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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
4 – 6 PARK STREET, LINCOLN, LN1 1UF**

Planning Reference: 2007/0214/F

Accession Number: 2007.120

AAA Site Code: PSLI 07

NGR: SK 97531 71360



Report prepared for

Mr Keshmiri

by Mark Allen

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Allen Archaeological Associates  
Unit 1C, Branston Business Park  
Lincoln Road  
Branston  
LN4 1NT  
Telephone: 01522 794400  
e-mail: [allenarchaeology@btconnect.com](mailto:allenarchaeology@btconnect.com)  
[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)



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## Contents

|             |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
|             | Summary                                  | 1 |
| <b>1.0</b>  | Introduction                             | 2 |
| <b>2.0</b>  | Site location and description            | 2 |
| <b>3.0</b>  | Planning background                      | 2 |
| <b>4.0</b>  | Archaeological and historical background | 2 |
| <b>5.0</b>  | Methodology                              | 3 |
| <b>6.0</b>  | Results                                  | 3 |
| <b>7.0</b>  | Discussion and conclusion                | 4 |
| <b>8.0</b>  | Effectiveness of methodology             | 4 |
| <b>9.0</b>  | Acknowledgements                         | 4 |
| <b>10.0</b> | References                               | 5 |
| <b>11.0</b> | Site archive                             | 5 |

## Appendices

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Appendix 1: Colour plates                                     | 6 |
| Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts and deposit model | 7 |

## List of Figures

**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000

**Figure 2:** Site location at scale 1:1000 and insert showing area of groundworks in red at scale 1:100. Black arrows correspond with colour plates (See Appendix 1), context 02 is the extent of the depth of the works, and 03 is the brick and limestone structure

## List of Plates

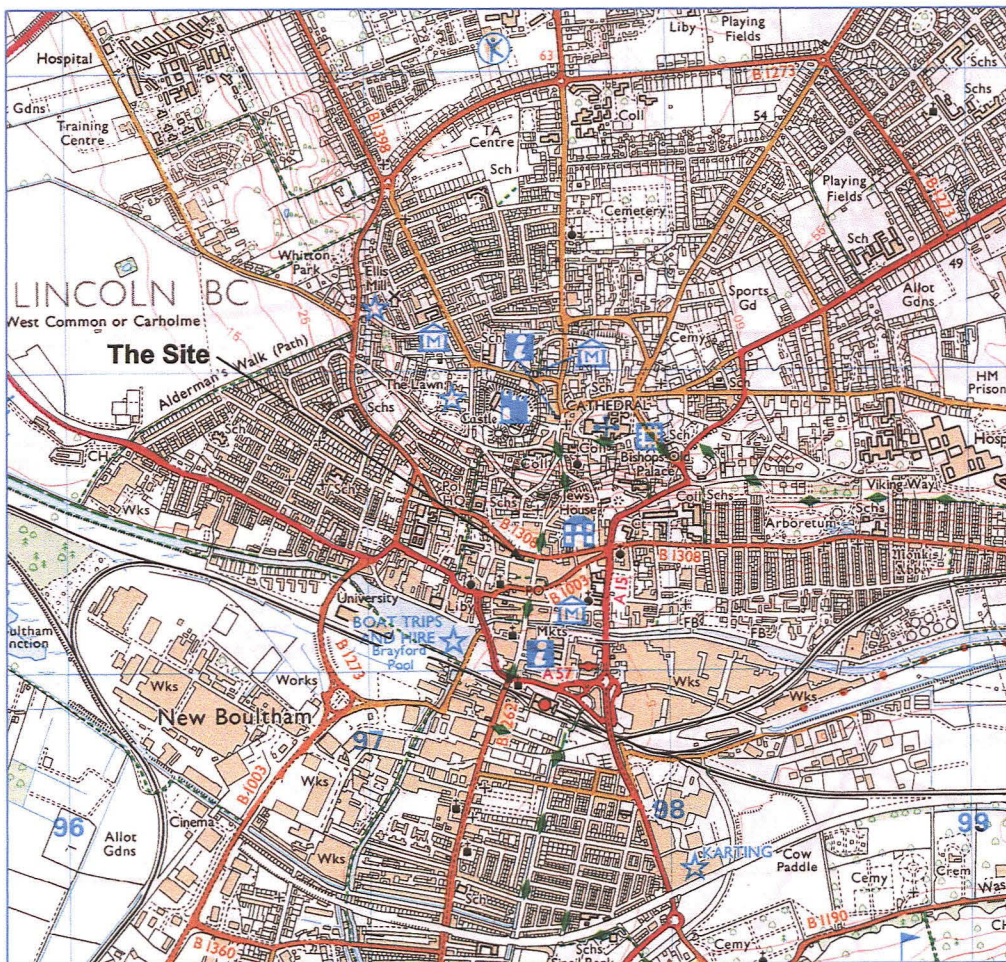
**Plate 1:** The development area during excavation, looking north-east.

