

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT:
TEMPLE GARDENS IN LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE

Scheduled Monument Consent: S00029347
NGR: SK 978 715
AAL Site Code: LITE 12
OASIS ID: allenarc1-131640



Report prepared for
City of Lincoln Council

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- As a condition of a Scheduled Monument Consent, Allen Archaeology Limited were commissioned by the City of Lincoln Council to undertake an excavation in advance of the relocation of a statue to Temple Gardens in Lincoln, Lincolnshire.
- The site is in Temple Gardens, to the east of the Usher Gallery, in the historic core of the city of Lincoln on the line of the defences of the Roman city.
- The excavation exposed only a modern topsoil producing a small quantity of Roman pottery, clay tobacco pipe and oyster shell, overlying a modern ground raising deposit, probably representing material dumped during the construction of the Usher Gallery to infill the former defensive ditch of the Roman city.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by the City of Lincoln Council to undertake a small excavation to fulfil a condition of a Scheduled Monument Consent for the relocation of a statue to Temple Gardens in Lincoln.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting was carried out in a manner consistent with current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological field excavations*' (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008), English Heritage documents '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006) and '*Management of Archaeological Projects*' (English Heritage 1991), and the local guidelines in '*Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook*' (LCC 2011). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice was also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to 'The Collection' Museum in December 2012, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC: 2012.94.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Temple Gardens form the landscaped grounds around the Usher Gallery, situated in the historic core of the city of Lincoln, to the north of Lindum Road and to the east of Danesgate. The area of works is to the east of the Usher Gallery in an area with short grass coverage, centred on NGR SK 978 715.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area is Upper Lias clay and shale, with no superficial geology recorded (British Geological Survey 1973).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The City of Lincoln Council has received Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference EH S00029347) for the relocation of the 'Mother and Child' statue that is being moved from The Lawn to Temple Gardens. The consent was required as the proposed site is within the area of Scheduled Monument '*Portion of Roman Fosse and mound west of Temple Gardens*' (Scheduled Monument Reference SM LI 20 HA 1005060). Consent was granted subject to the undertaking of an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and reporting.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The excavation area is sited on or close to the line of the defensive wall and outer ditch of the 'Lower City'; the southern suburb of the Roman *colonia* that rapidly expanded downhill beyond the confines of the former legionary fortress, following the departure of the military in the later 1st century AD. There is evidence to suggest that there was formal planning of the Lower City taking place in the 2nd century, and the area was enclosed by a defensive circuit wall and ditch by the late 2nd or early 3rd century (Jones 2003).
- 4.2 The defences of the Roman town appear to have been largely reused and rebuilt in the medieval period, although historic mapping indicates that their line diverged eastwards from the Roman

defences to rejoin them to the north of the site near to Eastgate (Mills and Wheeler 2004 and National Monuments Record Reference 1406982).

- 4.3 The Usher Gallery, to the west of the site was constructed in 1927 using funds bequeathed by a local jeweller, James Ward Usher, and is a Grade II* Listed Building (Reference 486007). It is believed that spoil from the groundworks associated with the construction of the Usher Gallery was dumped to infill a portion of the Roman town ditch nearby (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Reference 70134). Historic mapping however still shows a '*Roman moat*' on the site in the 1930s and 1940s.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks entailed excavations for a new plinth for the statue, to measure 1.6m by 1.3m and 250mm deep. The location of the new plinth was marked out on site by the client in advance of the groundworks. All excavations were then undertaken by hand.
- 5.2 Each deposit was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a detailed written description on pro-forma AAL context recording sheets. A summary of these are included in Appendix 2. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and north arrow.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 Two distinct layers were recorded during the excavation, the uppermost being a modern topsoil, 100 c.120mm thick, and below this a mixed deposit of dark brown to light grey clay and clayey silt 101, containing inclusions of limestone and modern brick and tile fragments (not retained). This deposit extended below the limit of excavation, which was limited to that required for the construction of the statue plinth at 250mm below the existing ground surface.
- 6.2 The only finds recovered from the site were within topsoil 100 and comprised six sherds of Roman pottery, a single fragment of 17th century clay tobacco pipe stem and three oyster shell fragments of unknown date.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The excavation exposed only two deposits, comprising topsoil and an underlying made ground deposit. This is likely to relate to the dumping of spoil in the area during construction of the Usher Gallery, to infill the former defensive ditch of the Roman city (see section 4.3 above). The only finds recovered from the site were all residual material within the topsoil, ranging in date from the Roman period to the 17th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The excavation methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the project. It has identified a small quantity of residual finds but no in-situ features of archaeological significance.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank City of Lincoln Council for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking east



Plate 2: The excavation area, looking north. Scale is 1m

Appendix 2: Roman Pottery Report*By Ian Rowlandson*

An archive has been produced to the requirements of the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the codes currently in use for Lincoln and Lincolnshire.

