

**A REPORT TO
Mr J Taylor**

OCTOBER 2006

**LAND ADJACENT TO
3 FRANCIS STREET
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED BY
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

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LAND ADJACENT TO 3 FRANCIS STREET LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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LAND ADJACENT TO 3 FRANCIS STREET LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *Between the 11th and 29th August 2006 Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to No. 3 Francis Street, Lincoln during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property. The watching brief was commissioned to comply with a Condition (No. 2) of planning consent (Application No.: 2005/0249/F 30 March 2005).*
- *The watching brief revealed undated deposits suggestive of domestic pitting activities probably associated with medieval properties fronting on to the street of Newport, although the date and precise form of this activity remains unclear. Subsequent activity on the site was associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of a Victorian building that once occupied the site.*
- *In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief are of limited interpretive value and provided little information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.*

LAND ADJACENT TO 3 FRANCIS STREET LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 11th and 29th August 2006 Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to No. 3 Francis Street, Lincoln during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property. The watching brief was commissioned in order to comply with a Condition (No. 2) of planning consent (Application No.: 2005/0249/F 30 March 2005).

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The Site lies on the west side of 49 Newport, the north side of 3 Francis Street, the east side of Francis Street, and the south side of the rear of 51 Newport (NGR: SK97613 72410).

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.

The Site is situated within the wide medieval market area of the suburb of Newport, and c. 30m west of the Roman road of Ermine Street. The Site contained a pair of 19th-century houses at its west end and other outbuildings (now removed)

Prehistoric Era (-10000 – 60); Limestone uplands

Roman Military Era (60-90); Canabae outside east, north and west gates

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Cemeteries

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Suburban development north and west of the upper city

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

High Medieval Era (850-1350); Newport market

Early Modern Era (1350-1750); Newport market

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Intermediate road routes

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Working-class housing estates c.1850-1945 in Newport, Newland, Butwerk Wigford and elsewhere

Archaeological investigations in the immediate area: (RE =UAD Recording Event, on=City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Observation Note)

- RE8095 Land off Francis Street/41 Newport, site code LAFS04, 2004. Archaeological Watching Brief during groundwork for the construction of a residential development. Part of a disturbed Roman skeleton was recorded (Munford 2004).
- RE265 53 Newport, site code on197, 1990. A trench cut through three dump deposits containing brick fragments overlying a light brown sandy clay layer. No archaeological features were visible

- RE231 53 Newport, site code on166, 1990. Foundation trenches revealed a Victorian cellar and Victorian wall footings which occupied the centre of the site, but any other surviving archaeological remains had been destroyed by previously infilled concrete

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 the new property. A pile and groundbeam design was utilised for the foundations and as a result ground disturbance was kept to a minimum ensuring that archaeological remains lying beneath the site remained generally undisturbed. Similarly, the proposed new building lay directly on top of foundations associated with its Victorian predecessor, further reducing the overall impact of the development on the underlying archaeological resource.

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

4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (Fig. 2 & Pl. I)

Results

The earliest deposit recorded during the watching brief was [002] an undated mid-dark brown, cess-like, sand/silt/ash soil containing occasional charcoal flecks and infrequent small angular limestone chippings (top 63.46m OD).

A brick-lined cellar, [013] (infilled prior to the commencement of the watching brief) measuring 4m x 3m and c. 2m deep lay directly against the north gable wall of 3 Francis Street. An identical cellar ([010]) lay beneath No. 3 and an undated east-west stone built foundation [008] (63.78m OD) was noted to lie against the north-east corner of No. 3 (on top of this lay a recent brick-built extension - [009]).

Sealing the above was [001] a deposit of small angular limestone and cream sandy mortar fragments mixed within a pale brown clay soil. Tile recovered from [001] dated to between the 12th and 16th centuries. This was overlain, in the east half of the site, by [005], a dark brown silt/clay garden soil containing occasional-frequent small angular limestone inclusions (18th to 20th century pottery). Above [005] was [004] a spread of dark brown silt soil (similar to [005] but containing frequent modern building debris). A sewer pipe ([012]) was also noted within [004] in the north-east corner of the site. A series of tarmac and associated make-up deposits ([003]) sealed [004] in the northern section of the site (these formed a car-park to the rear of 51 Newport – ground level: 64.28m OD).

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

Conclusions

Deposit [002] is suggestive of domestic pitting activity and may be associated with medieval properties fronting on to the road of Newport, although the actual date for this activity remains

unclear. Subsequent occupation was associated with the Victorian building that once occupied the site (3 Francis Street is the remaining half of this once semi-detached property).

In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief are of limited interpretive value and provided little information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.



Plate 1: General view of the site looking south-west.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MJAS would like to thank Mr James Taylor for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to the City Archaeologist (Mr Michael J Jones) and the Heritage Officer (Mr John Herridge) for their advice and guidance throughout the course of the watching brief.

External Specialists

Karen Adams Finds Processing (freelance)
Jane Young Post-Roman pottery & tile (freelance)

Maps contained in this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. MJAS Licence No. 100042473.

