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. (004).

Cut

Fill

Iron Age

Layer

Medieval

Mesolithic

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

**Dumped deposits**These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.

A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Neolithic The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

Post-medieval The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

**Prehistoric**The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

Romano-British Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Saxon Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

20 Context records

1 Photographic record sheet

5 Sheets of scale drawings

1 Stratigraphic matrix

1 Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 1HQ

Accession Number:

2004.225

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

HBS 05

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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