LITE12- Spotdate				
Context	Spot date	Comments	Count	Weight (g)
100	2C+*	A small residual group of Roman pottery including greyware and a sherd of the local cream flagon ware. A single ?post-Roman sherd is present with traces of a lead glaze.	6	138

LITE12- Sherd data										
Context	Fabric	Form	Dec.	Vessel	Alt	D. No	Comment	Join	Sherd	Weight (g)
100	GREY	JL		1	ABR		BS		1	24
100	GREY	J	LA	1			BS		2	35
100	GROG	CLSD		1			BASE; COARSE REDUCED QU GRITTED GREYWARE WITH SPARSE COARSE GROG		1	34
100	CR1	CLSD		1			BS; PROB. FROM A FLAGON; PALE WHITE BURNISHED EXTERNAL WITH MICA A LOCAL 1ST CENTURY AD PRODUCT		1	8
100	PROM?	CLSD		1	ABR		BS; SPOTS OF LEAD GLAZE SPARSE COARSE SHALE AND ?QUARTZ		1	37

Appendix 3: Clay Tobacco Pipe Report

By Maria Piirainen

A single clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered during an excavation at Temple Gardens in Lincoln. As the stem lacks a maker's mark only a broadly 17th century date can be given for the piece, which is based on Oswald's simplified and general typology.

Table 1: Clay Tobacco Pipe Archive

Context	Plain Stem	Weight (g)	Comments	Total
100	1	11	17 th century	1
Total	1	11		1

Recommendations

The stem is stable and in good condition and should be retained with the project archive.

References

Oswald, A., 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. British Archaeological Reports **14**, 52-55. Oxford

Appendix 4: Oyster Shell Report

By Robert Evershed

A small assemblage of three oyster shell fragments was recovered from topsoil context 100 during excavations at Temple Gardens, Lincoln. As the date or original context of the group is not known, the shells offer no further potential for analysis and should be discarded.

Table 1: Oyster Shell Archive

Context	Valve (L/R)	Max. Width (mm)	Max. Length (mm)	Weight (g)	Infestation	Action
100	R	60	49	12	<i>Polydora Ciliate</i>	Discard
100	R	71	64	26		Discard
100	R	44	>36	4		Discard
				Total Weight (g)	42	

The symbol > is used to indicate that the oyster shell was broken and so only an estimate of the maximum length was possible.

Appendix 5: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable, dark brown clayey sand	Topsoil
101	Layer	Loosely compacted, mixed dark brown to light grey clay and clayey silt with brick, tile and limestone fragments	Made ground