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

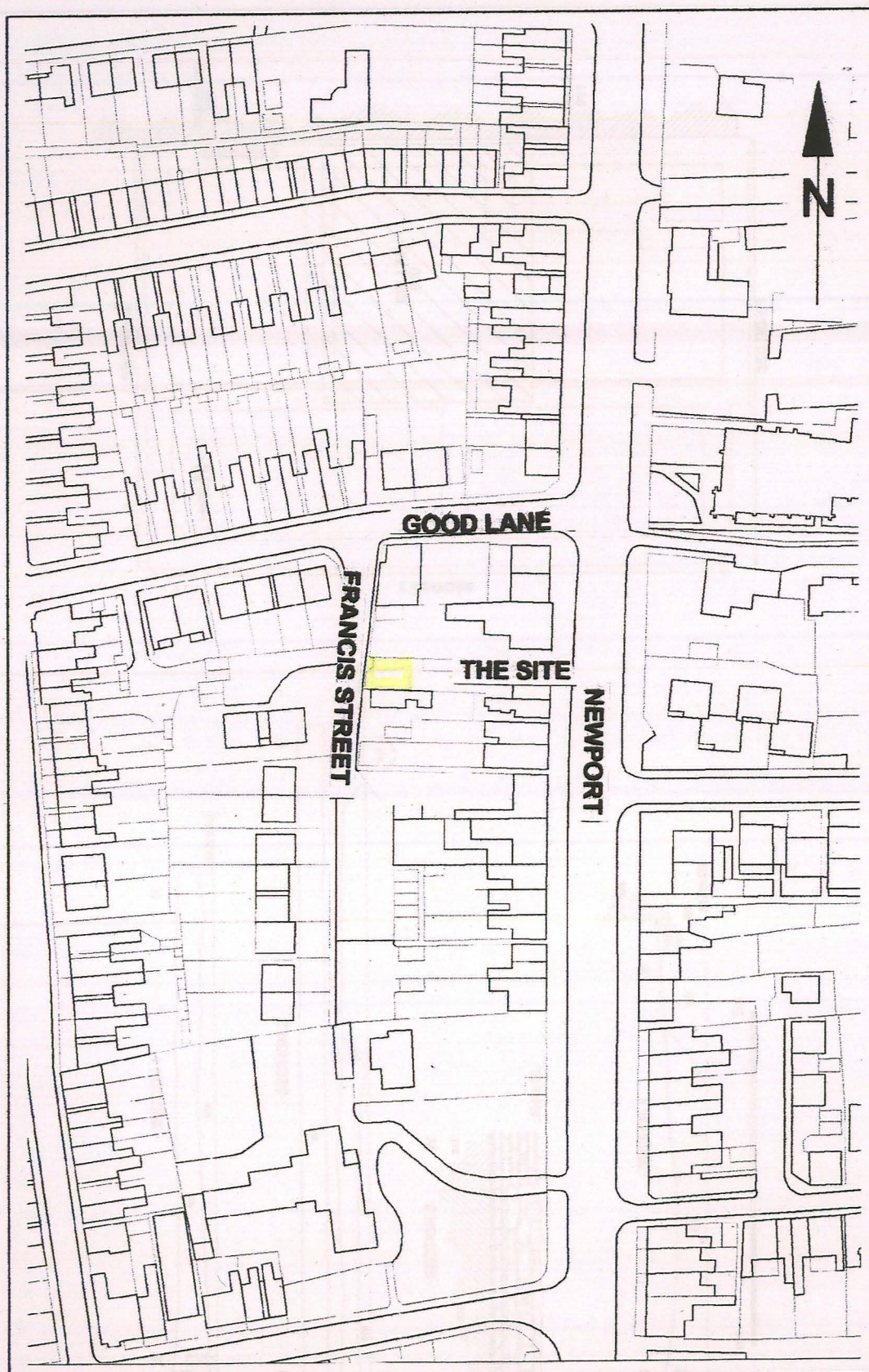


Fig. 1: Site location Map (1:1250).