**Plate 2:** Deeper excavations along north-facing wall, looking south. Note limestone block foundations

**Plate 3:** Brick and limestone structure 03, looking south

## Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new extension between 4 and 6 Park Street in Lincoln.
- The site lies within the lower suburbs of the Roman and medieval city, and as such had the potential to expose significant archaeological deposits during the development.
- The watching brief exposed a layer of demolition rubble overlying a modern build up of soil with further evidence of demolition material. A small stone and modern brick-built structure of unknown function was also identified.



## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Mr Keshmiri to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension between 4 and 6 Park Street in Lincoln.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IFA 1999) and local guidelines in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (LCC 1998).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln, within six months of the completion of the report and will be accessible under the Accession Number 2007.120.

## 2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Park Street lies to the immediate south of the historic core of Lincoln, west of the pedestrianised High Street. The area is designated as part of Conservation Area 1 (Cathedral and City centre), within the Ward of Carholme. The development area is located between The Salamander clothing shop to the west and a former jeweller (now closed) to the east, on the north side of Park Street. The site centres on NGR SK 97531 71360.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises Jurassic Deposits of Middle Lias clay and shale with ferruginous and phosphatic nodules (British Geological Survey 1973).

## 3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for the erection of a rear extension and the creation of a flat at first floor level to form three flats over two existing shop units. The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works in association with the extension works (Planning Reference 2007/0214/F).

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 Small numbers of prehistoric finds have been discovered in the uphill area of Lincoln, to the north of the site, indicating some activity on the hill top and north side of the Witham Valley side. The site is situated on the valley side, between valley floor deposits to the south and the Jurassic Way to the north, in an area of hill-side springs, streams and pools (Stocker 2003).
- 4.2 In the decades following the Roman conquest of Britain, a legionary fortress of some 15 hectares was constructed overlooking the Witham Valley on the high ground to the north of the site. To the east of the site, running in close proximity to the modern day High Street was Ermine Street Roman road (Jones 2002). The site itself lay within the northern hill slope zone with springs and possibly secular occupation (Jones 2003).
- 4.3 Towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the fortress was abandoned by the military and the site developed as a *colonia*, an urban administrative centre, occupied largely by retired soldiers. The town rapidly expanded beyond the defences of the legionary fortress, largely downhill towards the river, although extensive industrial suburbs and burial areas also developed to the north, west and east. The Park Street lay within the lower walled city area, in an area that probably contained housing, to the west of an area identified as containing temple complexes (*ibid*).

