

27 SAXON STREET, LINCOLN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

NGR: SK 97476 72400
Planning Authority: City of Lincoln Council
Planning Ref: 2013/1018/F
PCAS Job No: 1163
PCAS Site Code: LSSM 14
LCNCC Accession No.: 2014.7

Report prepared for

Core Architects.

On Behalf of Mr R. Wade

By

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January 2014



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Plates

Pl. 1: General site shot from the rear of the existing building looking north-west.

Pl. 2: Sample section at western edge of site looking west.

Summary

- Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on the site of a rear extension to an existing property at 27 Saxon Street, Lincoln. Saxon Street is located in the north of Lincoln City, within the City's Burton Road Character Area and No. 9 Conservation Area. It is centred on NGR: SK 97476 72400.
- Historic maps show that the street was built after c. 1851, but The Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA) indicates a potential for the survival in this area of important buried archaeological remains dating from the Roman to the medieval periods.
- No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the works.



Figure 1. Site location based on the 200 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer map, sheet 272. ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduced at scale. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Planning Permission was granted by City of Lincoln Council (CoLC) for the 'Erection of a two storey dwelling and part two, part single storey rear extension to existing property' at 27 Saxon Street, Lincoln (Planning Application No.: 2013/1018/F).

The development site fronts on to the east side of Saxon Street, which partly coincides with the line of the High Medieval western boundary ditch of the City's Newport suburb (with Common land to the west). It was thought that the site might therefore contain buried archaeological remains associated with this important defensive or agricultural feature.

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., were commissioned by Core Architects to undertake a scheme of Archaeological Monitoring on the site in accordance with advice issued by the CoLC's Heritage Team, following current best practice and appropriate national guidelines.

2.0 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

Saxon Street is located in the northern part of Lincoln City, approximately 500m north of the city's Cathedral Quarter, centred on NGR: SK 97476 72400. Saxon Street is aligned north/south and joins Rasen Lane at its southern end. The development site fronts onto the eastern side of the street and comprises a narrow area of overgrown waste ground containing a derelict garage. The site is located within Lincoln City's Burton Road Character Area and No. 9 Conservation Area (Newport and Nettleham Road). It is bounded to the north by terraced properties; to the south by 'The Bungalow'; to the west by Saxon Street and to the east by the rear gardens of properties on St Nicholas Street.

3.0 Geology and topography

The Burton Road Character Area lies on top of the limestone ridge to the north west of the former Roman and Medieval walled cities. Much of this area remained as open agricultural land up until the Late Victorian/Edwardian Periods. The solid geology of the area is Lincolnshire Limestone, where there is no superficial drift recorded (British Geological Survey 1973; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>).

Street level is approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum

4.0 Heritage designations

The Lincoln Townscape Assessment project (2005-2009) characterised the entire CoLC authority area, developing and applying a new method for urban characterisation in the process. The development site lies within Lincoln City's No 9. Conservation Area: CA 9, Newport & Nettleham Road; as well as within the Burton Road Character Area (<http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/>). The latter is composed of Late Victorian/Edwardian terraced houses interspersed with later post-war and modern infill and redevelopment. The area is mainly residential, with a dispersed number of civic and commercial properties. Burton Road forms the backbone of the area, and buildings along its length illustrate the development of Lincoln from the 18th to the 21st century. The layout of southern parts of the townscape is strongly influenced by the former Roman and Medieval walled cities.

The centre of Lincoln contains over 60 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). There are no SAMs within the proposed development site or in its immediate vicinity: the closest SAM is No. 52 and Adjoining Newport Arch at the southern end of Newport, c. 300m SSE of the site (<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/results.aspx>).

The closest designated heritage asset to the site is the Grade II listed 'Saxon Villa' and attached railings, located c. 50m to the south at 32 Saxon Street (south of Gray Street), (<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/results.aspx>).

5.0 Planning background

On 10 December 2013, Core Architects were conditionally granted planning permission for the 'Erection of a two storey dwelling and part two, part single storey rear extension to existing property to North elevation' of 27 Saxon Street, Lincoln, LN1 3HN (Planning Application No.: 2013/1018/F).

