

M8/17

**A REPORT TO
Mr M JONES
LN5 ESTATES LIMITED**

June 2008

**7 St CATHERINES
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED BY
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MJAS REPORT No.: 553

**7 St CATHERINES
LINCOLN****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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7 St CATHERINES LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *Between 28 April and 2 May 2008, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of LN5 Estates Limited, during the construction of double garage with workshop above on land to the rear of 7 St Catherines, Lincoln.*
- *Although the groundwork was of limited extent and dateable material was scarce, the watching brief did reveal some potentially interesting deposits and remains.*
- *A series of undated sand deposits of were revealed at the limit of excavation however it was not clear given the limited evidence available, as to their form, function or precise method of deposition.*
- *A metallated surface was exposed during the watching brief and is almost certainly associated with the medieval priory of St Catherines although its function and position within the priory remains unclear. Similarly, a number of worked limestone fragments present within the backfill of a modern sewer trench were believed medieval in date although the lack of evidence for structures on the site suggests that the material was probably imported from elsewhere in the vicinity.*
- *Topsoil was noted to contain frequent brick rubble associated with outbuildings once present on the site (outside toilets) and sand lenses interleaved with the topsoil towards the north end of the site probably represent up-cast deposits associated with dredging/cleaning of Sincil Drain.*
- *In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, only further investigation will reveal the full extent and function of the archaeological remains uncovered. However, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits and this information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.*

7 St CATHERINES LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between 28 April and 2 May 2008, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of LN5 Estates Limited, during the construction of double garage with workshop above on land to the rear of 7 St Catherines, Lincoln.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

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.

Full Planning Permission was granted on the 18 October 2007 (ref: 2007/0650/F).

The Site is located to the rear of No. 7 St Catherines close to the junction of St Catherines and Altham Terrace. At the time of the watching brief the area comprising the site was clear open land (National Grid Reference SK 97125 69612).

Prehistoric Era (-10000 – 60); Limestone uplands

Roman Military Era (60-90); The early fort

Roman Military Era (60-90); Early cemetery in the Wigford area

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Roads entering the city

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Potential industrial area around South Common

Roman colonia Era (90-410); Riparian deposits

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

Early Medieval Era (410-850); Riparian deposits

High Medieval Era (850-1350); St Katherine's Priory and St Sepulchre's hospital

High Medieval Era (850-1350); Wetlands

Early Modern Era (1350-1750); St Katherine's Priory and St Sepulchre's hospital

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Elementary Schools

Industrial Era (1750-1945); Wesleyan and Methodist Chapels

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 building. Trenches were excavated mechanically and were 600mm wide.

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



Plate I: general view of the site during the excavation of the foundation trenches (looking north-west).

4.0 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS (Fig. 2 & Pls. I & II)

Analysis

The earliest deposit encountered was [008], an undated deposit of slightly laminated/banded light-mid brown coarse sand soil with infrequent charcoal and small rounded pebble inclusions (5.29m OD). Sealing [008] was two similar sand deposits ([006] & [007] – top 5.43m OD), both of which were undated

Lying above [006] was layer [005], a friable, mid-brown sand soil containing frequent small angular limestone fragments and occasional tile (mid-12th to mid-13th), animal bone & infrequent burnt clay flecks (5.76m OD). Sealing [005] was [004] a compact 120mm thick layer of small angular limestone fragments bonded with a pale brown sandy mortar and occasional tile fragments (late 12th – 14th century - top of surface 5.85m OD). It was noted that a thin layer of pea-gravel was present on the upper surface of this layer and may indicate that the surface was external. Above surface [004] was ([003]) a friable pale-mid brown sand/silt containing infrequent animal bone fragments (6.00m OD). Overlying [003] was [002] a layer of

light-mid brown sand with frequent small angular limestone, tile flecks and infrequent animal bone (6.20m OD).

An extensive deposit of mid-dark brown sand/silt ([001]) sealed the entire site and was noted to contain frequent brick rubble probably associated with the demolition of outbuildings present along the western boundary of the site. Towards the north end of the site [001] was noted to contain lenses of clean grey/yellow sand (ground level – c. 6.90m OD).

Visible in the east facing section of the foundation trench was [009] a deposit comprised primarily of small-mid angular limestone and brick fragments. It was noted that a few of the limestone were worked with tooling marks evident. Due to the risk of undermining a public passageway above [009] it was decided not to remove any of the stone. Deposit [009] is believed to be the fill of a main north-south sewer trench lying beneath the passageway.

