

# LAND AT RISEHOLME ROAD ALLOTMENTS, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR:	SK 97724 73427
Planning Authority:	City of Lincoln Council
Archive acc. no.:	LCNCC 2016.103
Site code:	LRRE 16
PCAS job no.:	1734

Prepared for  
City of Lincoln Council

by  
L. Brocklehurst

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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](mailto:info@pre-construct.co.uk)

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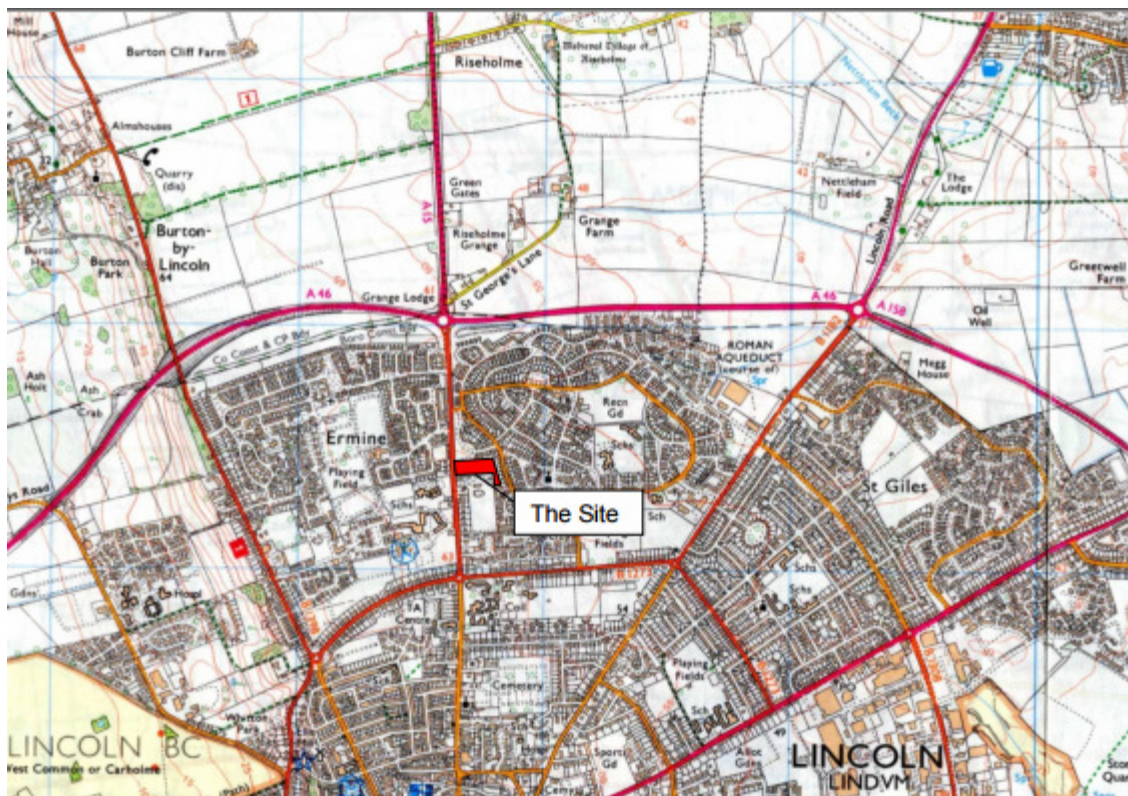
Plate 10: Trench 5 representative section (looking W).

## Summary

Archaeological trenching was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential for land at the Riseholme Road Allotments in the Ermine East estate of Lincoln. An outline planning application for the residential development of the site is currently under preparation.

The site lies on the east side of Roman Ermine Street to the north of the Roman walled city. Excavations in the surrounding area have revealed Roman dated occupation and funerary remains to both the north and south of the site. Settlement retreated within the walled city in the post-Roman period, expanding again briefly in the early medieval period. The area was developed as a modern housing estate in the early 1960's with the site being utilised as allotments throughout the late 20th century.

Five evaluation trenches measuring 10m each were positioned across the site to investigate the survival and character of any encountered archaeological remains. No archaeological remains were identified during the course of the evaluation, and the five trenches were all archaeologically negative.



**Figure 1:** Location of the proposed development site at scale 1:25,000. The application area is marked in red. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by the City of Lincoln Council to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land off Riseholme Road, Lincoln, currently used as allotments. The methodology adopted during the scheme of trial trenching followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2012);
- ClfA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- ClfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014); and
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy was subject to the approval of the City Archaeologist advising the City of Lincoln Council.

