

Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks of four new terraced dwellings on the south side of Woodstock Street, Lincoln.*
- *Despite the site being located within close proximity to the Fosse Dyke (a major Roman waterway and trade route) and a Roman pottery production site, nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.*
- *It was established that the majority of the footprint of the development falls within an area that incorporates an upper sequence of levelling layers, demolition rubble, and dump deposits. It is possible that archaeological remains survive below a layer of colluvium towards the south of the site, but any such remains would be preserved in situ and would not have been adversely affected by the redevelopment.*

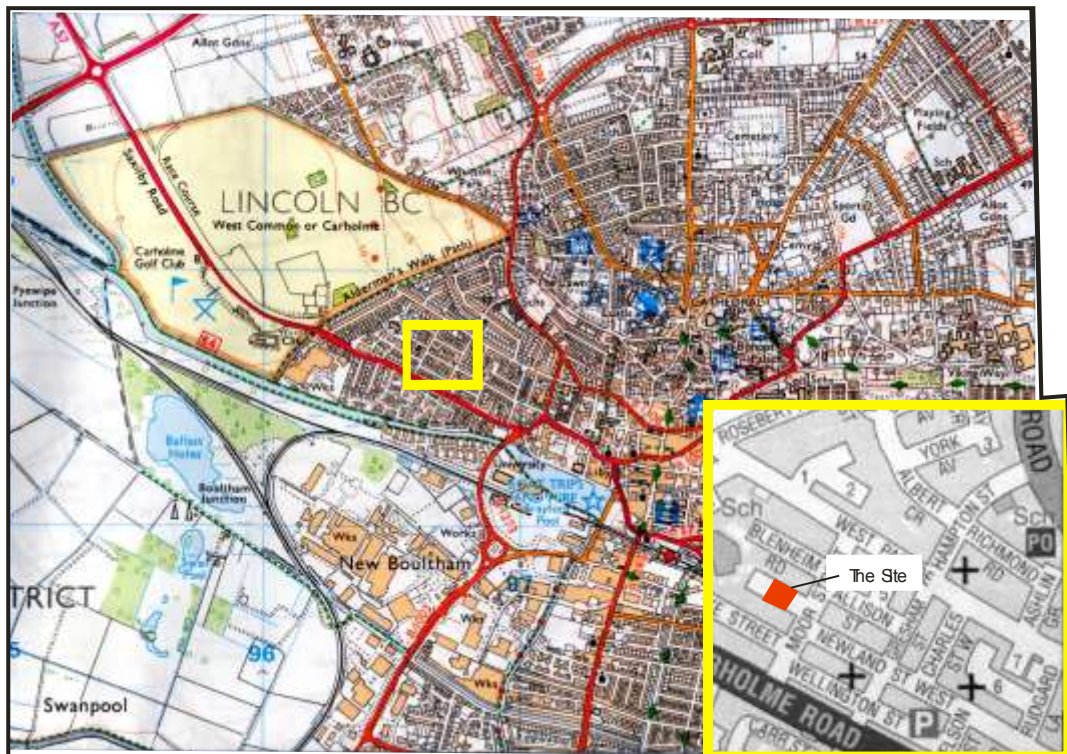


Fig 1: General location map at scale 1:25, 000 (os copyright licence no: A1515 21 A 0001) Inset map (not to scale) outlined in yellow showing site location in red.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by K and A Walsh to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of four new terraced dwellings on the south side of Woodstock Street, Lincoln, NGR SK 966 713. These works were monitored by the author on 28th and 29th November 2007 to fulfil the objectives of a specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by the City of Lincoln Heritage Team. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment 1990), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA 1999) and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC1998).

2.0 Site location and description

The development site is a square plot of land situated to the north of Carholme Road and southwest of Lincoln city centre. To the north the site is bounded by Woodstock Street, and to the south and east are residential properties. There is a commercial garage to the west.

The site is predominantly level, with a gradual slope towards the south. The underlying geology of the area comprises Middle Lias clay with shale over Lower Lias Clay, shale and rare limestone (British Geological Survey 1973).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission (planning ref; 2007/0187/F) was granted by The City of Lincoln Council for the erection of four terraced dwellings subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of development involving ground disturbance; to record any archaeological remains encountered as a result of development.

4.0 Archaeological context

Excluding occasional finds of prehistoric artefacts, there is little clear evidence of any sustained occupation within the environs of Lincoln prior to the Late Iron Age, as evidenced at Brayford Pool.

Following the initial invasion of Britain in AD43, a legionary fortress was established sometime in the reign of Nero (AD54-68) on the hillside to the north of the Witham.

By the late 1st century AD, Lincoln was established as a *colonia*, emerging as a prominent Roman city within half a century (Jones M.2003).

Although the development site lies outside and to the west of the former *colonia*, it is only 300m south of the Fosse Dyke, a major Roman waterway and trade route that connected the River Witham to the River Trent.

Excavations during the late 1940's - 1950's by the Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee revealed a Roman pottery production site at the Carholme Racecourse, 0.5km west of the current development.

From the 10th to the 13th century, Lincoln became for a second time a powerful and influential city: one of the five most important cities in England, with an estimated population of between six and ten thousand at the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey (Jones 2003).

During the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site lay within the suburb of Newland. Newland was served by three east-west streets, the southernmost being Carholme Road.

5.0 Methodology

The methodology involved monitoring the reduction of the site level to a depth of 1m below the modern ground surface. This was carried out using a tracked 360 ° mechanical digger with a 0.60m toothed bucket.

During and following excavation, plan and section surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined to assess the presence/ absence of archaeological deposits and to record the general stratigraphy. Spoil upcast was also scanned for artefactual remains.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and located upon a development plan (see fig 2). Context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets, and a colour photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

There was a distinct variation of stratigraphy at the south of the site, which was largely unaffected by modern disturbance. The earliest natural deposit was encountered in this area at a depth 0.50m below the modern ground surface, comprising soft mid-brown sandy clay colluvium (103).

Sealing (103) was a variety of layers. These consisted of a mid – brown silty clay levelling layer with charcoal and pebble inclusions (115) (Fig 3, Section 3) and a limestone rubble levelling layer or surface (107) (Fig 3, Section 2). A 10cm layer of black silt (102) sealed (103) at the south.

Overlying (102) was a 12cm of chalk; possibly a levelling layer or surface (101) (Fig 3, Section 1).

Over the remainder of the development footprint, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of levelling layers, demolition and dump deposits contained within a series of cuts. These cuts suggested that a structure or structures had been demolished followed by phases of clearance and infilling.

Cutting (107) and (115) were cuts [112] and [116] (Fig 3, Sections 2 and 3). These are likely to be contemporary and were infilled by a series of demolition layers (104, and

106) and ground raising/levelling deposits (108) (105) and (114) (Fig 3, Sections 2 and 3).

Contained within a third cut [117], were two dumped deposits (111) and (110) (Fig 3, Section 2). Deposit (111) was comprised of re-deposited blue grey alluvial clay, sealed by (110) a large mixed deposit of domestic and commercial waste. This contained very modern material; plastic, concrete, brick, tile, pottery, animal and fish bone and glass (none of which was retained).

A 0.02m thick lense of burnt slate (109) overlaid (110) at the southwest (Fig 3).

Over the entire site was a layer of dark black-brown silty clay, buried topsoil (100). A 2cm thick layer of demolition rubble formed the modern ground surface.

No significant archaeological deposits or features were exposed.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the proximity of the development site to the Fosse Dyke and a known Roman pottery production site at Carholme Racecourse, no finds or deposits of any great archaeological interest were recorded. It is possible that earlier archaeological deposits survive below the layer of colluvium at the south of the site (Fig 2), and below modern demolition and levelling horizons.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of this development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of archaeological deposits to be established to a depth of approximately 1.0m below existing ground level.

9.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln Sheet 114* Solid and Drift Edition

Jones M., Stocker D., Vince A., 2003 *The City by the Pool*, Oxbow Books

Jones M., 2002, *Roman Lincoln*, Tempus

Whitwell J.B. 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank K. and A. Walsh for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months. The global accession number for this scheme is LLN CC: 2007. 241