

Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a dwelling at 20 Caistor Road, Laceby, North-East Lincolnshire.*
- *A post-medieval levelling deposit and brick soakaway were exposed.*
- *No further archaeological remains were uncovered within the investigated area.*



Fig: 1 General site location

Scale 1:25 000
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D. Townend to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a development on land at 20 Caistor Road, Laceby, North-East Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken at the request of North-East Lincolnshire Council. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *standards and guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

The site is situated on a vacant plot at no 20 on the west side of Caistor Road, Laceby (Fig. 1,2). It is bounded to the north and south by residential housing, to the west by private gardens and the east by Caistor Road. The site is predominately flat and lies at 15m OD, centred on TF 21381 06401.

The drift geology comprises of glacial sands and gravels while the solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Burnham Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1990).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for a two storey detached house with garage, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during associated groundworks (planning reference DC/743/06/WOL).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British occupation of the area is in Laceby are slight, although Bronze Age flints and pottery have been found in previous years and Roman coins were said to have been discovered in a garden just off of Cooper Lane, while Barton Street to the west was a Roman road (Gardner, 2004).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered in Laceby during the 1930's and sherds of pottery identified as Anglo-Saxon were found in 1967 at Cooper Lane but not verified (Gardner, 2004).

The church of St. Margaret's just north of the investigated area was largely remodelled during the late 19th century, although some elements of its Norman structure survive (Pevsner and Harris, 1989).

The name 'Laceby' is of Scandinavian origin and means 'Leif's farmstead or village', derived from the Old Norse name *Leifr* and the Old Danish *by* (Cameron, 1998). The Domesday Survey of 1086 AD lists Laceby as ('Leuesbi') together with

Scartho and Bradley (the neighbouring villages to the east and north-east) as part of the land holdings of the Bishop of Bayeux (Morgan and Thorne, 1986).

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief methodology required monitoring the machine excavation of the topsoil and subsoil across the footprint of the proposed building. The groundwork was carried out with a 360° wheeled excavator using a 0.50m toothed bucket. All archaeological deposits identified were subjected to limited excavation, in order to access their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions. Colour photographs and scale drawings, in both plan and section complement these accounts.

The work was undertaken on the 25th September 2006 by Steve Williams.

6.0 Results

Seven contexts were encountered across the area under investigation (Fig. 3).

The earliest context was a yellow/brown silty clay (005) containing occasional chalk flecks. This was sealed by (004), a yellow/brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. The next context (003) was a dark grey silty sand, this contained occasional chalk flecks, CBM, small rounded stones and charcoal flecks and was typical of a post-medieval levelling deposit. Above this deposit was (002) a modern levelling layer of crushed sandstone hogging which was sealed by topsoil (001). Truncating deposits (003), (004) and (005) was [007], a cut for a modern soakaway (006).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Contexts seen across the area consisted of natural, post-medieval and modern deposits. Only one feature was seen during the course of this watching brief, a modern soakaway within the north-west corner of the site.

The absence of significant archaeological remains throughout the investigated area is not surprising. Subsequent building work over the preceding centuries has heavily truncated the area and any archaeology which may have been within the site area.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology required archaeological monitoring of the foundation trenches after the groundworkers had completed their excavations. Machine stripping can produce a 'clean' surface suitable for archaeological observation if it is executed slowly and under direct archaeological control, but this is not always possible under watching brief conditions: while contractors are usually willing to be as careful as conditions permit, their commercial margins depend on removing spoil as rapidly as possible.

For this reason, the finished result is often unsuitable for archaeological observation, and only the largest and most obvious of features can be detected.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr and Mrs D Townend for this commission and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

Gardner, R.D., 2004, *Proposed Development at Blows Yard, High Street, Laceby, North-East Lincolnshire*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

Morgan P. & Thorpe C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol. 31: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester.

Pevsner, N. & Harris, J. 1995, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*. London, Penguin.

11.0 Site archive

An archive of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at a suitable receiving museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the North East Lincolnshire Museum accession number GRIM: 2006.5