## **2.0 Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)**

The proposed development site lies in the Upper City of Lincoln, on the east side of Riseholme Road (B1226), Lincoln, in the Ermine East estate. It lies to the north of the limestone quarry that supplies for repairs to the Cathedral, with houses fronting onto Laughton Way and Blankney Crescent to the east and north respectively.

The site has previously been utilised as allotments, and is not currently occupied. The only known access is via a gate off Riseholme road at the southwest corner of the site, north of the entrance to the quarry. Hedgerows mark the majority of the site boundaries. The site is understood to be currently grassed, and occupying an area of c.0.8hectares.

The approximate central National Grid Reference of the site is SK 97724 73427

## **3.0 Geology and Topography**

The site lies on the plateau at the top of the Lincoln cliff or the Lincoln Escarpment, a ridge of Limestone bedrock which extends along the north bank of the River Witham and northwards to the River Humber. There are no recorded overlying drift deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Lying on the plateau, ground levels in the area are fairly consistent, on site around 55m OD and sloping slightly upwards towards the west. The closest recorded benchmark to the site is a flush bracket at 86 Riseholme Road, immediately opposite the site, which is recorded at 62.3mOD, 0.50m above EGL. (<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>).

## **4.0 Planning Background**

An outline planning application for construction of c.30 new dwellings is currently under preparation for submission to the City of Lincoln Council. The City Archaeologist has been consulted regarding this proposal and has advised an archaeological evaluation of the site is required to investigate the sites archaeological potential and to inform the planning application. This scheme of trenching involved the excavation of five 10mx2m trenches to investigate the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered within the redline site boundary.

These results will be submitted for consideration with the planning application, to advise if any archaeological mitigation is required in relation to the proposals and inform any future mitigation strategy.

## 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in the Ermine East Character Area as defined on the Heritage Connect Lincoln website. This largely residential area was constructed between 1950-1972 as local authority housing and as a result is quite uniform in appearance, with many long streets looping back on themselves. Most of the housing was built in a Modernist-influenced style with little or no external decorative detailing, mainly in red or yellow brick, with the majority of the dwellings being two storeys although bungalows and three storey apartment blocks are interspersed throughout the area. (<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/>). The site itself is an open area on the western edge of the character area.

The Ermine East character area has the following research agendas as classified by Lincoln Urban Archaeological Assessment (LARA):

Prehistoric Era (-10000BC – 60AD); 5.9.1 Limestone uplands dry land and relatively easily worked soils that may have been attractive to later prehistoric communities for occupation and agriculture.

Roman Military Era (60AD – 90AD); 6.18 Legionary 'prata' and 'territorium' large areas of land surrounding major Roman fortresses in which agricultural production and services were dedicated to the service of the legion rather than the local population; 6.21 Roads beyond the Canabae. Riseholme Road follows the line of Roman Ermine Street which was probably laid out in the very early Roman period.

Roman colonia Era (90AD - 410AD); 7.1 Roads entering the city; how the Roman military roads were utilised in the colonial period. 7.14 Area of centuriation around the city, land devoted to agricultural production for the settlement inhabitants rather than being directly occupied; 7.17 The aqueduct running parallel to Nettleham Road piping water from the natural springs to the north of the city to the Roman settlement.

Early Medieval Era (410AD - 850AD); 8.3.1 Central elements of former Roman city and Roman network what did the Anglo-Saxons do with the massive remains of Roman infrastructure; 8.4 Land around city potentially usable for settlement and agriculture how was the land around the city utilised in the post-Roman period?

High Medieval Era (850AD – 1350AD); 9.12.1 Long distance roads namely the former Ermine Street giving access from the north gate of the city; 9.12.2 Intermediate distance roads connecting Lincoln with the smaller outlying towns and villages; 9.45.4 Humber Cross on Ermine Street which marked the parish boundary with Riseholme; 9.45.6 Nettleham mere and contiguous features; 9.9.1 Lincoln common fields the city fields lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city.

Early Modern Era (1350AD – 1750AD); 10.12.1 Long distance roads namely the former Ermine Street giving access from the north gate of the city; 10.12.2 Intermediate distance roads connecting Lincoln with the smaller outlying towns and villages; 10.45.4 Humber Cross on Ermine Street; 10.45.6 Nettleham mere and contiguous features; 10.9.1 Lincoln common fields the city fields lay exclusively to the north and east of the walled city.

