

## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

### ARCHIVE REPORT

#### **"Earls Park", Boultham Park Road, Lincoln.**

CLAU CODE : BPRA94 PLANNING APPLIC. LG33/0796/90 FIELD OFFICER: K.WRAGG

NGR: SK 9663/6960 CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 11/11/94-27/1/95 TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Allen Homes Ltd. (East Midlands Division), 127 Middleton Boulevard, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 1FW.

This project involved a parcel of land, formerly allotment gardens, to the east of Boultham Park Road, covering an area of approximately 15,000 square metres. The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Allen Homes (East Midlands Division) to provide an intermittent archaeological watching brief on all elements of the groundwork programme, in order to comply with a condition of the planning consent.

Development plans involved the construction 45 detached and semi-detached houses, together with associated works for services and access roads. Given the proximity of important kilns and other findspots associated with the Roman pottery industry to the south and west, together with the possibility of occupation associated with the River Witham to the east of the site, it was considered important to monitor the site-strip and service/foundations excavation phases of the project. The former activity would provide probably the best opportunity to determine the level of archaeological occupation still preserved on the site, if any, and the latter would possibly reveal more deeply buried archaeological deposits and features not reached by the site-strip.

Unfortunately, owing to problems with notification of the start of works, and the delay in appointment of an approved archaeological contractor, much of the site stripping exercise, the main services and the foundation excavations for 11 of the houses had been completed without record by the time of the first archaeological visit in October 1994. In addition, the stripped surface still visible at the time of the visit had been open to both the elements and the effects of the on-going works on the site for several weeks, and any possible opportunities to accurately identify archaeological features and/or deposits had been lost. In spite of this however, several fragments of pottery were recovered from the spoil heaps, appearing to date to the Roman period. Given the proximity of Roman features as previously mentioned, this would seem to reinforce the possibility of discovering some form of occupation on this site.

Foundation trenching recommenced in January 1995, and the works for two house plots were monitored by the Unit, but no obvious features or finds were recorded. It should however be noted that, at the time of the excavations, the site was heavily waterlogged, and the upper surface had been badly "mauled" by vehicle movements, again making direct observation very difficult.

The earliest deposit revealed consisted of a moderately compacted, coarse grained, orange-brown sand containing occasional small pebbles and intrusive roots. This appeared to be the natural deposit for this area

(river terrace sand), and its upper boundary contained frequent patches/pockets of a black/red-brown concreted material (thought initially to be evidence for localised burning, but perhaps a result of natural chemical reactions within the soils).

As mentioned previously the upper surface of the natural sand, and any possible features visible thereon, was so badly disturbed and obscured as to make any observation largely futile, and any conclusions about the occupation of the site impossible. It is hoped that recording of the final phases of the groundworks, at the southern edge of the site, will be possible and hopefully more productive (this is not expected to commence until late 1995/early 1996 and any results will be presented as a separate addendum report).

#### ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

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

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 165.95

ACCESSION DATE: -

Distribution : CLIENT/SMR/MJJ/AGV/JTW/FILE/LPA/CLAU ARCHIVE

7 July 1995