

**Land at the corner of Spring Hill and Drury Lane, Lincoln
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site code	DLEL 07
NGR:	SK 97407171
Planning Ref:	Pre-planning application
Acc No:	2007.188
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Report prepared for
Mr P Lynch of Bailfarm Ltd

by

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Summary

- An archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the archaeological potential of a parcel of land located at the junction of Spring Hill and Drury Lane, Lincoln, Lincolnshire.
- This work revealed a substantial build up of re-deposited soils, sealing a Roman floor surface.

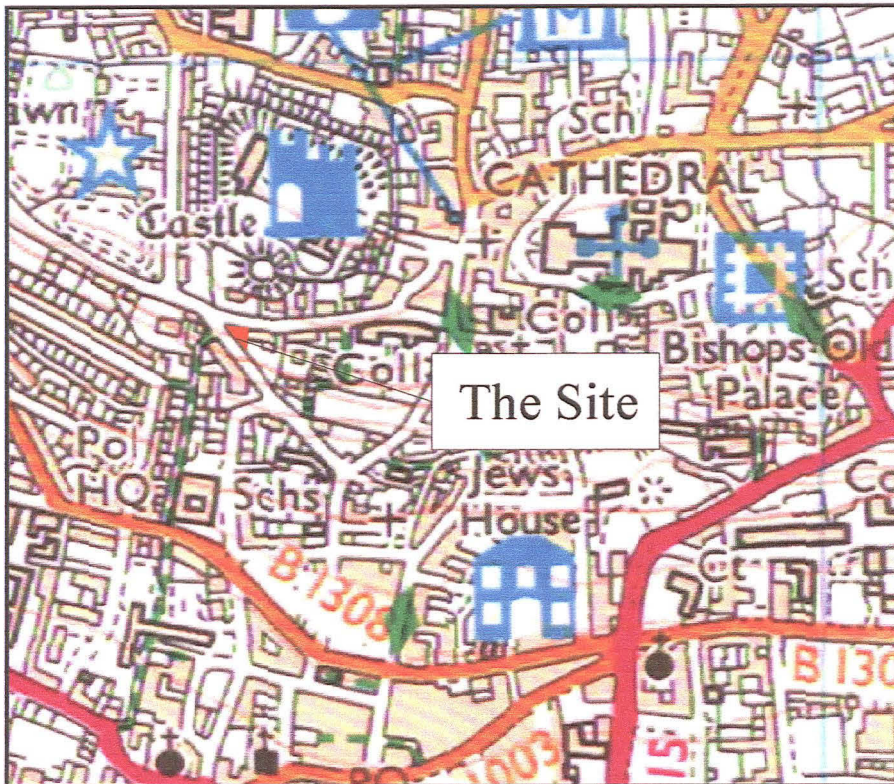


Figure 1: General site location. 1:25 000. O.S Copyright Licence no. AL 515 21 A 0001

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr P Lynch of Bailfarm Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on a plot of land at the corner of Spring Hill and Drury Lane, Lincoln. This work was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to the submission of a formal planning application.

The site investigations described in this report were undertaken to meet the advice of Lincolnshire City Council where the evaluation approach was consistent with the recommendations of Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA, 1999).

2.0 Site Location and Description

The site occupied a roughly triangular plot (centred about NGR SK9740 7171) that was formerly the garden of a house that formed the eastern boundary, with the northern and southern boundaries consisting of substantial brick walling. The localised topography of the site consisted of a steep north south slope that had intermittent modern terracing to provide for garden pathways and level paved areas accessed by steps.

The underlying geology consisted of natural bedrock made up of Marlstone rock bed: ferruginous limestone, limestone and calcareous limestone (British Geological survey, sheet 114).

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest archaeological evidence of human activity within the City of Lincoln precinct is derived from finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint implements. A cluster of Mesolithic knapped flints has also been recovered 1km north east of the city in the area of the Roaring Meg spring.

