

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A SERVICE TRENCH AT  
MONKS ROAD,  
LINCOLN,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(LMRB 07)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Ringway Infrastructural Services**

July 2007

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 9782 7142  
City and County Museum Accession No: Pending  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-29175

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **100/07**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks along Monks Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a service trench near to the junction of Monks Road with Broadgate.*

*The site lies adjacent to the Roman (AD 43-410) walled town on a possible route east out of the city. Such areas were used for cemeteries, although a pottery kiln has been recorded in the vicinity. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site lay in a suburban development within the churchyard of St Rumbold.*

*The watching brief revealed only a graveyard soil due to the depth of the service trench. A number of fragments of human bone were noted and it is likely that they are associated with the former church of St Rumbold. No other finds were retrieved during the investigation.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Following the exposure of human remains, Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ringway Infrastructural Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new service trench at Monks Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. The

watching brief was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

The site is located close to the centre of Lincoln, 370m south of the Cathedral. The service trench is located on the north side of Monks Road, close to the junction with Broadgate at National Grid Reference SK 9782 7142 (Fig. 2).

The site lies at a height of *c.* 15m OD on a moderate slope down to the south, towards the River Witham.

As an urban area, local soils have not been mapped but overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias clay and shale (BGS 1973).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site lies adjacent to Monks Road which may have originated as a Roman thoroughfare east of the walled town. Such extra-mural areas were often used as cemeteries and there is evidence for pottery production in the immediate vicinity. Also, the site may have become a suburban development to the main town (Stocker 2003, 138).

Immediately adjacent to the trench is the site of the former church of St Rumbold which was founded before 1147 and was unaccounted for by 1533 (Hill 1990, 161, 287). Evaluation of the site revealed burials and wall lines of the church building (Field and George 1998, 38; Bennet and Field 1999, 29).

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

#### 4. METHODS

A single trench was excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trench were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. During earlier examination of the site by the archaeological curator a fragment of a green glazed medieval jug was noted (*pers. comm.* J Herridge). However, this was no longer evident when the recording took place.

Following excavation the records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

#### 5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Only a single deposit was encountered during the watching brief. This comprised a former graveyard soil of greyish brown clayey silt (001). This measured in excess of 0.37m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). Quantities of human bone, including skull, ribs and vertebra, were noted but not collected. None of this material was articulated.

This deposit was dissected by numerous service trenches which increased in number westwards, towards Broadgate.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Only a single graveyard soil deposit was observed during the investigation. Although the site lies in an area of probable Roman cemeteries, it is more likely that the burials encountered were associated with the medieval church of St Rumbold which was previously located immediately to the north. None of the skeletal material was articulated and was not retained as it had previously been disturbed by road widening and the insertion of services.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Monks Road, Lincoln, as the site lay on the periphery of Roman and later settlement and adjacent to the site of a medieval church.

The watching brief revealed a heavily disturbed graveyard soil containing some human bone and probably related to the medieval church of St Rumbold which once stood to the north of the site.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R Blackburn of Ringway Infrastructural Services for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hill, F, 1990 *Medieval Lincoln*

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Stocker, D (ed), 2003 *The City by the Pool. Assessing the archaeology of the city of Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No. **10**