- 4.4 Much of the urban area of Lincoln appears to have been abandoned after the departure of the Roman army in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. Small quantities of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century pottery have been recovered from the southern suburbs, mainly to the south and north of the site, with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century material exhibiting a similar pattern. By the 9<sup>th</sup> century however, there is evidence of the revival of domestic and commercial activity in Lincoln, and the city developed as a major urban centre in the early medieval period (Vince 2003a, 2003b).
- 4.5 At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century major works to the north of the site resulted in the destruction of a 14<sup>th</sup> century dwelling fronting onto the High Street to make way for a new road, Corporation Street, linking Broadgate with the new housing estates in the West Parade area (Lincs Notes and Queries 1902). The exact location of the structure that was demolished remains unknown, although it was believed it may lie close to the site (J. Herridge *pers. comm.*).
- 4.6 The earliest available historic maps of the area, c. 1610 and 1722, are not sufficiently detailed to identify Park Street (Mills and Wheeler 2004). The Lincoln map of 1817 however shows that Park Street was a road that joined Micklegate (now the High Street) to the east with Beaumont Fee to the east, with structures present to the north and south of the road. This situation appears to have continued until towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when plans were drawn up to link Broadgate with West Parade (See 4.5 above). The 1883 map of Lincoln shows a series of major planned changes to the existing road network at the time, including the formation of Corporation Street to the north of the site.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks involved the lowering of the existing ground level by approximately 450mm, dropping to 600m below existing ground level around the edge of the extension. All excavation was done by hand. The groundworks were monitored by the author and Mr C Clay on three occasions in June 2007 (5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June).
- 5.2 During excavation, all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on standard watching brief record sheets, and sample sections of the stratigraphic sequence were completed at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.3 A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost layer exposed was a mixed deposit of modern brick rubble with occasional pieces of limestone, in a brown sandy matrix, 01. Deposit 01 extended throughout the extension area and measured approximately 400mm deep. It was identified as a modern demolition spread.
- 6.2 The removal of 01 revealed uniform very dark grey silty sand with frequent modern brick, tile and limestone fragments, 02. Layer 02 was identified as modern urban build up of soil with some demolition material incorporated.
- 6.3 Towards the south-east corner of the extension area a modern brick and limestone feature was exposed, 03. The structure measured 2.2m east – west and 1.2m north – south, and comprised an inner course of bricks with an outer course of limestone blocks. The brick course comprised machine cut bricks indicating the structure was of modern construction, although its function

was unclear. The fill within the structure was identical to the deposit outside the structure, ie context 02.

- 6.4 Deeper excavations around the edge of the development area revealed 1 – 2 courses of limestone blocks beneath the north-facing brick wall. These were not part of an earlier wall but appear to be re-used blocks that formed a foundation layer for the brick building fronting onto Park Street.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

7.1 Due to the shallowness of the groundworks the watching brief identified no finds or features of archaeological significance. The earliest deposit was a modern urban build up of soil, 02, that was sealed by a modern spread of brick rubble, 01.

7.2 Cutting 02 was a brick and limestone structure of modern date that was of unknown function.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It demonstrated that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Mr Keshmiri for this commission. Thanks also go to John Herridge at Lincoln City Council for providing information pertaining to the past history of the surrounding area.

## 10.0 References

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## 11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months, where it will be stored under the unique Archive Code 2007.120.



