

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING AT 1A CASTLE GATE, CASTLE BYTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: pre-planning
NGR: SK 9896 1853
AAL Site Code: CAST 13
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2013.6
Oasis ID: allenarc1-143123



Report prepared for ARC Survey and Design
On behalf of J Hind and Son Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited

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Cover image: General view of the site, looking southeast, with the castle in the background to the left of shot

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by ARC Survey and Design, on behalf of J Hind and Son Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trenching of land at 1a Castle Gate in Castle Bytham, Lincolnshire, prior to the submission of a planning application for a replacement dwelling.
- The site is situated in an area of significant archaeological potential, to the west of the Norman and later castle of Castle Bytham.
- Two 5m long trenches were excavated in the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, followed by a programme of auger survey to further characterise the sequence of deposits.
- The trenching and auger survey in the southern part of the site identified up to 2.2m of ground raising/levelling layers of uncertain date.
- In Trench 2, in the northern part of the site, the remains of a limestone rubble wall foundation was exposed, as well as a linear rubble spread interpreted as a collapsed wall.
- The structural remains were sealed at a depth of c.1m, and as such, a foundation design that limits the impact of the development to c.750mm below existing ground level or less should help to protect the features in situ.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by ARC Survey and Design, on behalf of their client, J Hind and Son Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trenching on land at 1a Castle Gate, Castle Bytham, Lincolnshire, prior to the submission of a planning application for a replacement dwelling.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 2008), the local guidelines in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 2012), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to 'The Collection' (Lincoln Museum) within six months of the completion of the project and will be stored under the Museum Accession Number LCNCC: 2012.106.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Castle Bytham is located in the administrative district of South Kesteven District Council, approximately 52km south of central Lincoln. The proposed developed area is on the east side of Castle Gate, centred on NGR SK 9896 1853. It is currently occupied by a single dwelling that will be demolished prior to development.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Upper Lincolnshire Limestone, with no superficial geology recorded (British Geological Survey 1972).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The proposed development comprises the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a replacement dwelling. During pre-planning consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire (Reference S12/2852/PRE), it was requested that a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in order to provide further information concerning the archaeological potential of the proposed development area prior to determination of a planning application for the development.
- 3.2 The relevant planning policy which applies to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage is Chapter 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) in March 2012.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, particularly for the medieval period.
- 4.2 Approximately 400m to the south-southeast is the site of a possible Roman villa, where a floor of red and yellow tesserae was exposed during deep ploughing in 1931, along with ceramic roof tiles, hypocaust flue tiles, wall plaster and pottery (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference 33618). Scatters of Roman pottery and a single Roman coin of the emperor Gordian III (AD 238 – 44) have also been found c.250m west-southwest of the current site (LHER Reference 33620).
- 4.3 There is no physical evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site, although the Bytham element of the place name is Old English in origin, meaning 'the farmstead in the broad valley' (Cameron 1998).
- 4.4 In the Domesday Book of 1086 AD, the village appears as West Bytham. The principal landowner at the time was Drogo of la Beuvriere, whose estates included 38 villagers of varying status (along with their dependents), as well as three 'ironworks'. Godfrey of Cambrai also owned a small plot of woodland in the parish (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 Immediately to the east of the site are the scheduled earthworks remains of a Norman motte and bailey castle, probably built in the late 11th century by the Earls of Aumdale. The castle uses a natural mound overlooking the surrounding landscape, and defended by a former natural stream, as well as a manmade inner and outer bailey. Evidence for stone buildings survives both on the castle mound as well outer towers. The castle was besieged by Henry III in 1221 and it then passed to William de Colvill, who enlarged and modernised the site. Little is known of the later life of the castle, but many parts were standing when John Leland visited the site in 1535 (LHER Reference 30059).
- 4.6 To the southwest of the site is The Priory, a Grade II* Listed Building on the site of a former Cistercian Priory that was founded in the 12th century and moved to Vaudey Abbey in Grimsthorpe Park soon after (LHER Reference 34796).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The trial trenching methodology entailed the excavation of two trenches, each measuring 5m long by 1.6m wide, within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. These works were undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists on Friday January 11th 2013. An 8 tonne rubber-tracked 360⁰ excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket was used to excavate each trench, removing topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. The process was continued until the first archaeological horizon was reached or a safe working depth of c.1.2m.
- 5.2 Due to the depth of the deposits a programme of survey by hand auger was undertaken to further characterise the archaeological deposits. These works were conducted by a team of two experienced field archaeologists on Wednesday 23rd January 2013. Seven auger points