Industrial Era (1750AD – 1945AD); 11.6.1 Long distance road routes; 11.7.1 Intermediate road routes; 11.17 City's arable fields as enclosed by Parliament in 1803; 11.31 Middle class house building between the wars.

(<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/character-area/ermine-east-estate/36/related>)

The site lies c.1.5km to the north of the historic core of the city as indicated by the location of the Castle and Cathedral, and therefore development has only extended out to this area in the later 20th century. There are no records for prehistoric monuments within 500m of the

site on the Lincolnshire HER. Scatters of flints dating from the Neolithic – Bronze Age have been recovered from the area of the Laughteron Way estate ahead of that development in the late 20th century, but to date there is no other known evidence for occupation or activity in this vicinity in the pre-Roman period, although the natural springs in this area are often considered to have been important in this period, the most significant perhaps being the Roaring Meg spring which lies over 1km east of the site.

The site lies on the east side of Roman Ermine Street, and it is possible that roadside activities were taking place here throughout the Roman period and beyond. Excavations (Wragg, 1995; 1996; 1997; Glover 2006) at the Bishop Grosseteste University c.500m south of the site have identified a sequence of deposits; the earliest phase of occupation dates from the 2nd century AD (following a period of clearance indicated by extensive burnt deposits), with Roman limestone and timber buildings identified in association with other occupation features including a well, possible courtyard surface and probable side road extending east from Ermine Street. At least four inhumations of infants or young children have been found, with two inhumations being identified beneath the floors of 2nd – 3rd century buildings. Evidence indicates that the Roman occupation in this area is focused around the Ermine Street road frontage, with excavation on the east side of the university complex identifying no Roman occupation (Jarvis, 2005). Occupation here is abruptly abandoned in the late 4th century, probably as settlement contracted into the walls of the Roman city, and the next phase of occupation dates from the 11th century at which time new stone and timber buildings are erected, occasionally utilising the surviving stone floors of the Roman buildings (Wragg, 1996), with occupation again retreating in the 15th – 16th century, corresponding with a decline in Lincoln's fortunes. The medieval parish church of St. John in Newport stood less than 50m south along Newport / Ermine Street from Bishop Grosseteste University, constructed in the late 11th century and abandoned in 1546, echoes of the medieval occupation at the university site.

Roman burials traditionally took place outside of the city boundaries in roadside locations, and cemeteries have been identified to the south of the Roman city walls. The extension of the extramural settlement to Bishop Grosseteste University increases the potential for Roman dated settlement / industrial features or a cemetery lining the road to the north of the city to be encountered within the redline site boundary. To date no Roman dated occupation features or burials are known in the immediate area of the site, however recent test-pit excavations undertaken by Lincoln Archaeology Group have revealed two separate inhumations off Ermine Street, one c.200m south of the site opposite Castle Academy. The remains of at least 12 inhumations were found during excavations for the A46 c.500m to the north of the site (LHER ref: 50584) while two enclosures and associated features dating from the 1st century have been identified just north of the A46/A15 roundabout. Environmental remains and animal bone assemblages indicate a domestic function to this site, with the densest activity closest to the A15 Ermine Street (Brocklehurst, 2014); it is possible an outlying farm serving the early Roman fort to the south lay in this area north of the early city. This activity both to the north and south of the site increases the potential for occupation and/or funerary activity to be encountered within the redline site boundary.

The excavations at the university have identified a phase from the late Roman period where occupation was abandoned and is thought to have retreated within the walls of the Roman city, which lay over 1km to the south of the site. Occupation extended northwards along Ermine Street in the early medieval period, and the Newport boundary ditch and rampart (c.500m south of the site) were constructed in the 12th century to enclose an area of the extended city. Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery has been recovered from the area just south of the A46 Lincoln bypass, around 400m north of the site (LHER ref: 54927, 54935, 94390), probably the result of agricultural activity rather than occupation on the periphery of the settlement. As mentioned above, the medieval occupation along this stretch of Newport fell into decline a second time in the mid 16th century, the city falling into decline following the Lincolnshire Rising and the Reformation. Historic mapping of the city indicates this area north of the Newport ditch and rampart remained unoccupied throughout the early

post-medieval period, the area not even included on the majority of city plans throughout the 19th century.

