

NO. 37 CECIL STREET, LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 97526 72166
LCC Planning ref.: 2013/0077/F
PCAS Job No.: 1051
Site code: CSLM 13
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Report prepared for

Heronswood Architectural Design

On behalf of

Mr. A. Nattress

by

A. Lane

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX

Tel. (01522) 703800
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during ground level reduction works prior to the construction of a new outbuilding to the rear of 37 Cecil Street, Lincoln. Construction work on the house itself was not subject to archaeological mitigation.

The site overlies the boundary ditch on the north side of the Roman fort, which occupied the area of Lincoln Castle and Cathedral from the 1st century AD; a secondary ditch was cut in the 2nd century AD. This ditch was topographically mapped in the later 19th century, prior to backfilling and the development of Cecil Street and the surrounding residential areas. The area of the fort and associated features are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The monitored excavations revealed the early 20th century backfill of the Roman ditch, but the cut of the ditch was not encountered. The foundations of a garden wall and a modern ceramic sewer pipe were recorded, but no further archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

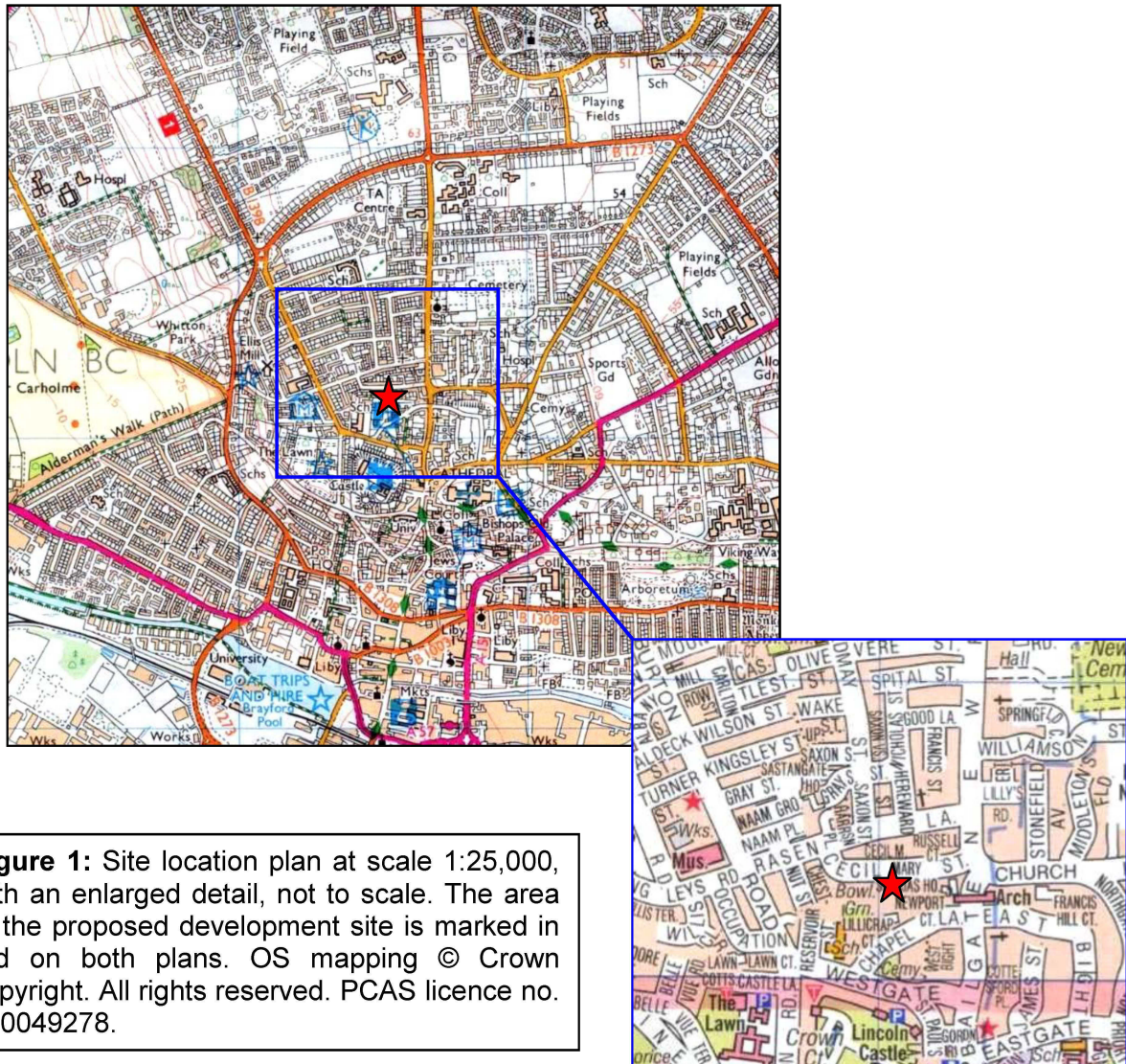


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000, with an enlarged detail, not to scale. The area of the proposed development site is marked in red on both plans. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Heronswood Architectural Design, on behalf of Mr. A. Nattress, to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the development groundworks associated with the replacement of outbuildings to the rear of No. 37 Cecil Street.

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

Cecil Street lies within the City of Lincoln, at the southern edge of the Burton Road Character Area, which occupies an area to the north-west of the modern city centre and the historic Roman and medieval city. The Character Area is composed of late Victorian and Edwardian terraced houses interspersed with later post-war and modern infill and redevelopment, and is mainly residential, with a scatter of civic and commercial properties (CLC, 2008).

No. 37 is situated about half-way along the south side of Cecil Street, which borders the north wall of the Roman city. The site lies within the Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area. A number of sites, monuments and findspots lie within the Conservation Area; those within 50m of the development site are tabulated in Appendix 3.

The approximate central NGR of the site is SK 97526 72166.

3.0 Geology and topography

The British Geological Survey records no drift geology in the vicinity of Cecil Street. The exposed solid geology is recorded as Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS online viewer: www.bgs.ac.uk).