were investigated to their maximum achievable depth, two in the area of Trench 1, four in the area of Trench 2, and one to the west of the existing dwelling.

- 5.3 In each trench full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 3)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.1.1 The uppermost deposit was a 0.55m thick garden soil, 100, sealing a grey/brown silty clay, 101, which was approximately 0.6m thick and was interpreted as a ground raising or levelling horizon.
- 6.1.2 Two auger points were subsequently excavated in the area of Trench 1. The first exposed a c.0.8m thickness of topsoil over c.0.35m of ground raising deposit 101, at which point the auger was obstructed by limestone rubble.
- 6.1.3 The second auger point exposed layers 100 and 101 extending to c.1.2m depth, below which were two further silty clay layers with limestone inclusions, 102 and 103, extending to a depth of c.2.2m. Below this and extending to a depth of 2.4m, were two possible alluvial layers of yellow/brown silty clay, 104 and orange/brown sandy silt, 105.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

- 6.2.1 The garden soil in this trench, 200, was c.0.5m thick and sealed 201, a brown sandy clayey silt interpreted as a ground raising layer, also 0.5m thick. Below this was a 0.1m thick demolition layer of brown sandy silt with frequent limestone rubble, 202.
- 6.2.2 A linear spread of unbonded, poorly sorted stone rubble 203 ran along the south edge of the trench. There was no construction cut apparent and as such the feature was interpreted as a possible demolition spread or wall collapse.
- 6.2.3 Another linear spread of stone, 204, ran along the northern edge of the trench. This was somewhat different in composition; comprising compact limestone rubble mixed with a degraded sandy mortar, and may represent a stone rubble wall foundation.
- 6.2.4 Four auger points were excavated in the area of Trench 2. The first three of these were within the area of the former evaluation trench, and below the trench backfill encountered a similar sequence of deposits, with layers 201 and 202 overlying limestone rubble that precluded

further excavation at between 0.91m and 1.12m. The fourth auger point was located a little further south where layer 200 had a recorded thickness of 0.74m, layer 201 was 0.62m thick, and limestone rubble was encountered at 1.06m.

- 6.2.5 A final auger point was attempted in several locations to the west of the existing dwelling. The sequence in this area comprised a 0.2m thick gravel spread, 300, over a thin lens of topsoil 301, with brick rubble preventing further excavation at c.0.23m.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The trial trenching and augering has identified significant evidence for ground raising and levelling of the site, with topsoil and made ground layers extending to c.2.2m around Trench 1 and approximately 1.05m in Trench 2. No finds or features were recorded in Trench 1, but a compact rubble wall foundation, and a linear rubble spread representing a possible collapsed wall were exposed running along the north and south sides of the trench respectively. No dating evidence for these features was recovered, although given the proximity of the site to the Norman and medieval castle, and the depth at which these remains were buried may suggest a broadly medieval date is possible, but not certain.