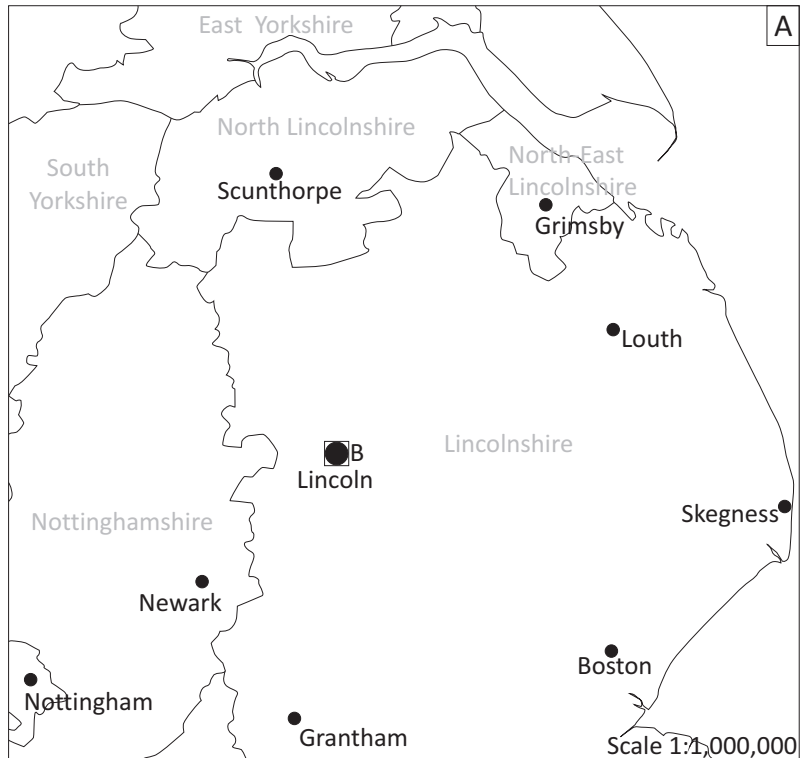
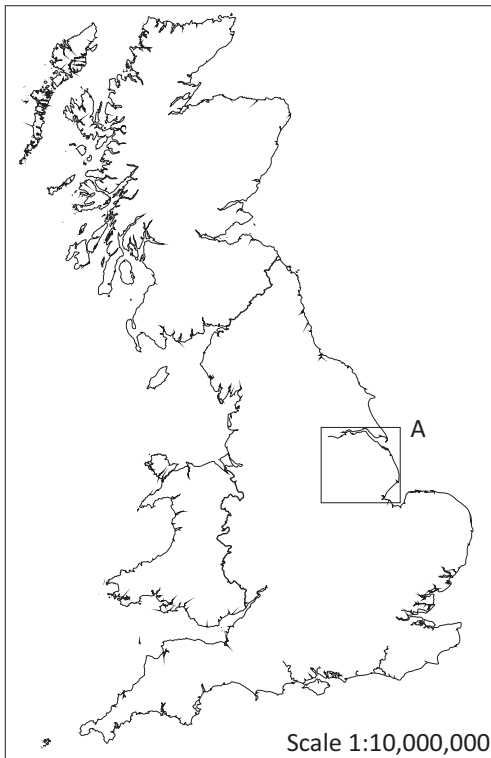


Figure 1: Site location, with Temple Gardens outlined in red

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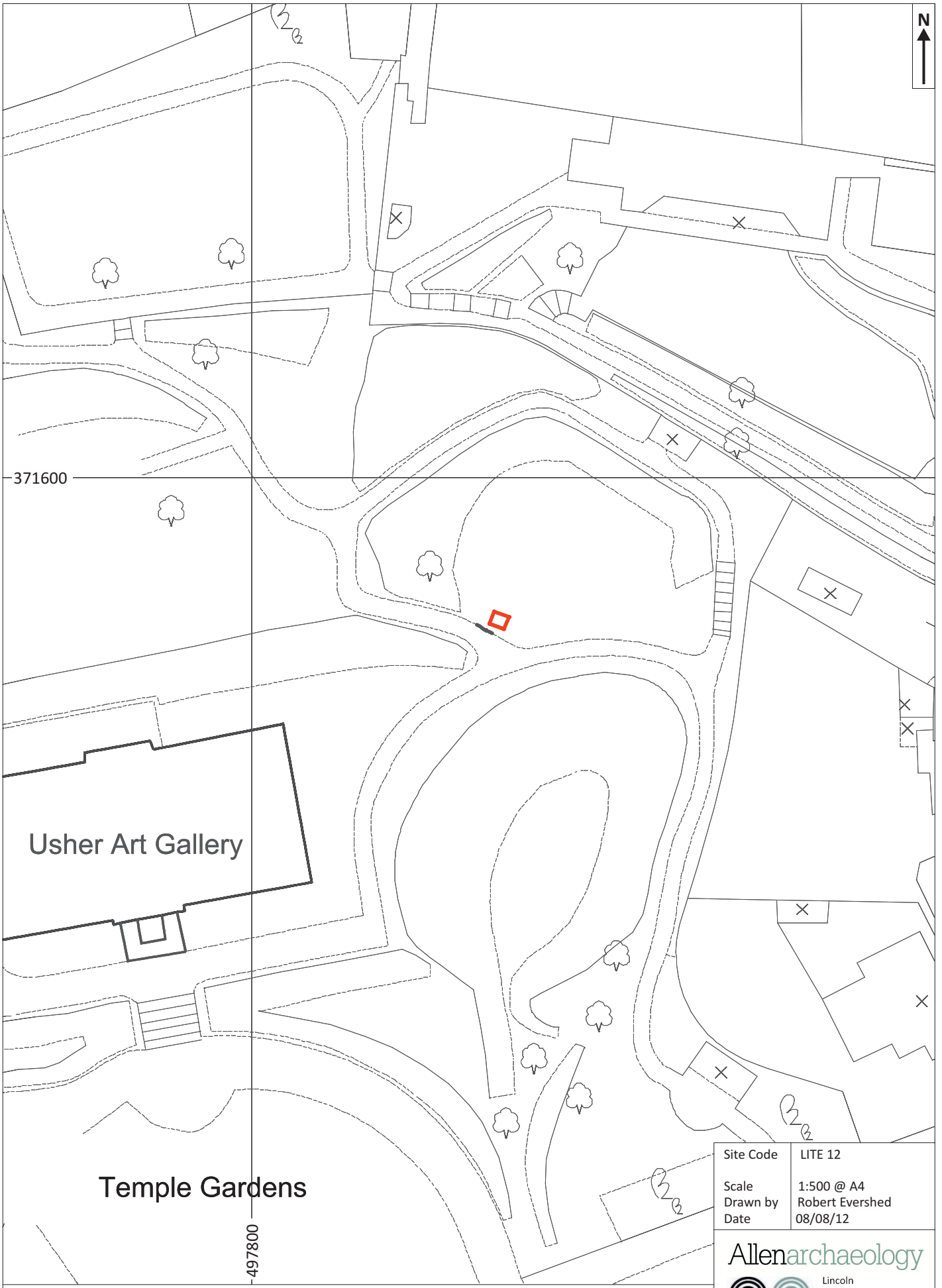


