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**A REPORT TO
THE PRIORY TRUST**

JANUARY 2006

Conservation
Services

20 JAN 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**THE PRIORY CENTRE
St. CATHERINE'S CHURCH
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED BY
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MJAS REPORT No.: 535

THE PRIORY CENTRE St. CATHERINE'S CHURCH LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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THE PRIORY CENTRE St CATHERINES CHURCH LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- On the 4 May 2005, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of the Priory Trust, during the construction of a covered link access passage in the south-west corner of the Priory Centre, St Catherine's Methodist church, Lincoln.
- Although the groundwork was of limited extent it did reveal an undated limestone structure (possibly a buttress) believed to be associated with the medieval priory of St. Katherine's. An assemblage of tile and pottery, the majority of which dated to between the 15th and 16th century, was revealed from a deposit immediately sealing the structure.
- In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief have provided some information regarding the archaeological content of the site, only further investigation will reveal the full extent and function of the archaeological remains uncovered. However, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits and this information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.

THE PRIORY CENTRE St. CATHERINES CHURCH LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 4 May 2005, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of the Priory Trust, during the construction of a covered link access passage in the south-west corner of the Priory Centre, St. Catherine's Methodist Church, Lincoln. This work formed part of extensive alteration works to the existing church and adjoining hall building.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The following background information has been extracted from the brief for Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) produced by the Heritage Team, City of Lincoln Council.

Full Planning Permission was granted on the 22 April 2005 (ref: 2005/0091/F).

The Site is located on the north side of Colegrave Street, the east side of 2 Colegrave Street, the west side St Catherines, and the south side of the houses and gardens of "Southcliff" and 15 St Catherines. It is currently occupied by the former St Catherines Methodist Church and Sunday School/Hall, and surrounding ground (National Grid Reference SK 97113 69561).

Prehistoric Era (-10000 – 60); Limestone uplands

Roman Military Era (60-90); The early fort

Roman Military Era (60-90); Early cemetery in the Wigford area

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Roads entering the city

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Potential industrial area around South Common

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Riparian deposits

Early Medieval Era (410-850); Central elements of former Roman city and Roman network

Early Medieval Era (410-850); Riparian deposits

High Medieval Era (850-1350); St Katherine's Priory and St Sepulchre's hospital

High Medieval Era (850-1350); Wetlands

Early Modern Era (1350-1750); St Katherine's Priory and St Sepulchre's hospital

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Elementary Schools

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Wesleyan and Methodist Chapels

3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.
- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the Historic Environment Record (HER).

The watching brief required observing all groundwork associated with the construction of a covered access to the newly developed Priory Centre.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, scale drawings and photographs.



Plate 1: Limestone structure [004] (possibly a buttress) looking east (Scale is 1m – also see Fig. 2, Plan 1).

4.0 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS (Figs. 1 & 2)

Analysis

Excavation of the foundation trench revealed, at its southern end, [004] a limestone structure (possibly a buttress) built from roughly hewn limestone fragments bonded with a light yellow sand mortar (top – 5.83m OD – see Plate Pl. I). Structure [004] continued beneath the trench section and its alignment and/or form was unclear. Sealing [004] was an extensive (c. 500mm

thick) deposit of mid-brown silt sand ([003]) containing a moderate assemblage of pottery and tile fragments dating to between the 12th and 16th centuries (top – 6.68m OD). Above [003] lay [002] a deposit of modern building debris forming a sub-base for an existing concrete and tarmac access to the centre (existing ground level – 6.93m OD).

No further features or deposits were revealed during the watching brief.

Results

Although the groundwork was of limited extent it did reveal some interesting deposits and remains. The undated limestone structure revealed in the base of the foundation trench may form a buttress associated with a larger structure, however with the limited information available no precise interpretation is possible. In all likelihood this structure is associated with the medieval priory of St. Katherine's (by far the largest and most important of the Lincoln Monasteries). The modest assemblage of tile and pottery recovered from the deposit immediately sealing the structure dates to between the 15th and 16th centuries, but offers little interpretive value without further *on site* investigation.

In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, only further investigation will reveal the full extent and function of the archaeological remains uncovered. However, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits and this information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MJAS would like to thank the Priory Trust for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis and to The Lindum Group (site contractor) for their full cooperation and interest throughout the duration of the watching brief. Thanks are also extended to the City Archaeologist (Mr M J Jones) for his advice and guidance.