8.0 Statement of Impact

- 8.1 The evaluation trenching has demonstrated that structural remains of potential medieval date are preserved *in situ* in Trench 2, located in the northern part of the proposed house footprint. These remains are however at a depth of approximately 1m below the existing ground surface. Traditional strip footings would clearly have an unacceptable level of impact upon the archaeological resource, and should this foundation design be adopted it would be likely to require a programme of excavation and recording of the remains in advance of development.
- 8.2 As such it is considered that a more sympathetic foundation design, such as a shallow raft and ground beams, or a low density piling foundation with shallow ground beam should limit the impact upon the archaeological resource. If all groundworks (except piling) could be kept to a maximum depth of 750mm, this would provide a clear 250mm buffer to allow for the preservation *in situ* of the archaeological deposits, and should limit any further archaeological investigations to a programme of monitoring and recording during groundworks, to be secured as a permission of planning consent.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The methodology chosen was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has demonstrated that archaeologically significant features survive in the northern part of the site, at a depth of c.1m

10.0 Acknowledgements

10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank ARC Survey and Design for this commission. The client, Mr Steve Kaye is thanked for providing the machine excavator for the trenching

11.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking southeast, with the castle in the background to the left of shot



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking northeast. Scales are 1m



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking east-southeast. Scales are 1m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Very dark grey silty sand, seals 101	Modern garden soil
101	Layer	Grey brown silty clay, frequent poorly sorted limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Sealed by 100, seals 102	Ground raising/levelling layer
102	Layer	Dark brown sandy clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecks, fired clay flecks and limestone flecks. Sealed by 101, seals 103	Ground raising/levelling layer
103	Layer	Orange brown sandy silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks, limestone flecks. Sealed by 102, seals 104	Ground raising/levelling layer
104	Layer	Yellow brown silty clay. Sealed by 103, seals 105	Possible alluvial layer
105	Layer	Yellow/orange sandy silt. Sealed by 104	Possible alluvial layer

Trench 2

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Very dark grey silty sand, seals 201	Modern garden soil
201	Layer	Brown sandy clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecks, small limestone frags. Sealed by 200, seals 202	Ground raising/levelling layer
202	Layer	Brown sandy silt, frequent poorly sorted limestone rubble. Sealed by 201, seals 203, 204	Demolition layer
203	Layer	Unbonded, poorly sorted sub-angular limestone rubble. Sealed by 202	Rubble spread or wall collapse
204	Structure	Compact poorly sorted limestone rubble with degraded sandy mortar. Sealed by 202	Possible wall foundation

Auger 7

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Sandy limestone gravel. Seals 301	Gravel spread
301	Layer	Very dark grey silty sand. Sealed by 300	Modern garden soil