A cut [010] truncated [001] and possibly [009] in the north-west corner of the site and its fill [012], a dark brown sandy soil was noted to contain frequent modern brick rubble. Cutting in to [009] and [012] in the west section of the site was pipe trench [014] (fill – [013]) that contained a ceramic sewer pipe (connecting to the main beneath the passageway) and a lead water pipe.

A north-south brick-built foundation [011] was recorded cutting into [001] and running parallel to the footpath on the west side of the site and formed the west wall of the demolished outbuildings forming the west boundary of the site.

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



Plate II: close-up of section 2 showing metalling [004] (top of picture) with make-up deposit [005] beneath and banded fine sand/silt deposits [006-008] below.

Results

Although the groundwork was of limited extent and dateable material was genuinely scarce, the watching brief did reveal some potentially interesting deposits and remains.

The form, function or method of deposition of the sand deposits revealed at the limit of excavation is presently unclear given the limited evidence available however, they may be similar to wind-blown deposits recorded further to the south of the site during investigations at 21-25 St Catherines in 2006 and were dated to the prehistoric period (forthcoming LAS report).

The metallated surface ([005]) exposed during the watching brief almost is almost certainly associated with the medieval priory of St Catherines although its position & function within the confines of the priory remains unclear. Similarly, a number of worked limestone fragments present within the backfill of a modern sewer trench were also believed medieval in date although the lack of evidence for structures on the site suggests that they may have been imported from elsewhere in the vicinity.

Topsoil was noted to contain frequent brick rubble associated with a series of previously demolished outbuildings (outside toilets) and sand dumps intermingled with the topsoil towards the north end of the site probably represent up-cast deposits associated with dredging/cleaning of Sincil Drain during the 19th – early 20th century.

In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, only further investigation will reveal the full extent and function of the archaeological remains uncovered. However, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits and this information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MJAS would like to thank the Mr Matt Jones (LN5 Estates Limited) for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis and for his full cooperation and interest throughout the duration of the watching brief. Thanks are also extended to the City Archaeologist (Mr Michael J Jones) for his advice and guidance.

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 (scale 1:1250).