The only modern monument in the vicinity of the site is the quarry immediately south of the site which supplies limestone to the Cathedral. The quarry was in use by the late 19th century and is shown on historic OS mapping, having since extended to the south (LHER ref: 70571). This is the only post-medieval quarry that survives in the north of the city. The Laughton Way estate was built in the late 1950' – early 1960's, leaving the redline site boundary un developed and utilised as allotments.

## **6.0 Methodology**

The trenching scheme involved the excavation of five trenches, all measuring 10m x 2m, positioned to investigate the areas that will be impacted by the development.

The trenches were to investigate the presence/absence, character and depth of any archaeological remains that may be impacted by the development groundworks, and to also recover any available dating evidence and allow for the interpretation of any identified archaeological remains in the context of known archaeology in the vicinity.

The archaeological trenching was to be completed in accordance with the methodology detailed below. An online record of the project data shall be initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commences, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report.

The aims of the evaluation were to record the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. Trenches were opened using a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless bucket. Machine excavation was halted at the first archaeological horizon, or at the surface of the natural solid geology where no archaeological deposits were present; excavation thereafter was by hand.

Evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at scales of 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate. Where archaeological features were present, these were sample excavated and drawn in section at scales of 1:20 or 1:10. Where no features were encountered, a sample profile of the trench section face was drawn. The drawn record was supplemented by photography in digital format. Deposits, where encountered, were to be recorded on standard PCAS context record sheets and trench record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also maintained.

## **7.0 Results (Fig. 3)**

A full context summary list appears as Appendix 1.

### **7.1 Trenches containing no archaeological remains (Fig. 3)**

No remains of archaeological interest were exposed in any of the trenches excavated. Excavations exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil and, in varying levels, subsoil overlying the natural limestone substrate. This was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.4m below original ground level.

## **8.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation exposed no archaeological remains in all of the excavated trenches. A number of glacial features were exposed, however these were entirely natural in their origin.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank City of Lincoln Council for this commission.

## 10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering information about the sites archaeological potential. The body of data produced by this evaluation will be able to inform the planning and development process.

## 11.0 References

Glover, G. & McDaid, M, 2006, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. New Offices. Archaeological Evaluation, Lindsey Archaeological Services

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Wragg, K, 1997, Archaeological Excavation at Library Extension, Bishop Grosseteste College, Newport, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

OS Explorer Map, 2006, Sheet 272: Lincoln, Sleaford, Metherringham and Navenby. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Websites:

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>

<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/>

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?clearresults=True>

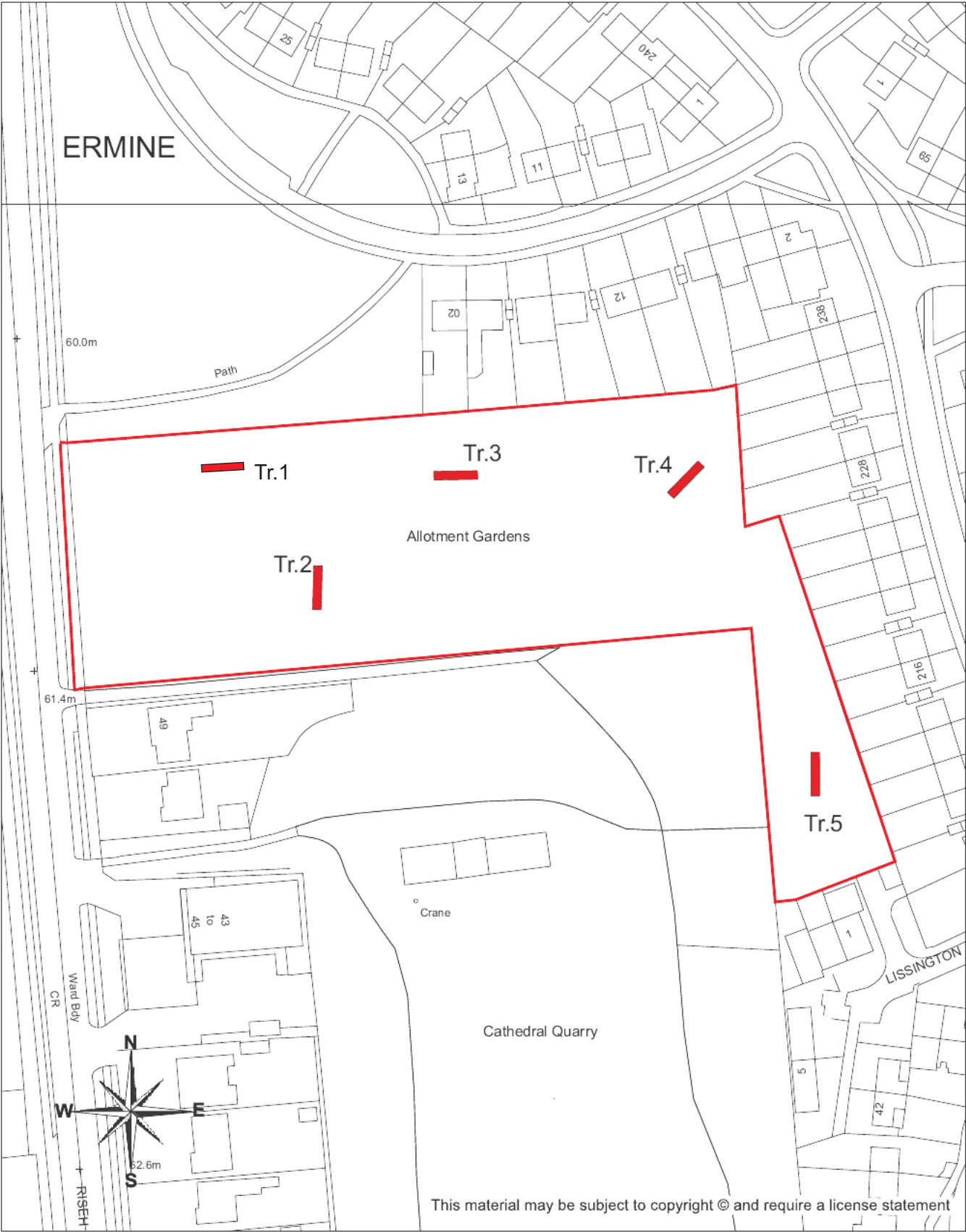
<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/>