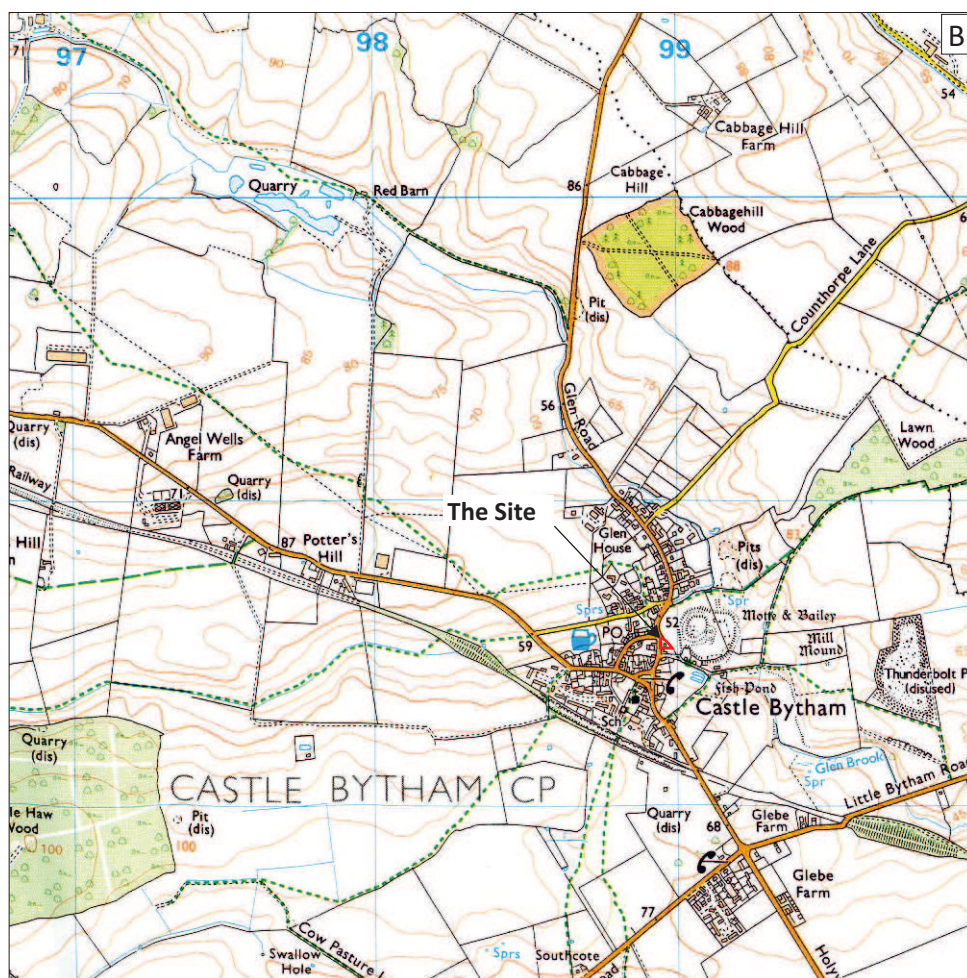
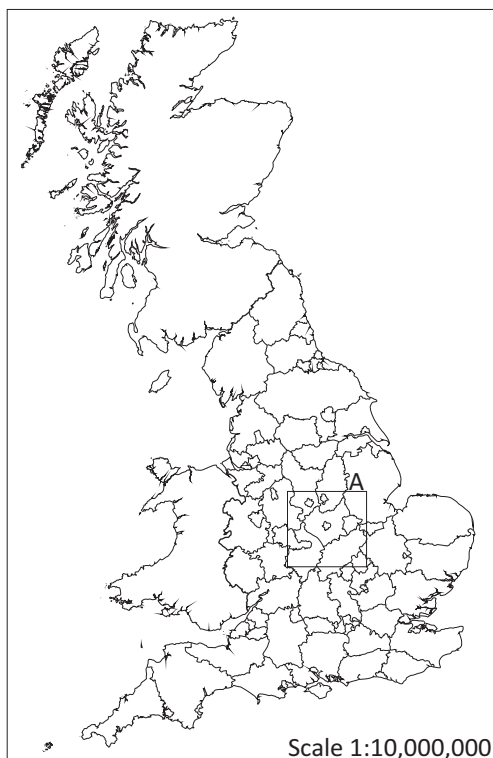


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code: CAST 13
Scales 1:10,000,000
1:1,000,000
1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by: C Clay
Date: 05/02/13

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Figure 2: Site location plan, outlined in red, with evaluation trenches (Tr) in blue, archaeology in solid black and auger points (A) in green

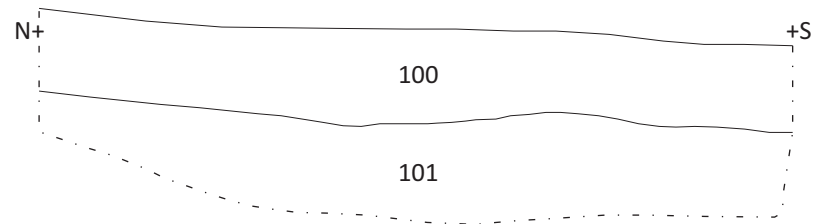
Site Code	CAST 13
Scale	1:200 @ A4
Drawn by	C Clay
Date	05/02/13

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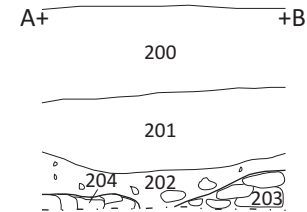
Trench 1 West Facing Section



Trench 2 Plan



Trench 2 Southeast Facing Section



Site Code	CAST 13
Scale	1:50 @A4
Drawn by	C. Clay
Date	05/02/13

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Figure 3: Trench plans and sections