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6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, Michael J, Stocker, D & Vince, Alan 2003, (Stocker, D, ed), *The City by the Pool*. Assessing the Archaeology of the City of Lincoln, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 10, Oxbow Books, Oxford

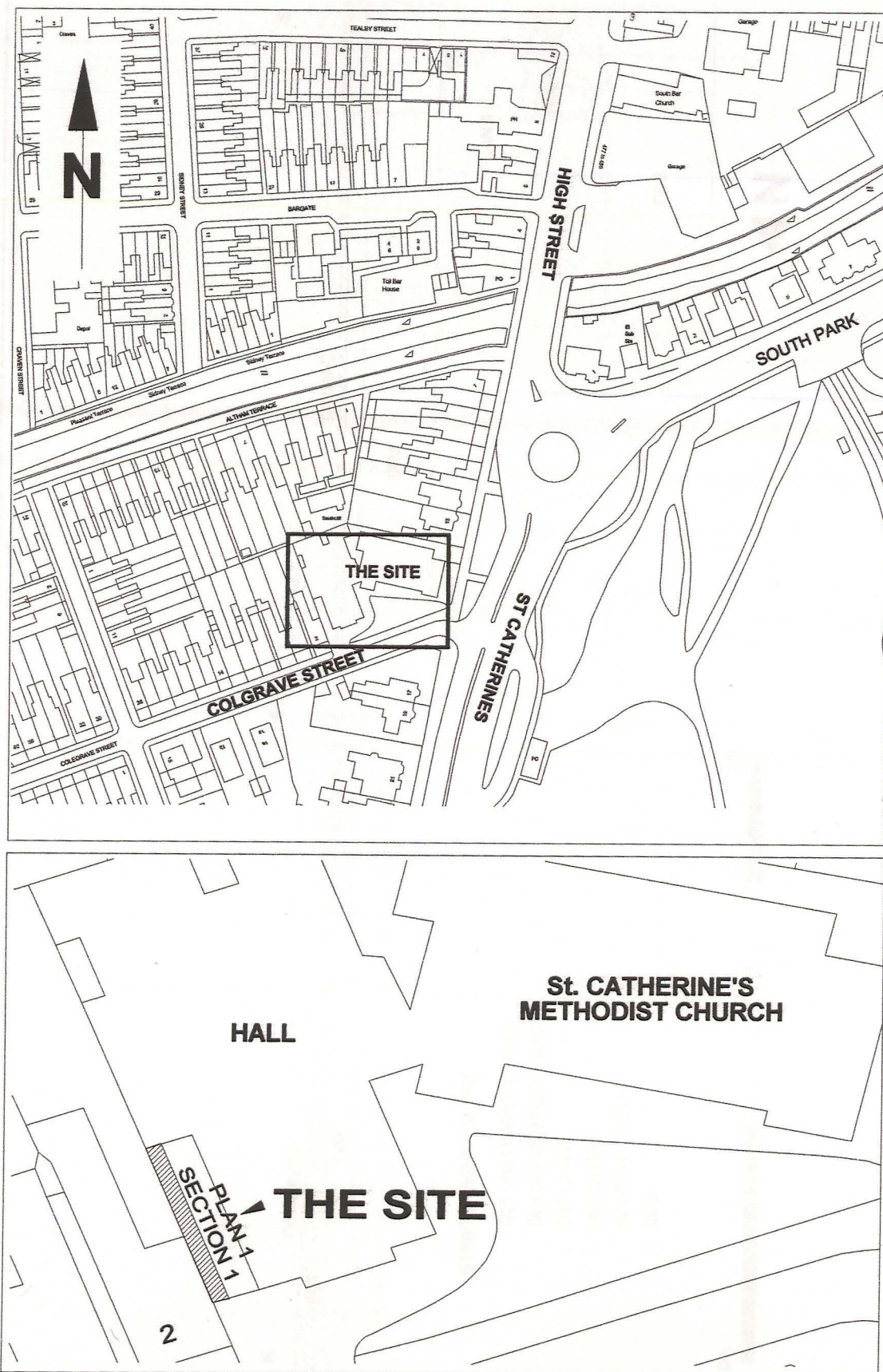


Fig. 1: Site location Map (scale 1:2000) and trench location plan (not to scale).