Burton Road Character Area lies on top of the limestone ridge to the north-west of the former Roman and medieval walled cities. The area is located on flat land along the broad summit of the north escarpment (CLC, 2008).

4.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the demolition and rebuilding of the existing 2-storey dwelling, with the inclusion of a dormer window to the rear elevation (application number 2013/0077/F). These works had no archaeological condition attached, as they involved rebuilding within the footprint of the existing dwelling, and were chiefly sited within the Roman ditch, which is known to have been back-filled in the early 20th century (John Herridge, Heritage Officer LCC, pers. comm.).

The associated replacement of outbuildings to the rear, consisting of a new single-storey extension within the scheduled area of SAM 115, was, however, subject to Scheduled Monument Consent (ref. S00058593). This consent was granted subject to conditions, which required the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Secretary of State, advised by English Heritage. This document reports the results of the approved scheme of monitoring and recording

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

Replicated from Savage, 2013.

During the Roman military occupation (approximately AD 70-90), the Cecil Street area lay within the economically exploited hinterland – the *territorium* – of the Roman fort, and it is possible that traces of that exploitation, whether agricultural or industrial, may be encountered (LARA record no. 6.18). The ditch of the original Roman legionary fortress ran along the south side of Cecil Street: only its north side has been recorded, backfilled with limestone rubble overlain by the *colonia* wall (LHD ref. 114; SAM 115). The line of the former north wall of the upper Roman City, which was consolidated in stone in the 2nd century after the original fortress and its garrison town became the civilian city of *Lindum Colonia*, survives in the alignment of the southern boundary of the Character Area to the rear of nos. 1 to 79, Cecil Street. Parts of the wall remain standing to the rear of Mary Sookias House; this stretch of wall was consolidated and thickened in the 4th century (CLC, 2008; LHD refs. 115, 1487). A new ditch was also cut during the mid-Roman period, about 1m to the north of the stone wall: this ditch runs through the rear part of the properties along the south side of Cecil Street, including the site (LHD ref. 1486), and remained open until the early 20th century (fig. 3). Other stretches of the legionary fortress and *colonia* defences have been recorded in 2 places within a 50m radius of the site (LHD refs. 1484-5; 7881-2). An intramural road was recorded at Temperance Place, to the south of Cecil Street, almost immediately to the rear of no. 37 (now within the modern Lillicrap Court), and street surfaces dating from the military and *colonia* periods have also been encountered in North Row (LHD refs. 966, 1775, 3198).