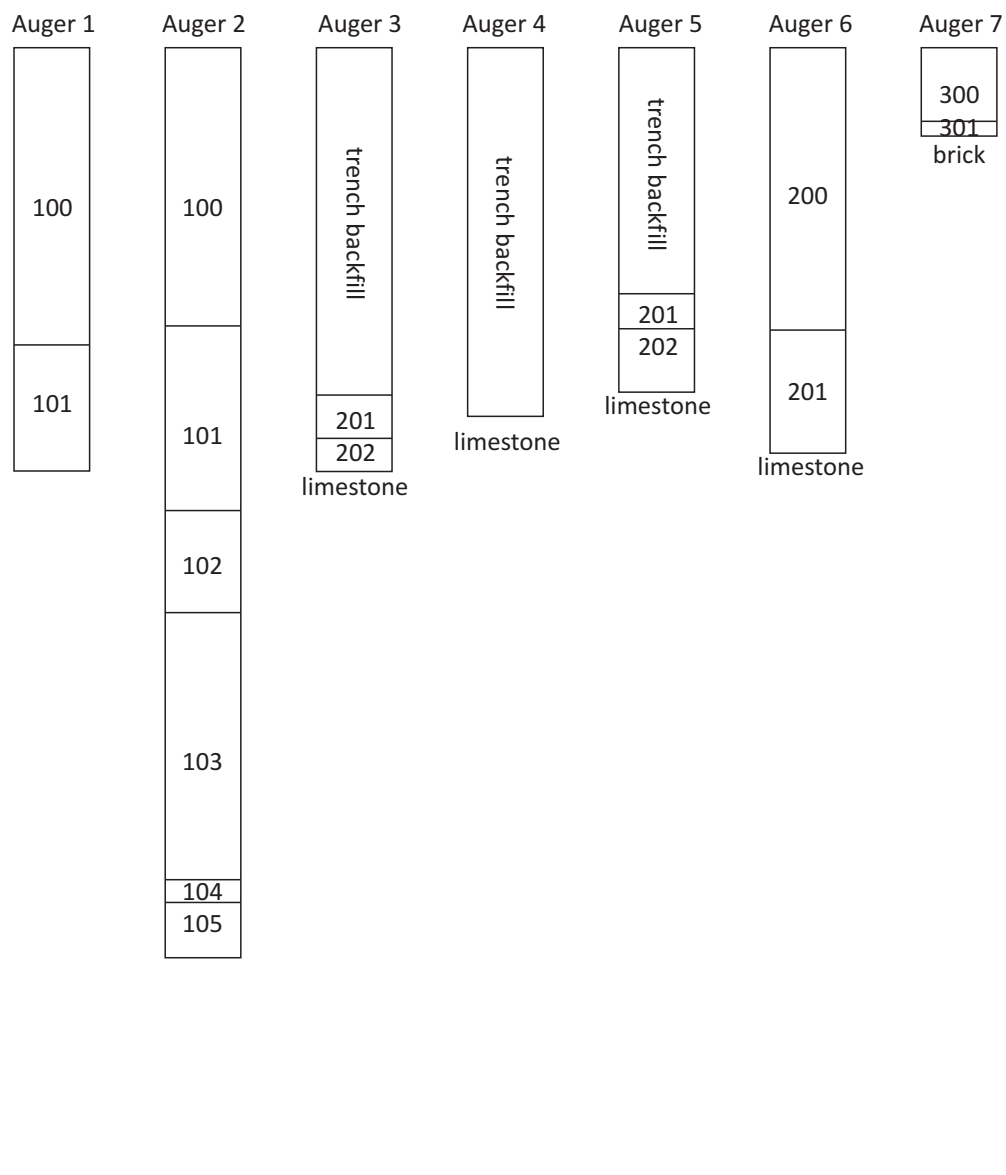


Figure 4: Auger sections, located on Figure 2



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