Lincolns lost medieval churches

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zwqut6Elvalg.knJv7IXnFAoA&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&dg=feature>

Figure 2: Riseholme Road Allotments, Lincoln. Trenching plan 1:1250 @ A4. Plan supplied by City of Lincoln Council



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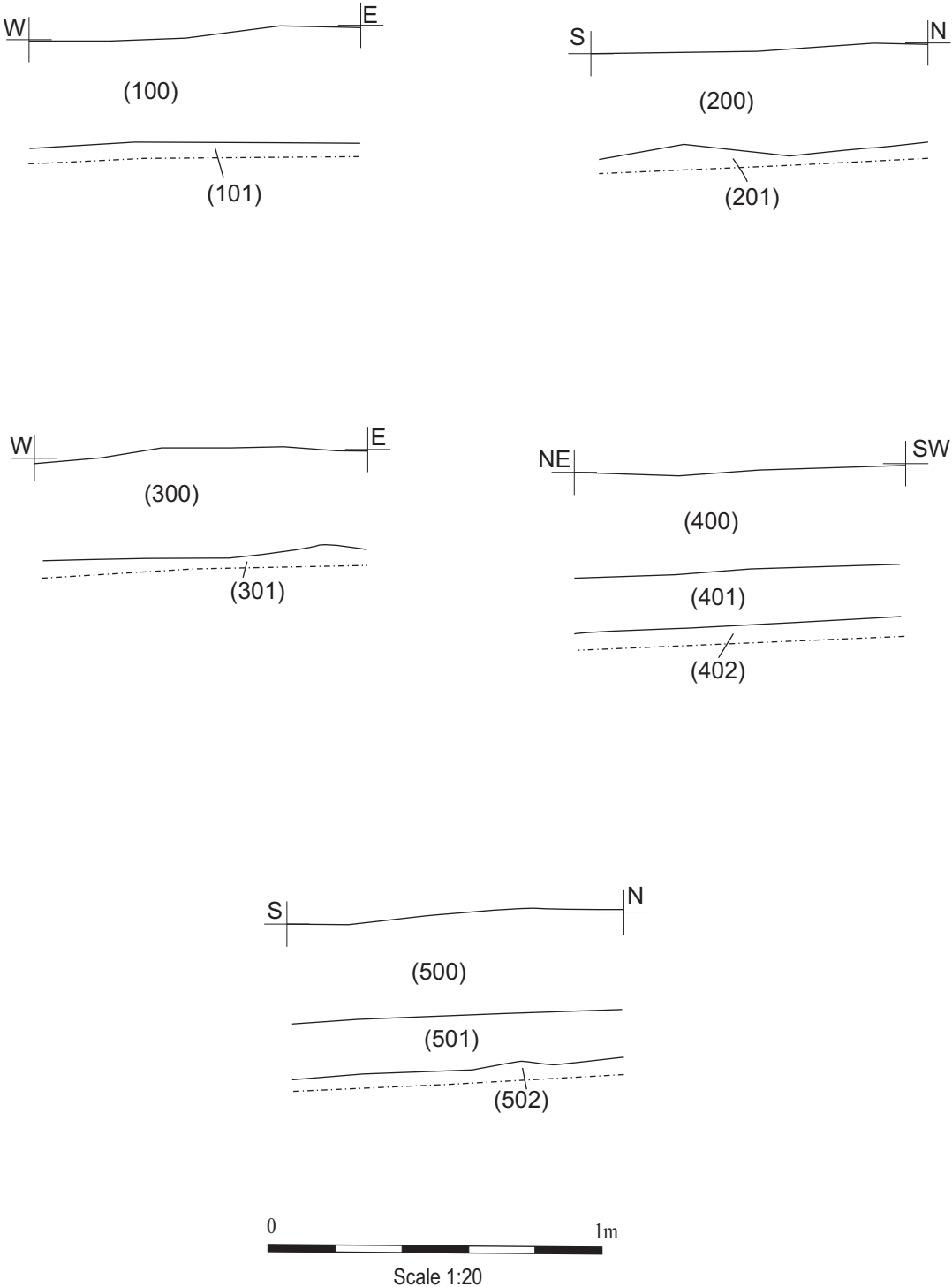
Sterling Court  
Norton Road  
Stevenage  
Herts SG1 2JY  
United Kingdom