It was stipulated that no development would take place until an appropriate programme of archaeological work had been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that had been approved by the CoLC as Local Planning Authority. This included any necessary fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, report writing and archive deposition, which had been detailed in the approved scheme.

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA) has classified the proposed development site as having potential research agendas relating to the following eras (<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/burton-road/84/overview>)

- Roman Military (Legionary '*prata*' and '*territorium*' / *Canabae* outside east, north and west gates);
- Roman Colonia (Cemeteries);
- Early medieval (Central elements of former Roman city and Roman network);
- High Medieval (Newport Boundary, with Lincoln's Common Fields to the west);
- Early Modern (Newport Boundary, with Lincoln's arable fields to the west);
- Industrial (Working-class housing estates c.1850-1945).

Of these, the most archaeologically significant in relation to the site were thought to be the High Medieval western boundary ditch of the Newport suburb, with Lincoln's Common Fields to the west; and the Newport boundary ditch in the Early Modern period, which had the city's arable fields to the west. The western edge of the western Newport ditch (and possible wall) ran below, or very close to, the eastern end of the development site.

Also of possible significance to the site is the proximity of the Roman Legionary *prata* and *territorium*. The latter was a swathe of land around the city in which agricultural production and services were dedicated to the service of the legion (CoLC, 2006).

From the early medieval period to the post-medieval period (approximately AD 850-1750), the suburb of Newport to the south contained a large market, which was delineated by a bank and ditch (and possibly a wall). On its western side, the ditch extended between what is now Yarborough Crescent (B1273) and Cecil Street, obliquely crossing the line of Saxon Street at its southern end

The Newport boundary ditch is visible on Stukeley's 1722 plan of the city; Marrat's 1817 plan; Padley's 1819 plan; and Dewhurst & Nichols 1939 plan (Mills & Wheeler 2004, 25-27; 30; 36).

The earliest pottery recovered from excavations of the (north) ditch in 1937 was of 14th century date (Hill 1948, 169 & n).

Historic maps provide a useful source of information regarding the development of the site. They show Saxon Street first laid out in 1851 (Mills & Wheeler 2004, 58); and named in 1868 (*ibid* 73). Prior to this the line of the street ran parallel with (west of) a large embankment feature representing the remains of the Newport boundary. Padley's 1851 and 1868 map revisions show the site as undeveloped land with the embankment at its eastern end. The terraced properties to the north of the site are first shown on Padley's 1883 map and again on the 1920 OS map, but the site itself is still undeveloped (*ibid* 88; 107). The Bungalow to the immediate south of the site is therefore of mid to late 20th century date.

7.0 Aims

The specific aims of this scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- To identify and record all archaeological features and artefacts exposed by the development works;
- To determine their form and function;
- To recover stratified dating evidence;
- To establish the sequence of archaeological remains on the site;
- To interpret the archaeological remains in the context of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

8.0 Methodology

The methodology for the scheme had been fully set out in the WSI that had been approved by CoLC in advance.

In summary, the methodology stated that archaeological attendance and recording by a suitably qualified / experienced professional archaeologist / PCAS Field Officer would take place during all groundworks undertaken; that all archaeological features would have to be examined sufficiently to determine their date, character, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further studying. A written record for each stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was to be made on standard PCAS recording forms. A photographic record and a narrative account in the form of a site diary would supplement these recording forms.

Any securely stratified archaeological deposits considered suitable for environmental analysis would have been sampled in 40ltr quantities, where possible.

9.0 Results

Excavation on site began on the 13th January 2014. A tracked mini-digger using a flat bucket (see **plate 1**) was used to strip the development footprint down to the required level whilst being monitored by an archaeologist at all times. The site itself had been lowered to construction level, 0.4m below existing ground level, prior to the archaeologist's arrival on site. This had included the demolition of a former extension at the rear of the house which had covered some of the excavation area. Whilst being monitored the whole of the excavated area (see **Fig. 2** and **3**) had been reduced by a depth of 0.6m. This exposed a stratigraphic sequence summarised as follows (also see **Appendix 2** and **Plate 2**):

(001): dark grey friable clayey sand topsoil containing occasional CBM rubble and some small limestone fragments, 0.3m deep.