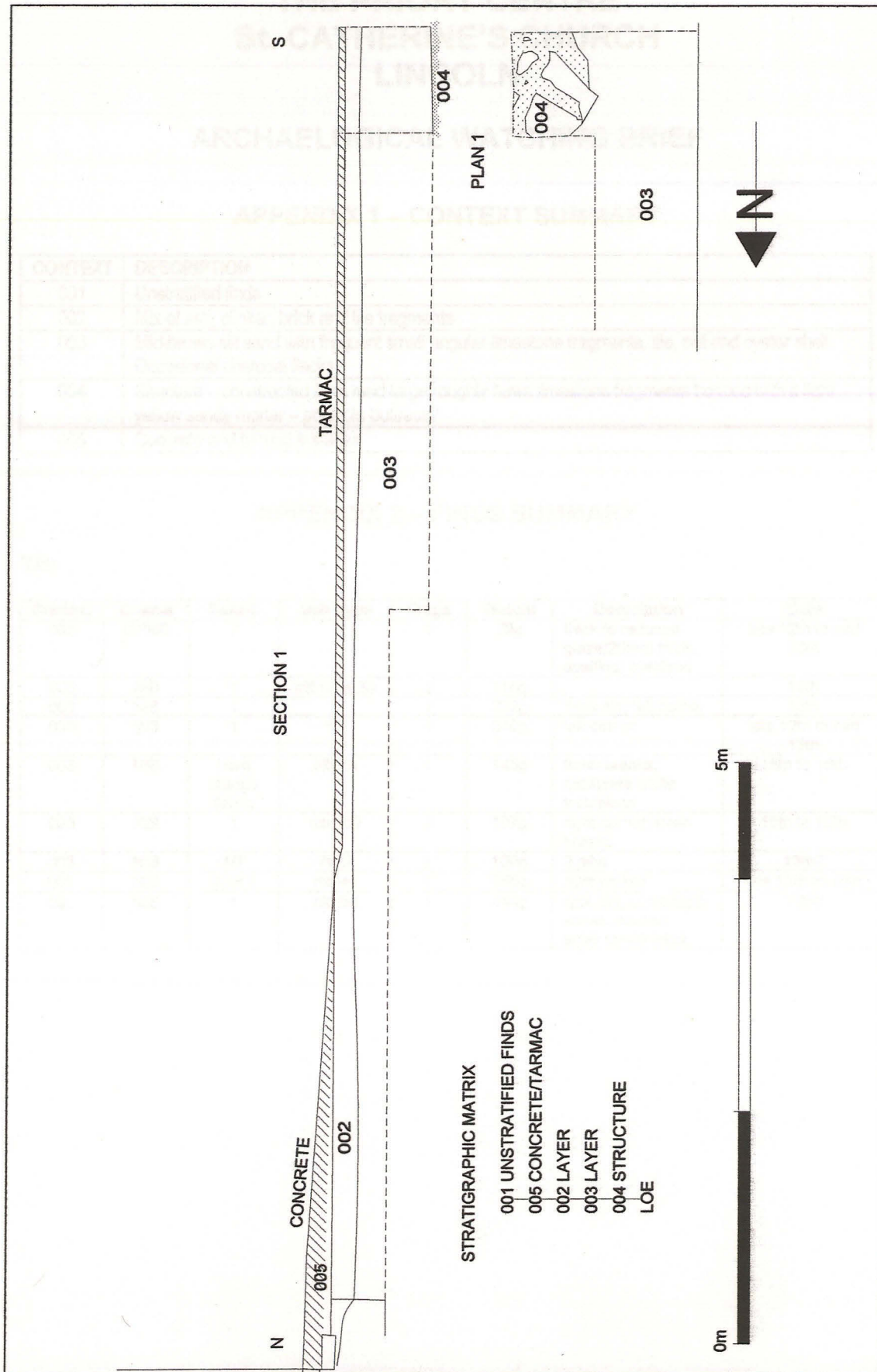


Fig. 2: Section 1, Plan 1 (scale 1:50) & stratigraphic Matrix.

THE PRIORY CENTRE St. CATHERINE'S CHURCH LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
001	Unstratified finds
002	Mix of ash, clinker, brick and tile fragments
003	Mid-brown silt sand with frequent small angular limestone fragments, tile, pot and oyster shell. Occasional charcoal flecks
004	Structure – constructed from med-large roughly hewn limestone fragments bonded with a light yellow sandy mortar – possible buttress?
005	Concrete and tarmac surfaces

APPENDIX 2 – FINDS SUMMARY

Tile

Context	Cname	Fabric	Sub Type	Frgs	Weight	Description	Date
003	GPNR	7		1	79g	thick fe reduced glaze; 20mm thick; spalling; overfired	late 12th to mid 13th
003	NIB	1	nib type 3a	1	116g		13th
003	NIB	1		1	232g	thick tile; left corner	13th
003	NIB	1	1/2	1	240g	left corner	late 12th to mid 13th
003	NIB	hard orange fabric	nib 7a	1	145g	fresh breaks; moderate white inclusions	15th to 16th
003	NIB	1	nib 7d?	1	197g	right corner; fresh breaks	15th to 16th
003	NIB	1/7	7s/t?	1	100g	2 nibs	13th?
001	NIB	poor 1	nib 4a	1	266g	right corner	late 13th to 14th
001	NIB	1	nib 6d	1	444g	type tile; to nib type series; mortar; small claw? Mark	13th?