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

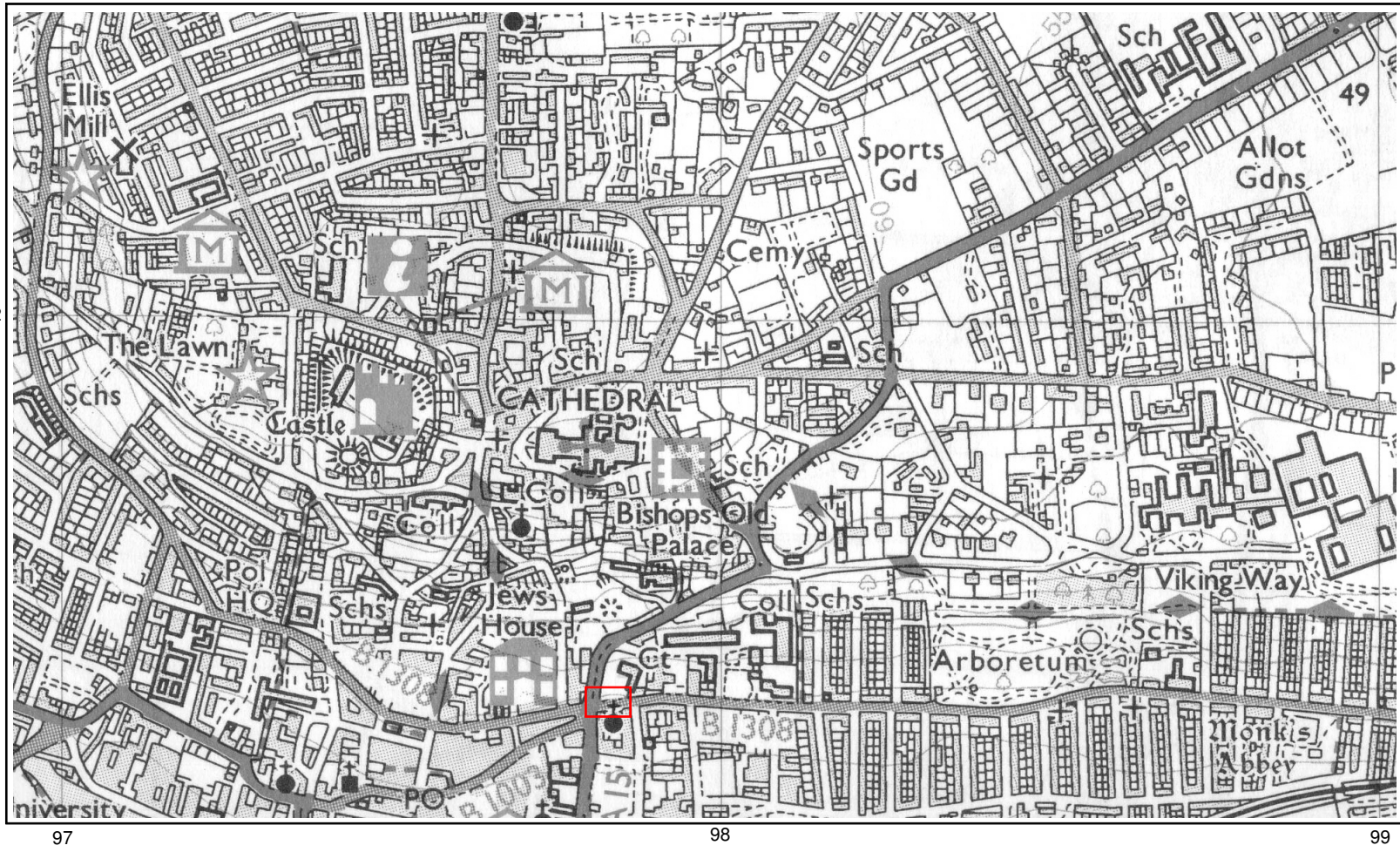
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan



**SK**

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

 Area detailed in Figure 3



<b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Monks Road, Lincoln LMRB07		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/07

