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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
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PLANNING & CONSERVATION  
POST BOOK REF. No. 137-744

**26/28 Dear Street Market Rasen, Lincs.  
Archaeological Observation and Recording**

**NGR: TF 104 892  
Planning Application: M04/P/0650  
Site Code: MRDS 06  
LCNCC Accn No.: 2006.116**

**Report**

**for**

**Dear Street Developments Ltd**

**By**

**Naomi Field**

**LAS Report No. 932  
July 2006**

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20/7/06

acknowledged receipt of report 20/7/06  
J. M. M. M.

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## The Figures

Fig. 1 Location of 26/28 Dear Street Market Rasen, Lincs. Inset (C) taken from the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence no. 100002165.

Fig. 2 26/28 Dear Street, Market Rasen, Site location, from plan supplied by the client

## The Plates

Pl. 1 26/28 Dear St Market Rasen, general view of the site looking north-east.

Pl. 2 26/28 Dear St Market Rasen, general view of the site looking south-west

Pl. 3 Typical section at rear of excavations, looking north. Scale 0.50m

Pl. 4 West side of excavations showing fall in ground at edge of street.  
Scales 2m and 0.50m

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a raft foundation for new houses on the north side of Dear Street. There was no evidence for any buildings along the street frontage nor any other archaeological remains on the site. A single piece of medieval pottery was found.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr M. Carter on behalf of Dear Street Developments Ltd in April 2006 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the above site (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

**Site Location and Description**

Market Rasen is situated 22km NE of Lincoln and 24km west of Louth, in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The development site is situated on the north side of Dear Street, to the south-west of the town centre (Fig. 2).

**Planning Background**

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of two houses on the street frontage with parking and access to the rear (Fig. 2), subject to a programme of archaeological observation and recording being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction (condition 5).

**Archaeological Background**

Market Rasen's origins are unknown although there was Roman activity in the area with a large kiln complex and associated settlement to the south-east of the present town. Market Rasen's importance lay in its position on the River Rase and at the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 it is recorded as having a mill. The medieval settlement (originally known as East Rasen) was created out of the parish of Middle Rasen. The proposed development site lies south-west of the town centre. The potential for Saxon/medieval remains in this part of the town was thought to be

moderate. There was also potential for the presence of Roman and prehistoric remains.

### **Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

### **METHOD**

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to observe the groundworks. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn where appropriate, depending upon safe access.

Finds, which were located in archaeological features, will be identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains will be in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the watching brief, to cover each feature together with general site views.

### **Results**

The site was visited on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2006. The development comprises two semi-detached houses at the front of the plot, with access on the east side leading to parking at the rear. The site was stripped of topsoil to a maximum depth of 200mm in order to level the site (Pls 1 and 2). The area of the access road had previously been covered in tarmac. This was broken up but not removed prior to being covered in limestone aggregate so this part of the site was not observed.

The buildings were constructed on raft foundations covering a footprint c.11m x 9m in extent. Soil was excavated to a depth of 1.2m at the street frontage and 0.6m to the rear. The west side of the plot and a strip along the street frontage were excavated in short sections and immediately filled with aggregate and consolidated to prevent and slumping of deposits.

Only two layers of soil were observed across the site. Topsoil (100) was a maximum of 300mm deep across the site, including the 200mm removed during landscaping). This was dark brown sandy soil containing brick and coal fragments. Four pieces of pottery were retrieved, one of which was a piece of a medieval Toynton ware jar of 13-15<sup>th</sup> century date; the remainder were 18-19<sup>th</sup> century in date and were discarded after identification(see Appendix 1). Additional, more modern, pieces were not picked up. Animal bone was also present but not retained for examination.

Beneath the topsoil was a thick deposit of mid-brown sandy clay silt (101) which was slightly

mottled with iron pan but had no inclusions (Pl. 3). The base of this layer was not reached by the excavations. A single 17-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd was retrieved from this deposit.

A modern service trench for disposal of surface water had been dug along the street frontage. Evidence for the edge of this trench was seen within the stripped area (Pl. 4).

#### **Discussion and Conclusion**

No evidence for any previous occupation was found on the site, apart from a few pieces of pottery, all but one of which was found in the topsoil. No archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks phase of construction on this site.

#### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mr M. Carter for supplying site drawings and Chris Marriott and Dave Antony for their on-site assistance.

Naomi Field  
July 14<sup>th</sup> 2006

#### **Contents of the Site Archive**

Context sheets x 2

Site notes

Site plans supplied by the client

Correspondence

Photographs LAS film no 06/68 13 digital photos.

3 pieces of pottery retained

**APPENDIX 1**



## Pottery Archive - 26/28 Dear Street, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire (MRDS06)

Anne Boyle\*

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
100	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jar ?	1	1	7	BS	oil stained	late 13th to 15th
100	LERTH	Late earthenwares		garden pot / jar	1	1	4	BS	oil stained; abraded; discarded	18th to 19th
100	LERTH	Late earthenwares		garden pot / jar	1	1	48	BS	oil stained; discarded	18th to 19th
100	WHITE	Modern whiteware		small paste / ointment jar	1	1	35	profile	external lid seating; abraded	19th to 20th
101	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	sandy + white clay striations	large jar / bowl	1	1	50	BS	internal glaze; abraded; local type ?	17th to 18th

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14 July 2006

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## THE FIGURES



THE PLATES



Pl. 1 26/28 Dear St Market Rasen, general view of the site looking north-east.



Pl. 2 26/28 Dear St Market Rasen, general view of the site looking south-west



Pl. 3 Typical section at rear of excavations, looking north. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 4 West side of excavations showing fall in ground at edge of street. Scales 2m and 0.50m