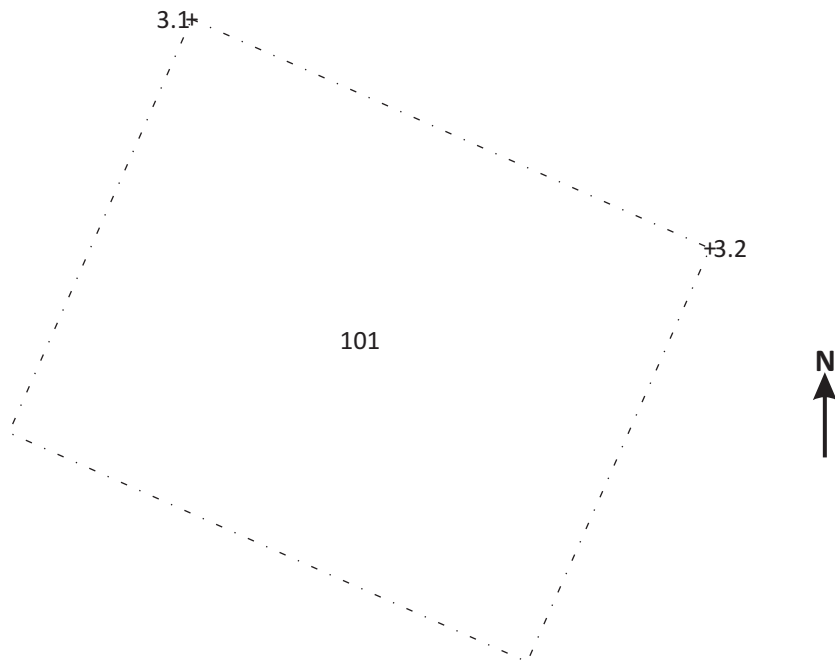
Figure 2: Site location with excavation area in red

Site Code	LITE 12
Scale	1:500 @ A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	08/08/12

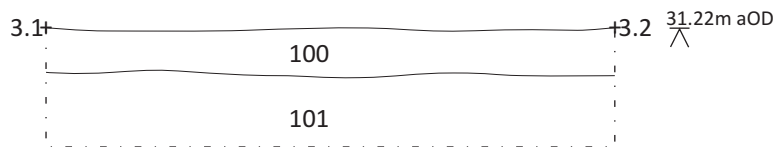
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South-Southwest Facing Section



Site Code	LITE 12
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	8/8/12

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Figure 3: Excavation area plan and section



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