A programme of archaeological investigation to the rear of no. 6, Rasen Lane, to the north of the site, encountered two Roman pits, one identifiable as a cess pit (HER ref. 71128).

From the early medieval period to the beginning of the industrial period (c. AD 850-1750), the Newport area was the location of a large market and suburb. In the later Middle Ages, the area appears to have been enclosed by a ditch and possibly a wall, for either defensive or delineative reasons. The orientation of the western stretch of the former enclosure wall can be traced a short distance to the north of Cecil Street by the orientation of existing features such as the rear plot boundaries of 9-33 St. Nicholas Street, the eastern boundary of the park at the corner of Mildmay Street and Vere Street, and the north/south line formed by the eastern plot boundaries of 5, 12 and 14 Buckfast Road. The alignment of the western edge of Newport Market itself also partly survives in the orientation of Francis Street and the western plot boundary of St. Nicholas's Gardens, indicating that it lay a short distance to the east of the site. Rasen Lane, directly to the north of Cecil Street, was probably established during the early to high Middle Ages (CLC, 2008).

An archaeological evaluation at Chapel Lane encountered two east to west-oriented cist burials, probably dating from the 10th to 12th century. The robbed-out walls of a building, provisionally identified as part of the north transept and nave of the Church of St. Clement, were encountered, with finds dating from the late 10th century to the mid-16th (HER ref. 70630).

It is likely that, during the medieval and early modern periods, much of the land in the Character Area remained open, either as agricultural fields or grazed heath. Much of the area was probably part of the City's North Fields, and may have been farmed in common by residents of Lincoln. Towards the western edge of the Character Area windmills were located along the top of the escarpment slope; the working 18th-century Ellis Mill to the west of Mill Road is the only survivor of these (*ibid.*).

Land within the Character Area was probably enclosed under an Act of Parliament of 1803, which stipulated the enclosure of many of Lincoln's open fields. Residential development,

alongside other cottage industries and services, initially developed in the south of the area along Rasen Lane and the lower stretch of Burton Road. However, land to the south and west of Cecil Street in the south of the Character Area remained open, most probably as the area contained substantial earthworks associated with the Roman and medieval city defences (*ibid.*).

Cecil Street was developed in the first two decades of the 20th century, with the housing along the south side partially overlying the mid-Roman colonia ditch, which had been back-filled for the purpose. The majority of the houses in Cecil Street were built for C. Sands by the architects W. Mortimer and Son, who had also laid out the street itself in 1903 (LHD refs. 3278; 5092; 5123; 5180; 5184; 5209; 5234; 5255; 5260), but the architect of nos. 35 and 37, described as being of red brick with slate roofs, having bay windows on the ground floor and central front entrances, is not recorded (LHD ref. 8165). Wells have been encountered on the properties at nos. 13 and 47 (LHD refs. 6514-5). A builder's yard initially occupied the site where the late 20th century Mary Sookias House now stands; it is marked on OS mapping as late as 1966 (LHD ref. 5372).

6.0 Methodology

Prior to the start of monitoring the former house and rear extension of the property had been demolished, retaining only the roof and street facade of the property. Monitored site works included the removal of modern tarmac from the existing surface of the rear garden area, and ground level reduction. The new out buildings were to be built upwards from the reduced level, therefore no further monitoring was necessary. Due to ground conditions. the modern tarmac was removed using a mini-digger fitted with a toothed bucket.