Although Iron Age settlement was predominantly concentrated in the area of the Witham Valley, traces of Late Iron Age occupation was recovered during the excavation of 181-3 High Street (Jones M. & Stocker D., 2003). This suggests that archaeological evidence for this period may survive within the city in deeply buried deposits.

Evidence for the Roman conquest and occupation of Lincoln is of national significance within the immediate location of the development area. To the north of the site are significant extant structural remains including the entrance gateways eg Newport Arch and segments of walling eg the Mint Wall in Bailgate.

Excavated remains have also included evidence from the Military Era, with the remains of the 1st century rampart front exposed, along with timber buildings (possibly barracks), which were sealed by what appeared to be a military dump (Jones M., 2003). Other excavations have also revealed the intervallum road, a storm water drain, a fragment of the 4th century wall and the lower courses of an internal tower, a water tower (*castellum aquae*) and part of the late defensive rampart indicative of the Colonia Era.

During the period of Roman conquest in Lincoln the area of Spring Hill is believed to have been within the area of legionary control and probably included in the original

boundary (*pomerium*) of the *colonia*. This was indicated by the recovery of early Rhodian *amphorae* within the earliest deposits encountered (Jones 2002).

Later urban development close by the development site was encountered at the eastern end of Spring hill where significant structural remains of a high status Roman town house extending to 12 rooms including tessalated floors and Hypocaust heating systems were encountered (Jones et al 2003).

Evidence for Anglo Saxon settlement within the upper city precincts is limited and largely confined to the area of the former Roman forum where the remains of two timber structures (thought to be churches) and a high status burial containing a 7th century bronze hanging bowl were discovered. However, five sherds of Early Anglo Saxon pottery have also been found in East Bight from separate excavations (Vince A., 2003) and pottery from Spring Hill is indicative of 10th century occupation within the vicinity of the site.

The Medieval period saw the re-establishment of Lincoln as a town from the late 9th century to the mid 12th century and almost every excavation carried out in the town or its suburbs has produced evidence for occupation during this period (Vince A., 2003, page 159).

The later development of the Norman castle that was constructed over the remains of the Roman Legionary Fortress may also have included Drury Lane as part of the circuit of roads around the redevelopment of Eastgate and the creation of a new inner Baily during the 12th century.

The Black Death and the collapse of the cloth industry brought a reduction of population in Lincoln. This was evidenced to the south of Eastgate and north in the area of Newport where places reverted to pasture.

In the 17th and 18th centuries Lincoln has been recorded as a small market town located within the remains of a ruined city. Lincolns decline was accentuated by the dissolution of the monasteries during the 16th century with an act of parliament in 1549 reducing the number of parishes, with many disused ecclesiastical buildings still extant in the 19th century (Jones et al 2003).

4.0 Methodology

A single trench measuring 7m x 1.30m and located at the centre of the site, was excavated by a 360 mini-digger fitted with a 1m wide smooth bucket. Deposits were removed in spits not exceeding 0.20m in thickness until the uppermost archaeological or geological deposit was encountered. Further excavation was carried out by hand.

Exposed section faces were cleaned by hand to determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits with sample sections drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20) and located on a trench plan (scale 1:50). These were located on a site base plan at scale 1:100. Descriptive accounts of all contexts encountered were recorded upon pro-forma sheets.

A colour and monochrome photographic record was maintained to include detailed and general shots of the work as it progressed, examples of which are appended to this report.

5.0 Results

Natural bedrock (108) was encountered at AOD 58.49 at the southern extent of the trench and AOD 59.69 at the northern end, resulting in an approximate north south gradient of 1: 6.

Overlying the bedrock at the southern end of the trench was layer (107) that consisted of Orange clay interspersed with platy stones and fragments of ceramic tile/brick possibly indicative of a deliberately constructed surface. This building material was of Roman date, however an intrusive clay pipe stem dating to the early modern period was also uncovered (appendix).

Overlying the northern half of the trench was a layer of redeposited mid grayish brown silt (106) with occasional fragments of Ceramic brick/tile. These fragment of building material date to the Roman or medieval periods (appendix?)