Figure 2 - Site location plan



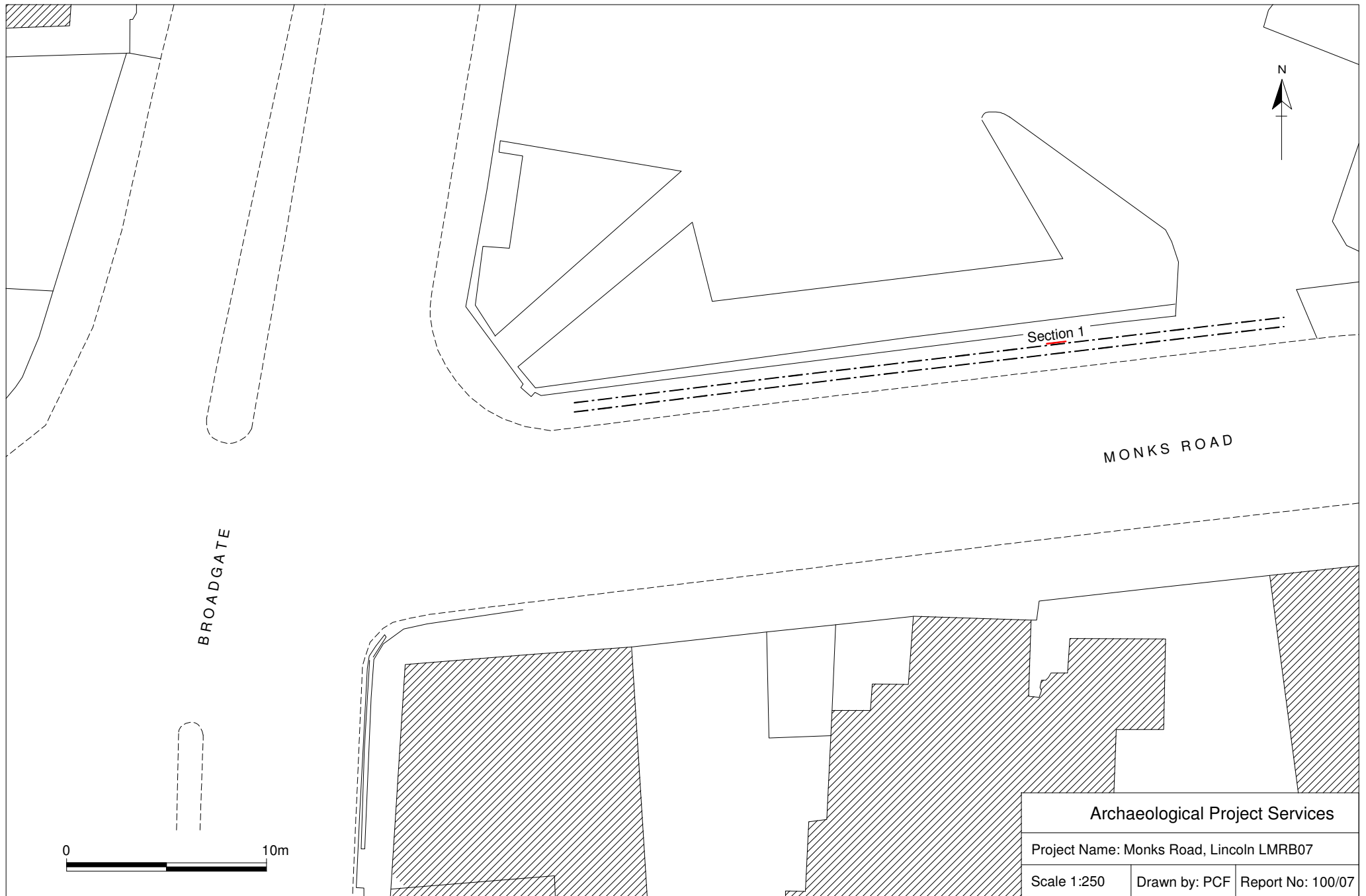
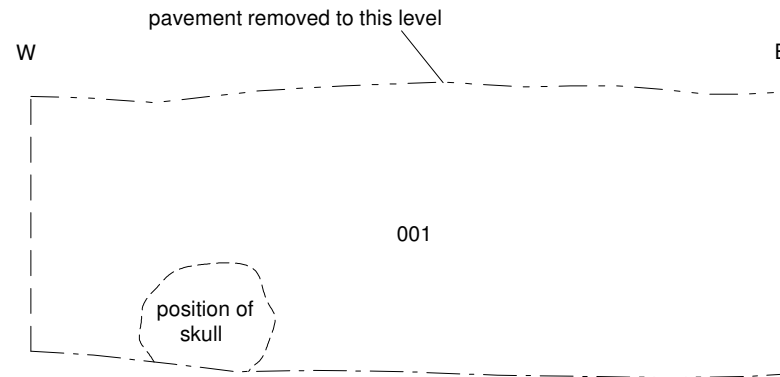


Figure 3 - Plan showing the length of service trench recorded and section location



Section 1



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Monks Road, Lincoln LMRB07		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/07

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – General view of the groundworks, looking northwest



Plate 2 – View of the service trench during excavation, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 1 with human bone in the background, looking north

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent small gravel, >0.37m thick	Graveyard soils

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context record
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection  
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: Pending

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LMRB 07

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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