(002): mixed layer beneath topsoil. Consists of redeposited limestone brash in a matrix of dark grey sandy clay and mid-brownish grey clayey sand. Contains substantial quantities of modern industrial pottery. 0.28m deep.

(003): friable mid-brownish to grey sand, mottled light brown with no inclusions. Not present over whole of excavated area, just the south-east corner. 0.18m deep.

The material excavated was dumped on site, which provided an opportunity to examine it for possible artefacts. A selection of pottery was recovered on site, however this was all modern in date, therefore, it was not retained. A plan of the site (1:200) and a representative section (1:20, see **Fig.3**) were drawn for recording purposes. A sondage was also dug in order to investigate a potential linear feature; however this proved to be negative.

The groundworks were completed in just one day: it had been initially thought that further monitoring would be required for a service to be added outside of the house footprint, however, due to the general sterility of the deposits encountered (see **Appendix 2**) it was decided that this was unlikely to prove productive.

10.0 Conclusion

No evidence was gathered to indicate that deposits of archaeological significance were present on the site during the monitoring of the groundworks. This, however, is not to say that no archaeology is present in the area at all. It may just be that the excavations did not go deep enough to penetrate the archaeology.

11.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded during the works observed, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

12.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Core Architects for this commission.

13.0 References.

City of Lincoln Council (CoLC), 2006, *Lincoln Townscape Assessment: Newport Inherited Character Area Statement*. Consulted online 06/01/2014 at <http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/burton-road/84/documents>.

Mills, D. R. and Wheeler, R. C., 2004. *Historic Town Plans of Lincoln 1610-1920*. The Boydell Press for the Lincoln Record Society.



Figure 2. Detailed site plan courtesy of Core Architects. Scaled at 1:400 (originally at 1:200 on A3).

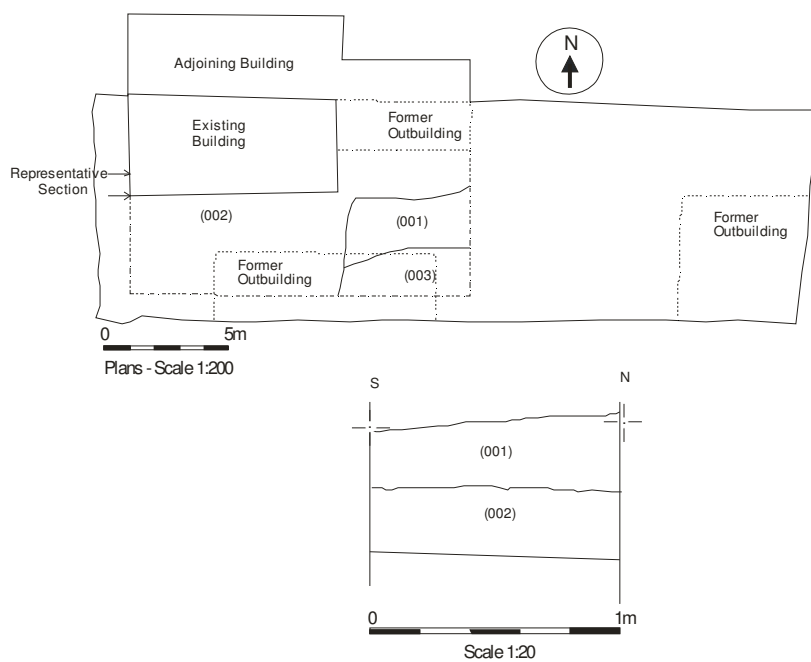


Figure 3. Scale plan of excavated area (1:200) and representative section of excavated area (1:20).

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot from rear of existing building looking northwest.



Plate 2 Sample section at west edge of plot looking west (scale 1m).

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Topsoil	None
002	Layer	Mixed layer of redeposited limestone brash in a matrix of dark grey sandy clay and mid-brownish grey clayey sand.	Substantial quantities of industrial period pottery (seen but not collected).
003	Layer	Mid-brownish-grey sand, with a light brown mottle.	None

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