Sealing (106) and (107) was over 1M of redeposited topsoil (105) that consisted of dark brown clay silt with occasional small fragments of brick/tile. The fragments of building material recovered, are of mixed date ranging from the Roman period to the early 20th Century. Pottery recovered from this layer was of medieval to early modern date(appendix). This mixture of dates is a result of the deposit being disturbed and re-deposited.

Cutting (105) was the foundation cut for the remains of what appeared to be an outhouse (103) associated with the house to which the site was formerly gardens.

Sealing (103) was a layer of limestone that extended down slope along the trench and would appear to represent a demolition/levelling layer associated with the demolition of the outhouse(102).

This area was in turn sealed by a mid grey brown clay silt subsoil (101) and the uppermost topsoil layer (100) and modern garden features (eg rockery and pathways).

6.0 Discussion and conclusions

The only archaeology of any real significance uncovered on the evaluation site is the Roman floor surface, deposit (107). As this deposit was viewed in relative isolation, it

can not be understood in context. The surface is of basic construction, using clay, platy stone, brick and tile. It is possibly, an external floor surface.

Over this is a substantial depth of re-deposited soils, derived from silting and movement caused by the natural slope of the sites location. This site has also been a garden for a number of centuries which would have accentuated this process of redeposition. This process has caused the mix of residual and intrusive finds within the different layers.

The finds recovered on the site, date from the Roman to the modern periods, reiterating the fact that this area of Lincoln was occupied from the roman period until the present day.

The full significance of the floor surface is impossible to assess based on the results of the evaluation. Its close proximity to the site of a substantial high status town house should not be under estimated.

7.0 Acknowledgments

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr P Lynch of Bailfarm Ltd for the commission.

8.0 Reference sources

British Geological Survey, *Sheet 114, Solid and Drift Edition 1:50 000 Series*. Ordnance Survey Southampton.

Whitwell J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire vol II*. History of Lincolnshire Committee for the Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

Jones M J 2002 *Roman Lincoln*. Tempus

Jones M J, Stocker D, Vince A 2003 *The City By the Pool*. Oxbow books.

9.0 Site archive

The documentary, photographic and bulk archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited with The Collection within six months of final reporting.