Tel : +44 (0)1438 747996  
Fax : +44 (0)1438 747997  
E-mail: info@cadcorp.com

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Department:	Property Services
Drawing No:	17/02/15
Date: 17/02/2015	Scale: 1:1250

 10mx2m Trench location

Figure 3: Representative sections (1:20) of archaeologically negative trenches.



## Appendix 1 – Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt. Fairly loose with frequent flecks of limestone throughout deposit. 0.3m thick.	None
101	Layer	Natural limestone substrate.	-
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.32m thick.	None
201	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (101).	-
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.35m thick.	None
302	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (101).	-
<b>Trench 4</b>			
400	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.35m thick.	None
401	Layer	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silt. Firm and friable. Some limestone flecks throughout. 0.2m thick.	None
402	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (101).	-
<b>Trench 5</b>			
500	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.35m thick.	None
501	Layer	Subsoil. Same as (401). 0.25m thick.	None
502	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (101).	-

Appendix 2 – Colour plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking E).



Plate 2: Trench 1 representative section (looking N).



Plate 3: Trench 2 (looking S).



Plate 4: Trench 2 representative section (looking E).



Plate 5: Trench 3 (looking E).



Plate 6: Trench 3 representative sections (looking N).

Appendix 2 – Colour plates



Plate 7: Trench 4 (looking SSW).



Plate 8: Trench 4 representative section (looking ESE).



Plate 9: Trench 5 (looking S).



Plate 10: Trench 5 representative section (looking W).

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-261939**

### Project details

Project name	LAND AT RISEHOLME ROAD ALLOTMENTS, LINCOLN
Short description of the project	Archaeological trenching was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential for land at the Riseholme Road Allotments in the Ermine East estate of Lincoln. A planning application for the residential development of the site is currently under preparation. The site lies on the east side of Roman Ermine Street to the north of the Roman walled city. Excavations in the surrounding area have revealed Roman dated occupation and funerary remains to both the north and south of the site. Settlement retreated within the walled city in the post-Roman period, expanding again briefly in the early medieval period. The area was developed as a modern housing estate in the early 1960's with the site being utilised as allotments throughout the late 20th century. Five evaluation trenches measuring 10m each were positioned across the site to investigate the survival and character of any encountered archaeological remains. No archaeological remains were identified during the course of the evaluation, and the five trenches were all archaeologically negative.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2016 End: 31-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LRRE 16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type	Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE LINCOLN LINCOLN LAND AT RISEHOLME ROAD ALLOTMENTS, LINCOLN
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 97724 73427 53.248565809819 -0.535219699095 53 14 54 N 000 32 06 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	L. Brocklehurst
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents	"none"