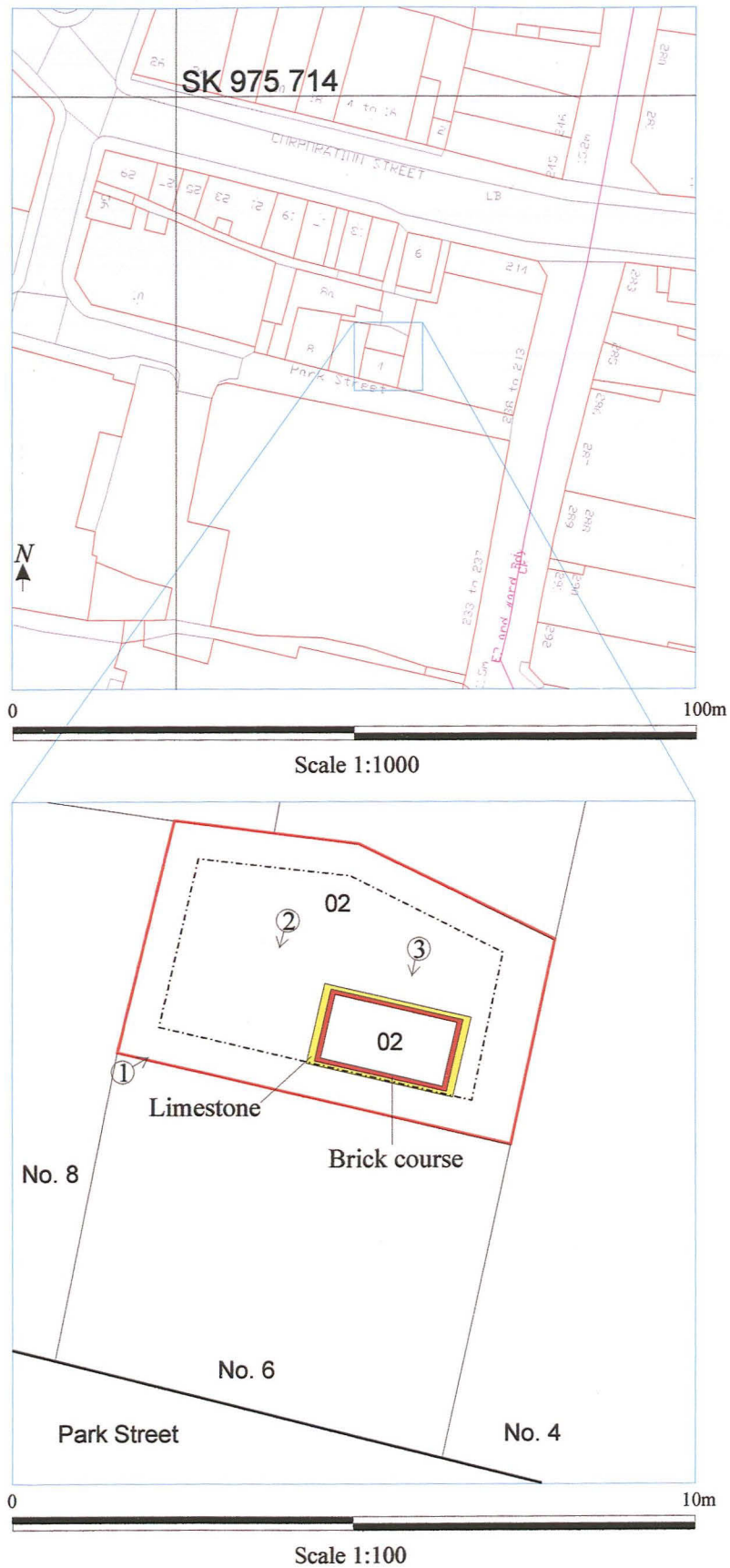


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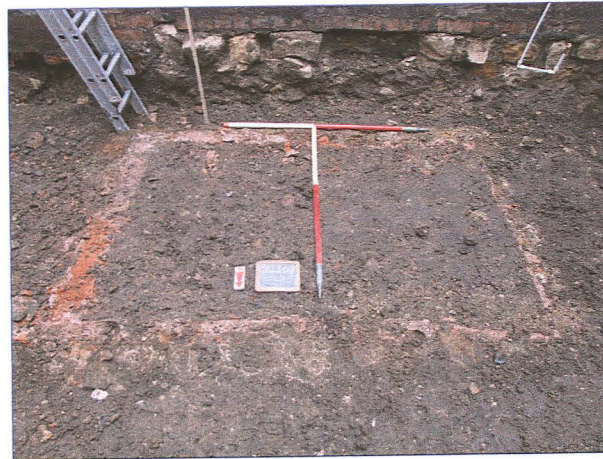
**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** The development area during excavation, looking north-east.



**Plate 2:** Deeper excavations along north-facing wall, looking south. Note limestone block foundations



**Plate 3:** Brick and limestone structure 03, looking south

**Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts and deposit model**

| Context No. | Type    | Description   | Interpretation                       | OD height        | Deposit model code |
|-------------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 01          | Layer   | Mixed deposit of brick rubble, with occasional limestone fragments in a brown sandy matrix  | Modern demolition spread             | 24.82m<br>24.42m | MODT<br>MODB       |
| 02          | Layer   | Dark grey silty sand with frequent modern brick and occasional small fragments of limestone | Modern urban soil build up           | 24.42m           | MODT               |
| 03          | Feature | Rectangular feature comprising a course of machine-cut bricks and limestone blocks          | Modern structure of unknown function | 24.42m           | MODT               |