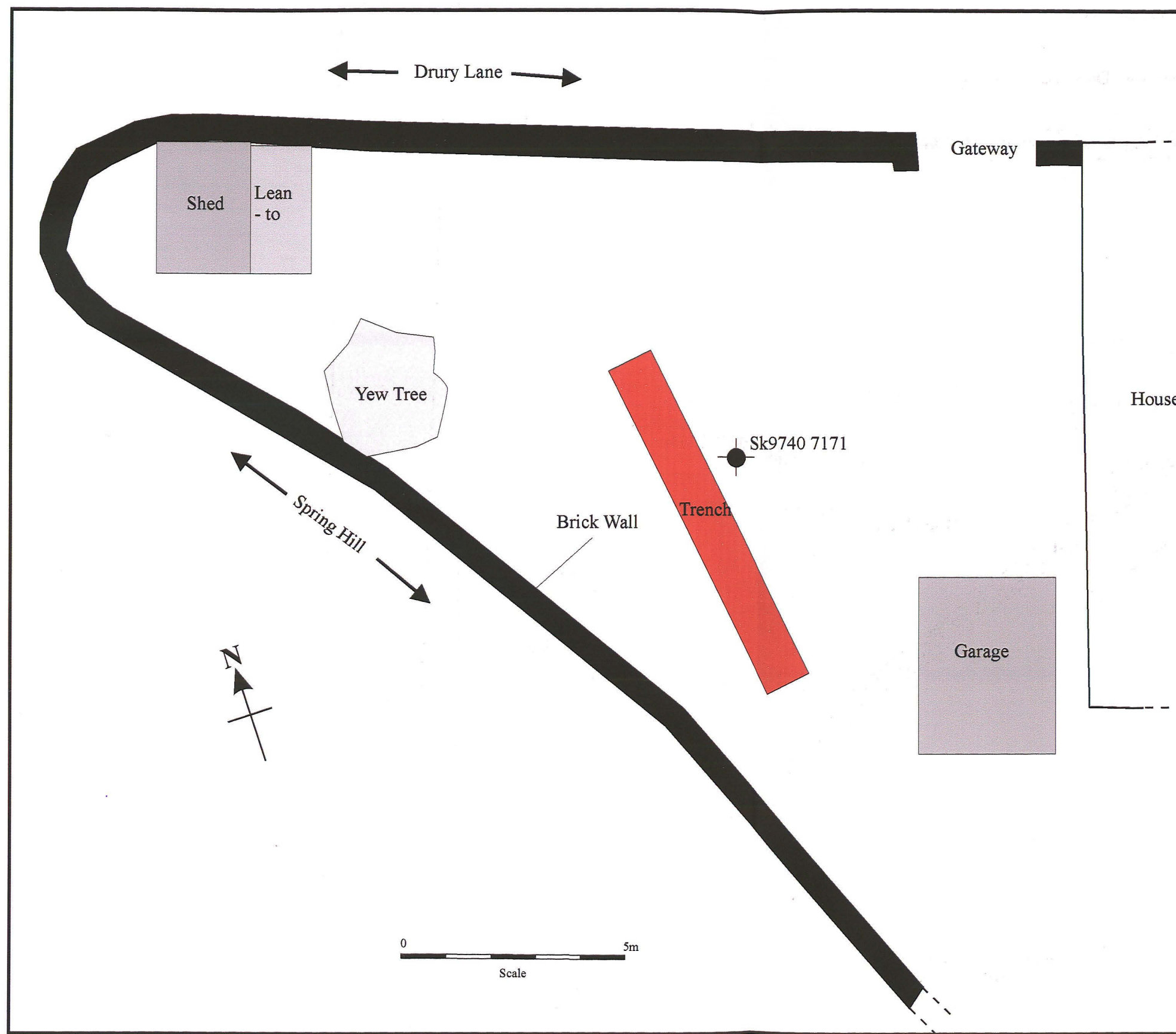


Fig 2: Trench location plan with general site details, scale 1:100, with site centre ref, SK9740 7171

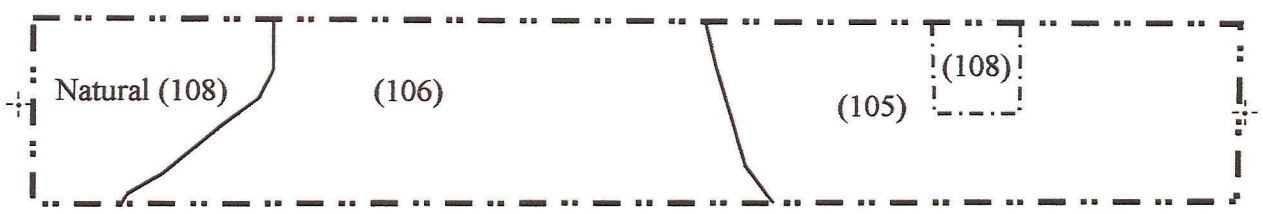
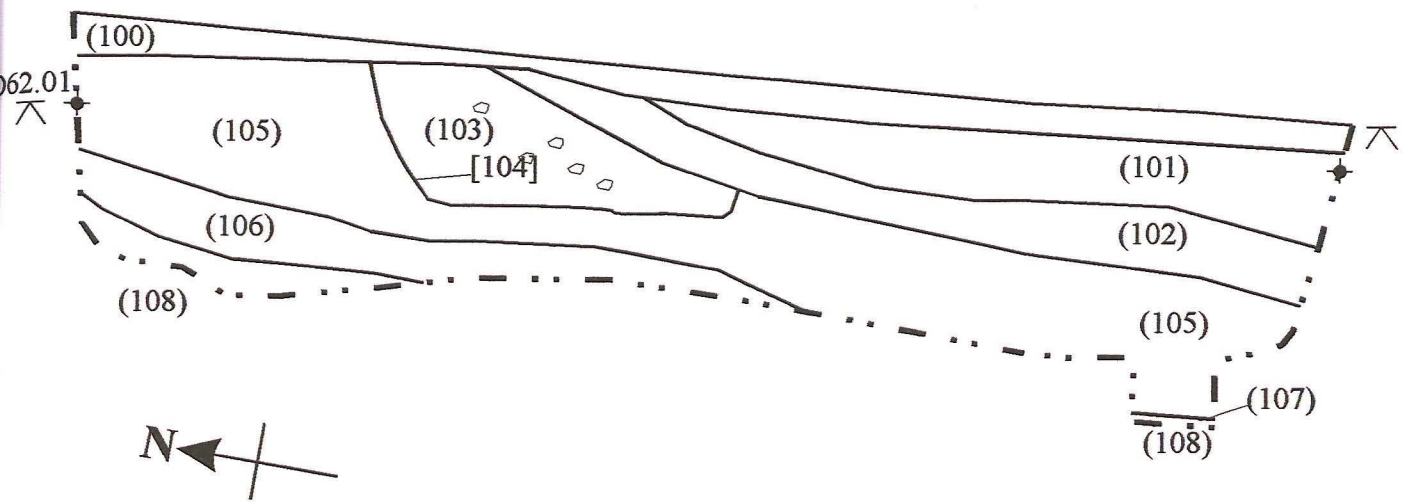