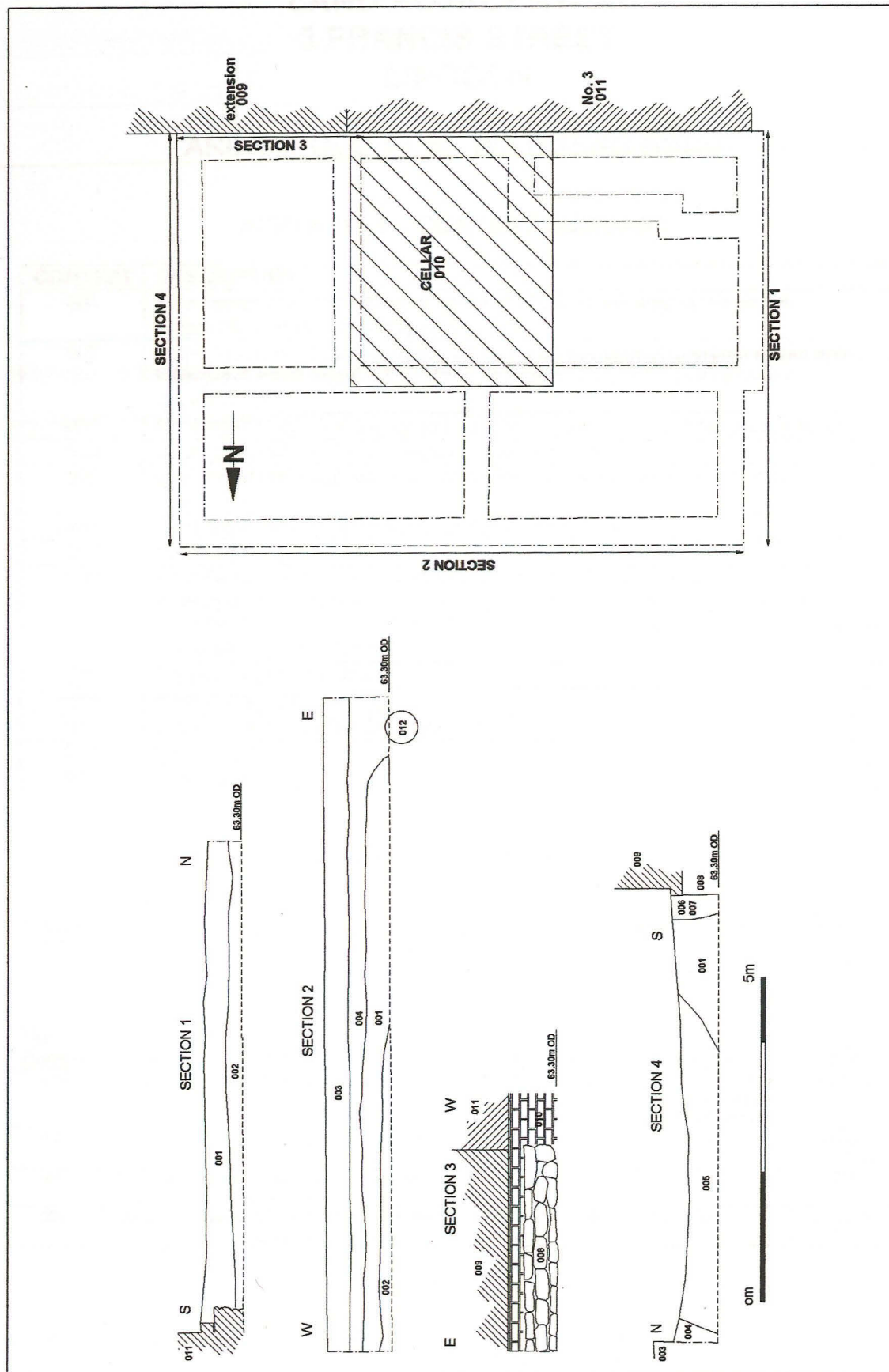


Fig. 2: Plan showing position of foundations and Sections 1-4 (not to scale).

LAND ADJACENT TO 3 FRANCIS STREET LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
001	Pale brown clay soil with very frequent (75%) small angular limestone fragments and cream sandy mortar.
002	Mid-dark brown bands of sandy silt soil with occasional charcoal flecks and infrequent small angular limestone chippings. Deposit has a cess-like appearance. Pits?
003	Concrete/tarmac forming boundary with car-park and existing ground level.
004	Dark brown silty soil with frequent modern building debris.
005	Dark brown silty soil with occasional-frequent small angular limestone inclusions.
006	Dark brown sandy soil with occasional brick rubble.
007	Foundation construction cut.
008	Foundation – east-west constructed from med-large roughly rectangular limestone fragments bonded with a pale cream lime mortar. Four visible courses slightly off-set with modern brick extension above. Stones terminate at the beginning of cellar to No. 3.
009	Modern brick extension.
010	Brick cellar wall.
011	Wall/foundation to No. 3 Francis Street
012	Sewer pipe.
013	Brick cellar.

APPENDIX 2 – FINDS SUMMARY

Post-Roman Pot

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form Type	Sherds	Weight	Part	Date
005	TPW	Transfer printed ware	large dish/plate	1	17g	rim	late 18th to 20th

Tile

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Frgs	Weight	Description	Date
001	RFURN	Roof furniture	LSWA	1	48g	no glaze; abraded; thumb mark; ? Form ID	mid 12th to 15th
001	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid	1	70g	flat roofer	mid 12th to mid 13th
001	MISCDI SC	misc roof tile (discarded)	concrete	1	31g		20th
001	PNRDIS C	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1	1	35g	flat roofer	13th to 16th

APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Land adjacent to 3 Francis Street Lincoln

SITE CODE: LIFRS06

MJAS REPORT No: 542

NGR: SK97613 72410

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 11th – 29th August 2006

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 2005/0249/F 2 June 2005

CLIENT: Mr J Taylor, 62 Croft Lane, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln, LN3 4JP

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2006.179

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

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