All features and deposits observed were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. A plan of the monitored area was drawn at a scale of 1:100. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The archaeological monitoring was completed during a single visit by R. Savage, on 12th June 2013. Weather conditions at the time of the excavations were warm and dry.

7.0 Results (Fig. 3)

The ground levels in the area of the new outbuildings in the rear garden of No. 37 Cecil Street were reduced by c. 1.10m below existing. This exposed 0.80m of made ground (002), a mixed clay sand containing frequent modern CBM, glass etc. The full depth of this layer was not exposed.

In the upper part of this layer, the concrete foundations and lowest two courses of the former garden wall (demolished to existing ground level prior to archaeological attendance) were identified, alongside a modern earthenware sewer pipe.

A 0.30m deep layer of modern tarmac (001) forming the former yard surface overlay the area of excavation.

No significant archaeological finds or features were revealed during this scheme of archaeological monitoring.

8.0 Conclusion

The exposed layer of post-medieval/modern made ground is consistent with previous observations made during excavations in the surrounding area. Cecil Street overlies the major defensive boundary ditch on the north side of the Roman fort; early OS mapping indicates the monitored area lies directly over the centre of one of these ditches. The scale of the boundary ditch was such that it remained open well into the 19th century. Prior to the development of Cecil Street in the early 20th century the ditch was backfilled with material available in the surrounding area. It is this backfill material that was exposed during this scheme of monitoring; the cut of the ditch is both too wide and deep to have been encountered at this location, reflecting the topography recorded on 19th century mapping.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that archaeological remains present on the site were not destroyed without record, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Heronswood Architectural Design and Mr. A. Nattress for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition. It will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, where it can be accessed under the Accession Number 2013.91.

12.0 Bibliography

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City of Lincoln Council (CLC), 2008, Lincoln Townscape Assessment: Burton Road Inherited Character Area Statement. Consulted online 29-05-2013 at
<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/burton-road/84/documents>

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<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/burton-road/84/related>

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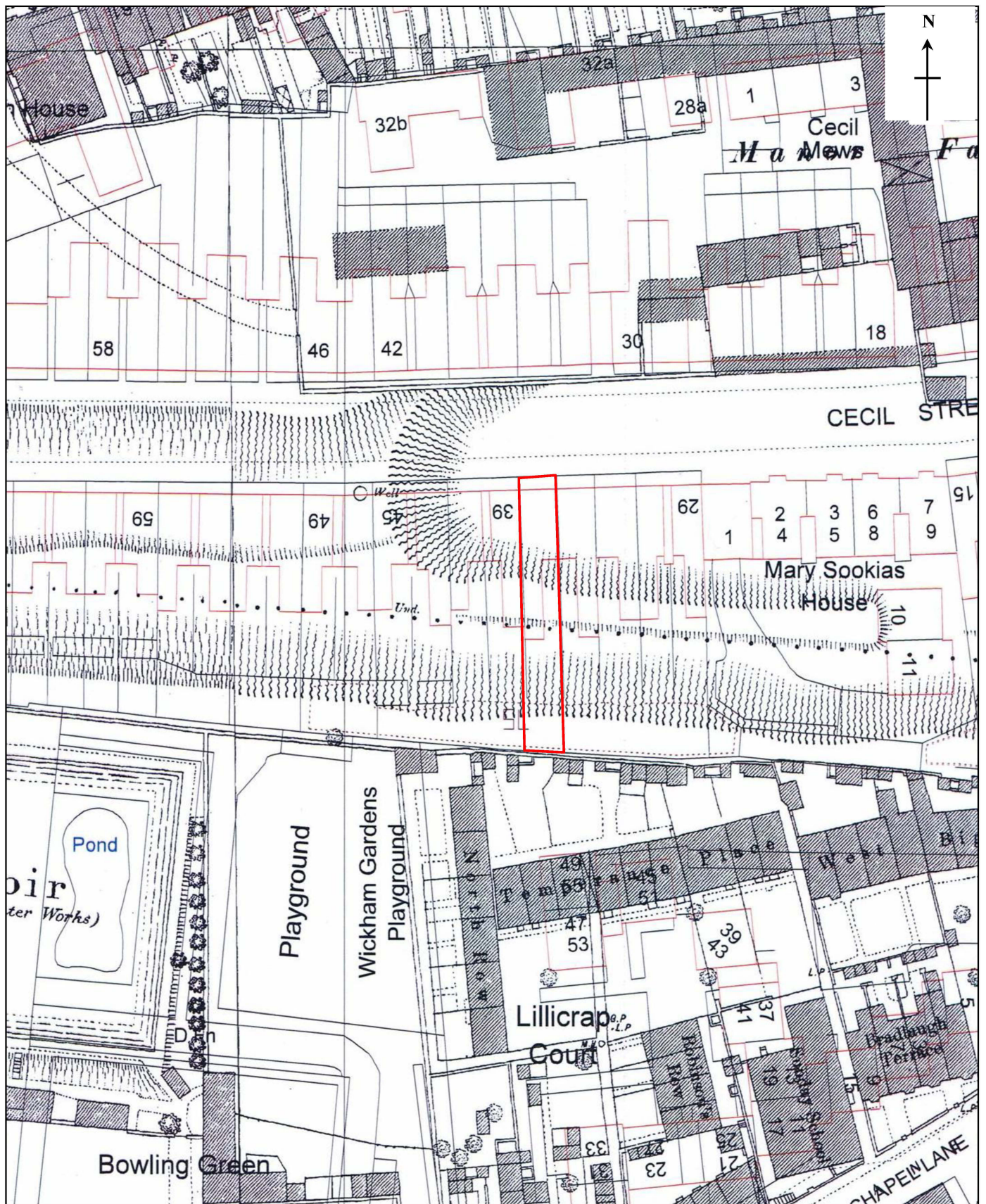