Fig 3: Trench illustrations
Scale 1:50

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Site viewed south-east from the junction of Drury Lane and Spring Hill.



Plate 2: Trench location before excavation.



Plate 3: General view looking south-east

Plate 4: Sondage at south end of trench showing 107 in section.



Appendix 2: Context summary list

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Modern Garden soil
101	layer	Mid grey/brown silty clay, subsoil
102	Layer	Demolition/levelling derived from 103
103	Structure	Victorian brick walling infilled with chalk floor foundation (toilet)
104	cut	Construction cut for 103
105	Layer	Dark blackish brown redeposited silty clay topsoil
106	Layer	Redeposited mid brown silty clay with frequent small limestones
107	Layer	Mid orange/grey slity clay with freq small platy limestones
108	Deposit	Natural Marlstone rock bed

Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material

Ceramic Building Material Archive DLEL07

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
105	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	dark reduced fine fabric		1	230	flat roofer; thin oxidised surfaces; some shale in fabric	13th to 16th
105	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	vitrified		1	123	flat roofer; mortar	18th to 20th
105	IMB	imbrex	marbled sandy fabric		1	87		Roman
105	BRK	Brick	poor fabric marbled + fe		1	56	fabric incl common fe; handmade	18th to early 20th
106	TEG	Tegula	poor shaley fabric		2	268	same tile; ? ID; soot	Roman
106	RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	orange sandy fabric + fe		1	54	fabric includes common fe; thin flat tile	Roman or medieval
106	RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	marbled dull oxid		1	84	fabric includes common fe; thin flat tile; hard fired; sanded base	Roman or medieval
107	TEG	Tegula	fairly smooth marbled fabric	Flange type 36	1	295	rough base	Roman
107	RBRK	Roman brick	shaley fabric; marbled orange & cream		1	54	mortar over broken edges	Roman

Appendix 4: Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Pottery Archive DLEL07

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
105	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware		large jug	1	1	47		BS		mid 15th to mid 16th
105	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	cream fabric	press moulded dish	1	1	4	feathered decoration	BS		early to mid/late 18th
105	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		jug	1	1	17		handle	multi grooved strap handle	18th
105	SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware		small vessel	1	1	2		base		early/mid to late 18th

Appendix 5: Clay Pipe Report

Land at the Corner of Spring Hill and Drury Lane, Lincoln.
DLEL 07

Clay Tobacco Pipe

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Description</i>
107	Stem fragment, external sooting (SB4). 18 th - 19 th Century

By Jenny Mann