Post Roman pot

Context	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Decoration	Part	Action	Ref No	Description	Date
003	POTT		narrow-necked jar	1	1	43		rim			long thin everted rim; soot; fresh breaks;	15th
003	LLSW		dripping pan/rectangular dish	1	1	80		rim			fresh breaks; cracked from base during firing; lipped; thick bodied; amber glaze; corner/end	15th
003	LLSW		jar	4	1	85		BS			fresh breaks; soot; int amber glaze towards base	15th
003	LLSW		jug	2	1	38		BS			fresh breaks	late 14th to 15th
003	TB		bowl	1	1	80	side pressed rim edge	rim			thick int & ext suspension glaze; square rim' fresh breaks	mid 15th to 16th
003	LLSW		large jug	1	1	205		LHJ			fresh breaks; wide strap handle; 3 lower foliate pressings	15th
003	TB		jug	3	1	50		BS			fresh breaks	mid 15th to 16th
003	LLSW		small jar	1	1	81		rim		DR1	internal lid seating; int glaze towards base; fresh breaks	15th
003	TOYII		jug	1	1	14		BS				mid 15th to mid 16th
003	LHUM		jug	1	1	55	applied pressed rim around rim top	rim			UHJ: prob pressed strip around neck; fresh breaks; into & ext glaze	mid 16th
003	LLSW		jug	1	1	42		BS			fresh breaks	15th
003	LSW4	LLSW type	jug	4	1	66	shoulder cordon	BS			fresh breaks	late 15th to mid 16th
003	LSW4	LLSW type	jug	1	1	9		BS				late 15th to mid 16th
003	LLSW		jug	1	1	17		BS			fresh breaks	15th
003	LSW4	LLSW type	large jug	1	1	83		BS			fresh breaks; spalling ext	late 15th to mid 16th
003	LLSW		jug	1	1	16		BS			fresh break	15th
003	LLSW		jar	1	1	20		BS			fresh break; soot	15th
003	MP	orange fabric grey surfaces	small jug	1	1	10		base			pressed base; int dep	15th to 16th
003	HUM		large jar	1	1	32		BS				15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		large jug	2	1	132		base			fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		large jug	1	1	127		base			fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		large jug	1	1	66		BS			fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		large jug	1	1	36		BS				15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug	1	1	43		BS				15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug	1	1	15		BS			fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug/jar	1	1	17		BS				15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug	1	1	4		BS			fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th

003	HUM		jug	1	1	7		BS		fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug	1	1	11		BS		fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		jug	1	1	13		BS		fresh breaks	15th to mid 16th
003	HUM		large jug	1	1	22		BS			15th to mid 16th
003	LLSW		large bowl	1	1	40		base		thick int glaze	15th
003	TB		jar	1	1	24		base		thick int glaze; soot	mid 15th to 16th
003	MP	red fabric	bowl?	1	1	21		BS		brown int glaze	15th to 16th
003	TOY	+ ca	jug/jar	1	1	5		BS		fresh breaks	14th to 15th
003	LLSW	oxid	jug	1	1	5		BS			15th
003	LLSW		jug	1	1	7		BS			15th
003	LSW4	LLSW type	jug	1	1	15		BS			late 15th to mid 16th
003	PMLOC	K?	jug	1	1	17		BS		fresh breaks	16th
001	LSW4	LLSW type	jug	1	1	106		LHJ		2 large foliate thumbings; thin strap handle	late 15th to mid 16th
001	LLSW		small dish	1	1	4		rim			15th
001	LSW4	LLSW type	jug	1	1	17		BS		low fired; spalled	late 15th to mid 16th
003	R	greyware	jar	1	1	7		BS			Roman

APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: The Priory Centre, St. Catherine's Church, Lincoln

SITE CODE: PCSC05

MJAS REPORT No: 535

NGR: SK 97113 69561

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 4 May 2005

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 2005/0091/F

CLIENT: Lindum Group Limited, Lindum Business Park, Station Road, North Hykeham,
Lincoln

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2005.94

ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION: MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln