## 65 NETTLEHAM ROAD, LINCOLN LN2 1RT SCHEME OF MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT

NGR: SK 98272 72689

Planning Authority: City of Lincoln Council

Planning App. No.: 2014/004/F

PCAS Job No.: 1201

PCAS Site Code: LNRM 14

LCNCC accession no.: 2014.50

Report prepared for John Halton Design Ltd.

on behalf of

Sister Eileen Keane

Ву

Rebecca Dickinson

July 2017



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- **Fig. 2:** Plan of site 1:100 @ A3 with selected sections and plates from monitored groundworks 1:20 @ A3.

#### **Summary**

A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory and a one-and-a-half storey extension on north elevation of 65 Nettleham Road, Lincoln.

The site is within an area of importance associated with the early settlement and development of Lincoln, and the Roman aqueduct runs parallel with Nettleham Road for some of its course.

No features other than a 19<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit were observed during the construction groundworks.

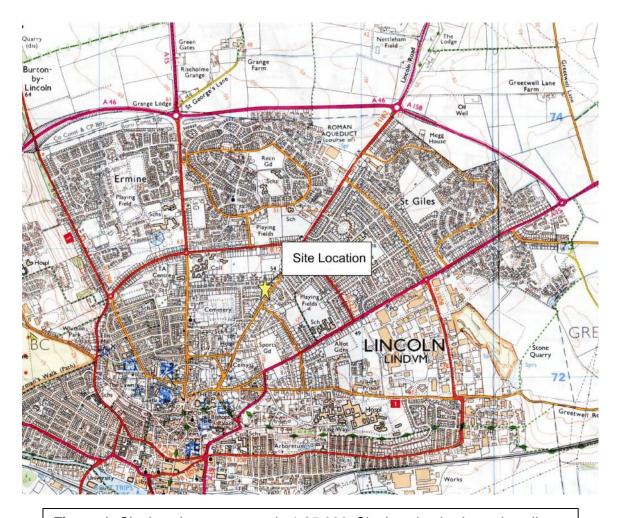


Figure 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000. Site location is shown in yellow

#### 1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by John Halton Design Ltd. on behalf of Sister Eileen Keane to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during development groundworks at 65 Nettleham Road, Lincoln.

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to preserve by record any archaeological remains impacted by development.

#### 2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

The site is situated approximately 1km northeast of the city centre on the northwest side of Nettleham Road (Fig.1); bounded on three sides by housing and on the east by Nettleham Road.

#### 3.0 Topography and geology

The site area is predominately flat and lies at 55m OD, centred on SK 98272 72689. The Newport Character Area lies at top of the Lincoln Edge limestone ridge, directly to the north of the Roman and medieval walled cities. The solid geology of the area is Lincolnshire Limestone, where there is no superficial (drift) geology recorded (British Geological Survey 1973; http://www.bgs.ac.uk/).

#### 4.0 Heritage designations

65 Nettleham Road falls within two Research Agenda Zones (RAZ) of the Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA);

- RAZ 6.16 Canabae This RAZ indicates the potential for recovering archaeological remains associated with sub-urban Roman settlement along the course of the Fosse Way. This could include structural remains or refuse from dwellings or roadside markets.
- RAZ 7.17 Aqueduct This RAZ indicates an area of possible remains associated with the Roman water infrastructure that is thought to have run alongside the Fosse. These remains could include sections of the aqueduct itself, although its specific course is not known in this specific area.

## 5.0 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This placed the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, s141). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

A planning application for the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory and a one-and-a-half storey extension on north elevation at 65 Nettleham Road, Lincoln was registered on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 (Ref: 2014/0044/F).

A WSI was submitted in support of the planning application, detailing the methodology of a scheme of archaeological monitoring; to be employed during all groundworks on the site associated with the development.

#### 6.0 Archaeological and historical background

Pre-Roman evidence for archaeological activity in the vicinity of the development area is scarce.

During the Roman military occupation (the first phase of Roman imperial rule, comprising the period *c.* AD60-AD90), this area would have been within the direct influence of the legionary fortress and part of the *canabae*, or informal civilian settlement outside the fortress gates.

When Lincoln became the regional capital, *Lindum Colonia*, an aqueduct was built, entering the city roughly on the line of the present day Nettleham Road. The existence of the Roman aqueduct has been known of for several hundred years and its construction and alignment well attested (Wood, 1981). The section uncovered at 93 Nettleham Road site (Williams, 2006) was very well preserved, mostly due to its robust construction, but perhaps also because it was partially covered by the later road surface. Several theories have been made about its extent, use and capabilities. Its source is commonly thought to be that of the Roaring Meg spring, 1km to the north. From here it has been projected on a northeast alignment along Nettleham Road, before entering the city. Its sealed construction method was to enable the water to become pressurised, thus allowing it to be transported uphill, some 20m higher than its source, from where it may have fed the public baths or possibly a header tank for further distribution. Its size is thought to have been insufficient to cope with much more than this.

Archaeological investigations have taken place along the north-west side of this road in previous years, and during the 1970's a flat stone platform, possibly of Roman date, was discovered and thought to be associated with the aqueduct, while sections of road surface have also been found and presumed mostly to be of Roman origin.

Sections of aqueduct and a road surface have been found previously at 93 Nettleham Road and also between No's 83a-111. Previous work undertaken within the vicinity of this site included archaeological monitoring of similar extensions at Nos. 33, 35 and 57, none of which uncovered any significant archaeological remains.

Given the location of the site, a short distance outside of the *colonia* there was some potential for Romano-British funerary archaeology.

#### 7.0 Methodology

Footing trenches were excavated to a maximum of 0.6m wide and 0.92m deep using a 6 tonne excavator with a 2ft flat bladed 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. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at the scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A digital photographic record was maintained; a selection from which is incorporated into Figure 2.

The monitoring took place intermittently between 27.08.14 and 03.09.14 and involved three site visits by Rachel Savage, Simon Savage and Ben Wheeliker.

#### 8.0 Results

Natural medium-small limestone fragments in a matrix of compact whitish-brown to light yellow brown sand with patches of mid brown solution material (002) was exposed at the base of the footing trenches throughout the site. This was overlain by a layer of very dark grey, slightly gritty silty sand topsoil (Plate 1)

At the north-western edge of the footing trenches, a circular 19<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit [004] was encountered (Plate 2). This was 0.52m wide and 0.32m deep, filled with mid grey, friable silty sand that incorporated fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century window glass. The glass finds were discarded on site.

#### 9.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the early modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this plot of land was not occupied prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 10.0 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, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

#### 11.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank John Halton Design Ltd and Ms. Sister Eileen Keane for this commission.

#### 12.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Archaeology in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') on completion.

#### 13.0 References/Bibliography

British Geological Survey 1973, *Lincoln Sheet 114, Solid and Drift Edition 1:50,000*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

RSK, 2014b, Church Farm, Slapton

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

Websites

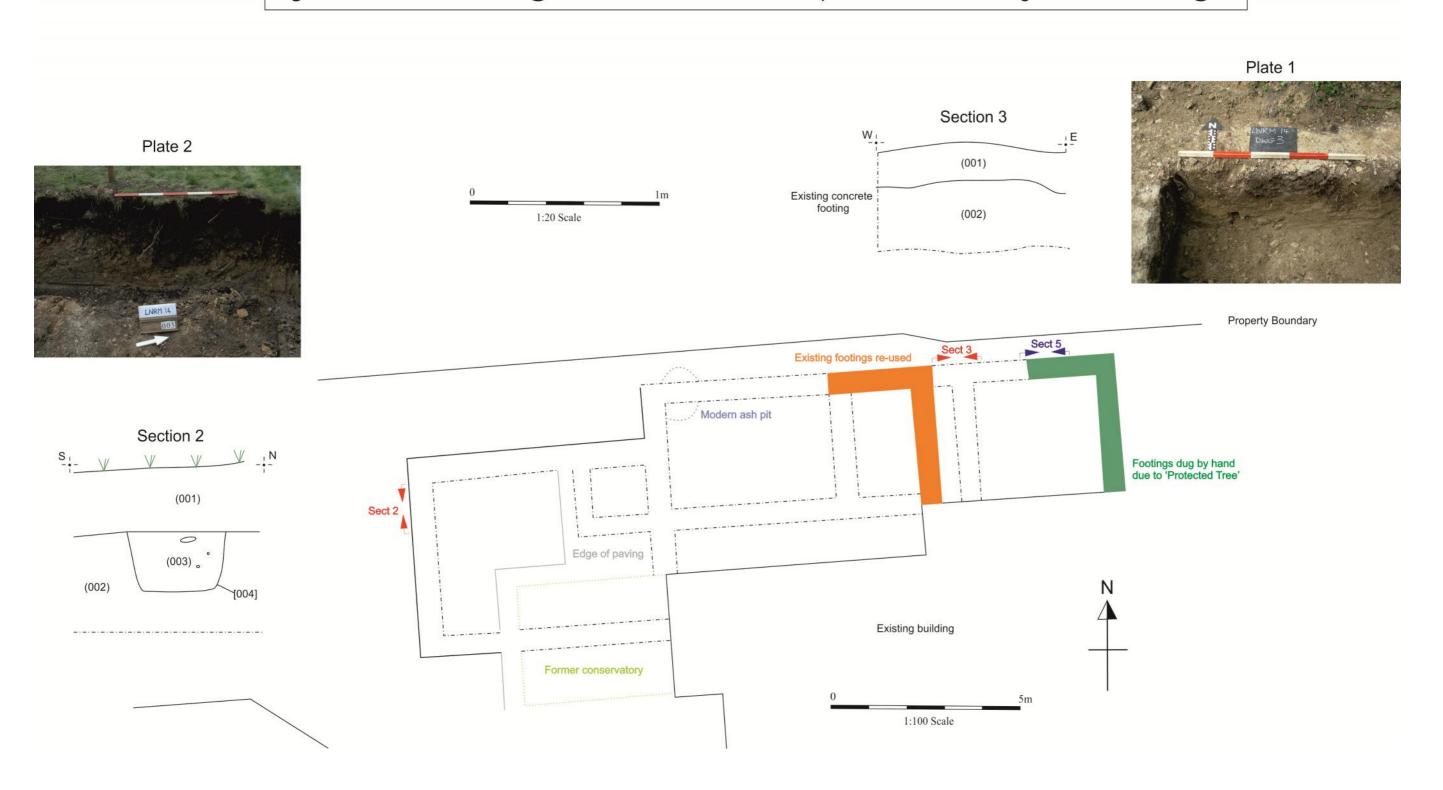
http://www.bgs.ac.uk

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http://www.lincoln.gov.uk

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk

Figure 2: Plan of site. 1:100 @ A3 with selected sections and plates from monitored groundswork. 1:20 @ A3



## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No:	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Very dark grey, slightly gritty silty sand	Topsoil
002	Layer	Med-small limestone fragments in a matrix of compact whitish-brown to light yellowish-brown limestone derived sand with patches of mid brown solution material.	Natural
003	Fill	Mid-grey friable silty sand with occasional limestone flecks and ash. Contains fragments of 19 <sup>th</sup> C Window glass.	19 <sup>th</sup> C Victorian refuse pit.
004	Cut	Pit with steep sides and a flat base, filled by (003)	19 <sup>th</sup> C Victorian refuse pit.

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#### OASIS ID - preconst3-289740

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