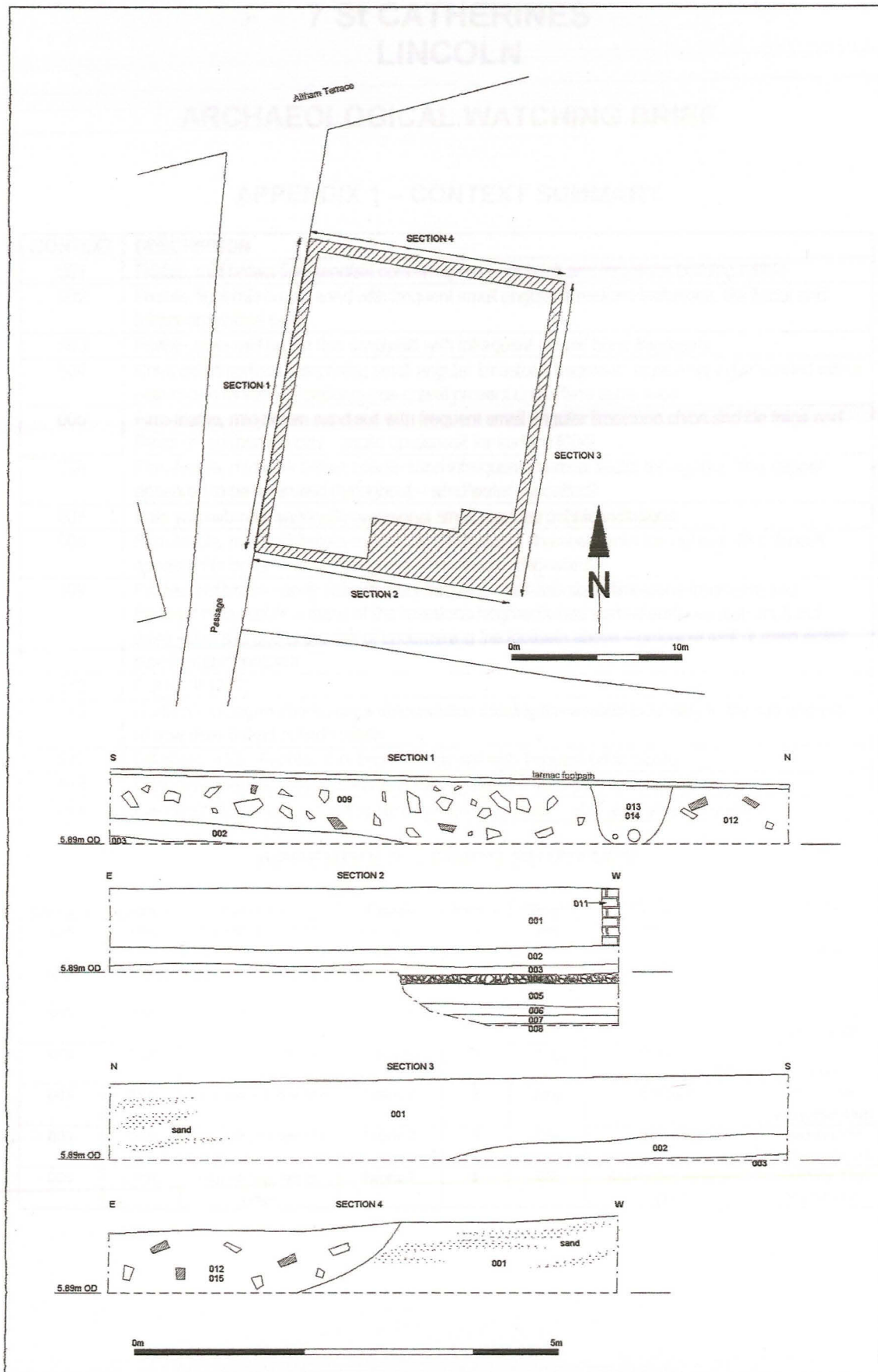


Fig. 2: Plan showing foundation trench & section locations and Sections 1-4 (not to scale)

7 St CATHERINES LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
001	Friable, mid-brown fine sand/silt containing frequent brick and limestone building rubble
002	Friable, light-mid brown sand with frequent small angular limestone inclusions, tile flecks and infrequent animal bone
003	Friable, pale-mid brown fine sandy/silt with infrequent animal bone fragments
004	Compacted surface comprising small angular limestone fragments appearing to be bonded with a pale brown mortar. Occasional pea-gravel present on surface upper face
005	Firm-friable, mid-brown sand soil with frequent small angular limestone chips and tile frags and flecks of red (burnt?) clay – make-up deposit for surface [004]
006	Firm-friable, mid-dark brown coarse sand infrequent charcoal flecks throughout. This deposit appeared to be laminated throughout – wind/water deposited?
007	Pale yellow/brown sand with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions
008	Firm-friable, mid-dark brown coarse sand infrequent charcoal flecks throughout. This deposit appeared to be laminated throughout – wind/water deposited?
009	Friable mid brown sandy soil with very frequent small-mid sized limestone fragments and frequent brick rubble – many of the limestone fragments had worked surfaces (ashlars?) but were left in situ due to the risk of undermining the footpath above – probable infill of main sewer pipe laying in footpath
010	Cut for fill [012]
011	North-south aligned brick built wall/foundation forming the western boundary to the site and wall of now demolished outside toilets
012	Fill of cut [010] - Friable, dark brown sandy soil with frequent brick rubble
013	Dark grey sand/silt with occasional brick fragments – fill of pipe trench [014]
014	East-west pipe trench – running directly into main sewer – also lead water pipe within

APPENDIX 2 – FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Frgs	Weight	Description	Date
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12	1	66g	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12	1	214g	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
005	STILE	Stone tile	Collyweston	1	37g	flat roofer	Roman to post-med
005	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12	1	15g	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
005	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7	1	109g	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
005	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7	1	55g	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
005	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7	1	48g	flat roofer; reduced glaze	mid/late 12th to mid 13th

APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: 7 St Catherines, Lincoln

SITE CODE: SCLI08

MJAS REPORT No: 553

NGR: SK 97125 69612 (centre)

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 28 April – 2 May 2008

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 2007/0650/F

CLIENT: Mr M Jones - LN5 Estates Limited, Lincoln

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2008.66

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

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