Figure 2: Plan at scale 1:700, showing modern mapping of the Cecil Street area overlaid onto historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The historic mapping shows the Roman colonia earthworks along the length of Cecil Street; no. 37 is marked in red. Copyright City of Lincoln Council; reproduced by permission of John Herridge.

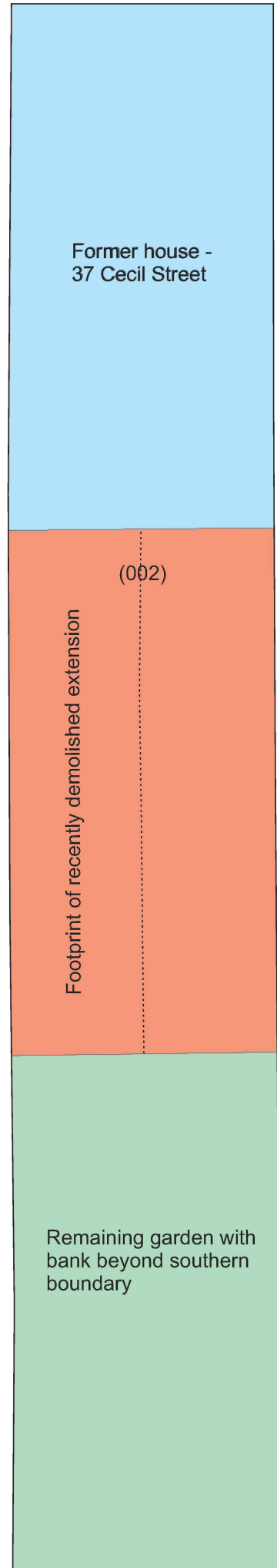
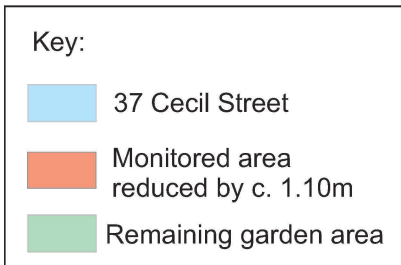


Figure 3: Plan of monitored groundworks at 1:100, and shown on a extract of modern and historic mapping detailing the location of the Roman ditches at 1:700.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Looking north towards the shell of 37 Cecil Street before excavation commences.



Plate 2: Looking south across garden of 37 Cecil Street towards rear bank.



Plate 4: Excavations exposed 0.80m of early 20th century made ground (002).



Plate 4: Completed excavations, looking south over reduced ground level.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description
001	Layer	Modern tarmac surface of yard.
002	Fill	Very mixed made ground consisting of mid greyish brown clay sand with lens' of (?) limestone brash. Contains mixed modern demolition rubble, glass, ceramics and fragments of tarmac. 19 th – 20 th century backfill of the Roman boundary ditch.

Appendix 3: Extract from Lincoln Heritage Database for a 50m radius search area (see also Fig 2)

Ref.	Name	Type	Period	NGR	Description	Conservation Area	BAR	Listed	SAM
114	Early Roman defences. Fortress ditch at Cecil Street	Ditch, Legionary Defences	EROM	SK 497561 372143	Legionary ditch at Cecil Street with sloping smooth sides. Only the north part was recorded, as the colonia wall overlay it to the south. It was backfilled with limestone brash which formed the foundation for the colonia wall (MON115)	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
115	Mid-Roman defences. Walls. Colonia wall at Cecil Street	Town Defences, Town Wall	MROM	SK 497562 372141	First stone wall replacing military timber revetted rampart. It used the backfill of the legionary ditch as foundations It was consolidated in the 4th century as the surviving wall (MON1487)	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
966	Roman intramural road in NW quarter of colonia	Road	ROM	SK 497523 372125	At Temperance Place, an intramural road running east-west in the north-west quarter of the upper city of the colonia	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
1484	Early Roman defences. Fortress rampart at North Row	Rampart, Legionary Defences	EROM	SK 497512 372137	Survived to a height of 2.4m at the north face. The rear face appeared to have been vertical to a height of 1.4m.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
1485	Mid Roman defences. Colonia rampart at North Row	Rampart, Town Defences	EROM	SK 497512 372135	Evidence of the back of the rampart was found c.10.5m from the back of the wall. Rough stone walls or "groynes" extended north-south through it, considered to be a strengthening device.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
1486	Mid-Roman defences. Colonia ditch at Cecil Street	Ditch, Town Defences	MROM	SK 497566 372141	A new ditch was cut about 1m north of the colonia wall. Only part of the scarp was revealed 2.2m wide, 1.2m deep.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)

Ref.	Name	Type	Period	NGR	Description	Conservation Area	BAR	Listed	SAM
1487	Late Roman defences. Walls. Colonia wall thickening at Cecil Street	Town Defences, Town Wall	LROM	SK 497561 372139	Portion of thickened Roman colonia wall (23m long by 4.25m high), situated to the south of Mary Sookias House, which was a consolidation of the 2nd-century first colonia stone wall, although the excavation in 1975 did not reveal this internal thickening. The core of the wall and facing stones were set into orange mortar. Putlog holes for scaffolding are visible. The 1906 observation by Sympson and referenced by Richmond was probably a few metres to the west. It described the core of the wall as being in rough herringbone, but surviving photographs show only occasional herringbone, and a rough core with much mortar	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
1775	Roman colonia street surfaces, North Row	Road	ROM	SK 497512 372126	Intramural road running east-west c 6m inside the northern defences. The earliest, c 3m wide, appeared to have a central channel and was metalled. The next was c 4m wide including a probable footway. Two later surfaces above were c 1.75m wide. All had had pitched limestone bases.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
2589	North Row, Chapel Lane	House	MOD	SK 497516 372119	Row of six cottages on the north side of Chapel Lane. Laid out between 1842 and 1851 (Padley maps). New toilets in 1899. Demolished under the 1936 Housing Act.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
2591	Temperance Place, Chapel Lane	House	MOD	SK 497542 372125	Row or terrace of nine cottages on the north side of Chapel Lane. Situated to the north-west of Lillicrap Court. nb Newport Temperance Hall, Chapel Lane (MON2600). Laid out between 1842 and 1851 (Padley maps). Removed for Lillicrap Court development	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
3198	Roman fortress street surfaces, North Row	Road	ROM	SK 497510 372127	Military period intervallum road running east-west c 5m inside the northern defences. At least three well-cambered gravel surfaces, each with a base of pitched stones, probably about 4.9m-5.5m wide	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)

Ref.	Name	Type	Period	NGR	Description	Conservation Area	BAR	Listed	SAM
3278	Cecil Street	Road	MOD	SK 497522 372179	Residential street running west from Newport to join Rasen Lane. The application to layout the street was made in 1903 by General Sir Mildmay Willson, surveyors W Mortimer and Son. It was constructed from 1904. Houses still under construction in 1912/3. Adopted by Lincoln Corporation in 1912.	1, 9	No	No	No
3337	Lime kiln?, 28 Cecil Street	Lime Kiln	PMED	SK 497542 372215	Foundation trenches at the rear of the property revealed a thick layer of lime which could have been a post-medieval kiln	9	No	No	No
5092	48-54 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497487 372192	Four houses built by C Sands, architects W Mortimer and Son	9	No	No	No
5123	46 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497496 372192	House built by/for C Harrison, architect W Mortimer and Son	9	No	No	No
5180	18-24 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497561 372196	Three houses built by C Sands	9	No	No	No
5184	24-34 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497537 372196	Six houses built by C Sands, architects W Mortimer and Son	9	No	No	No
5209	36-42 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497513 372192	Four houses built by C Sands, architects W Mortimer and Son	9	No	No	No
5234	44 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497501 372192	House built by C Sands, architect Mortimer and Son	9	No	No	No
5255	47-57 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497490 372164	Six houses built by C Sands, architects Mortimer and Son	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
5260	39-45 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497513 372166	Four houses built by C Sands, architect W Mortimer and Son, along with 59-61 (MON5259)	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)

Ref.	Name	Type	Period	NGR	Description	Conservation Area	BAR	Listed	SAM
5372	Thornhill Bros builders yard, Cecil Street	Builders Yard	MOD	SK 497561 372156	Builders yard of Thornhill Brothers between 15 and 29 Cecil Street. The first workshop was erected in 1913. 6 garages erected in 1931. Removed for the construction of Mary Sookias House and associated car parking after 1975.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
6514	Well, 47 Cecil Street	Well	MOD	SK 497504 372174	Situated in remains of city ditch on site of later pavement outside 47 Cecil Street (b 1908)	1	No	No	No
6515	Well, 13 Cecil Street	Well	MOD	SK 497585 372167	Situated in remains of city ditch on site of later 13 Cecil Street (b1913)	1	No	No	No
7881	Mid Roman defences. Colonia rampart at Wickham Gardens	Rampart, Town Defences	MROM	SK 497499 372134	Rampart layers of sandy material with mortar and limestone fragments	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
7882	Late Roman defences. Rampart at Wickham Gardens	Rampart, Town Defences	LROM	SK 497499 372129	Rampart layers of silt, sandy silt and ash with mortar	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
7883	Brick floor, Wickham Gardens	Floor	MOD	SK 497500 372122	Red frogged-brick floor over an earlier yard surface. No structures are shown in this location on maps from 1842.	1	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
8164	29-33 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497539 372166	Terrace of three houses. Red brick with slate roofs. Bay windows on ground floor. Entrances from side passages.	No	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)
8165	35-37 Cecil Street	House	MOD	SK 497527 372164	Two houses in a longer row. Red brick with slate roofs. Bay windows on ground floor. Central front entrances. 37 to be demolished and rebuilt in 2013 due to subsidence.	No	No	No	SAM 115 Lincoln Roman Colonia (Lindum)

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Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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