

Summary

- *Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Fiesta Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of investigative works in advance of residential redevelopment on land at 45-47 St Catherines, Lincoln; amounting to standing building recording, archaeological evaluation and excavation.*
- *Evaluation of the area concluded that the entire footing of a proposed new build would require excavation to preserve by record archaeology that would be at risk from the construction of the basement and other apartments.*
- *The excavation yielded evidence relating to intermittent human settlement of the area between the prehistoric to the early modern periods, though the principal findings relate to multiple phases of construction and burial associated with the origins and development of the Gilbertine Priory, St Katherine's.*

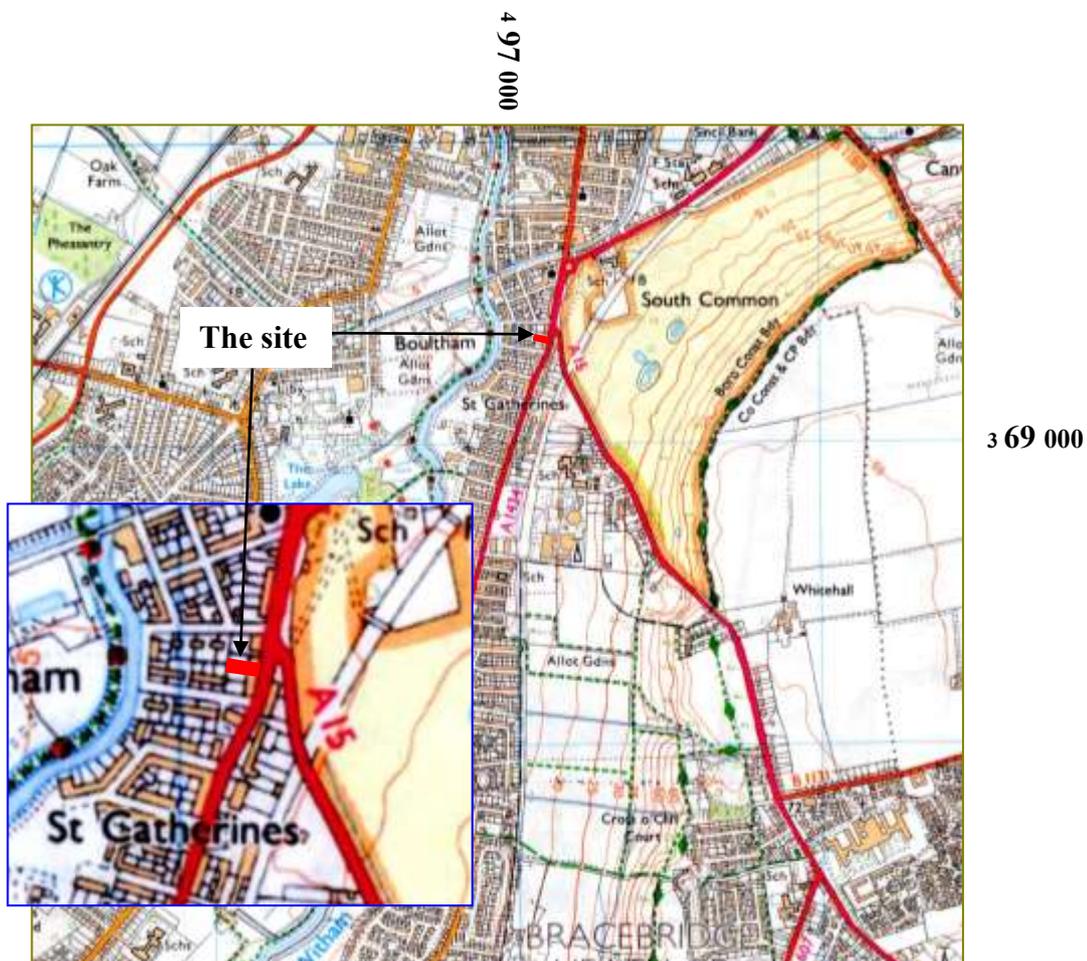


Fig 1: Site Location at 1:25 000: inset at 1: 12 500. The development area is outlined in red on both maps. (O.S. Copyright License No. AL 515 21 A 0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Fiesta Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works at 45-47 St Catherines, Lincoln: incorporating an initial building record survey and evaluation, followed by an excavation to mitigate the effects of residential redevelopment. The fieldwork associated with the latter (SCEL 07, PCA Ref 07/355) commenced on the 8/05/07 and was completed on the 25/06/07.

The evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken to meet the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (PCA Lincoln, 2007), in accordance with the requirements of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Dept. of Environment, 1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH, 1991) and *standards and guidance for archaeological excavations* (IFA, 1999).

2.0 Site location and description (Figs 1 and 2)

The site is within the modern city of Lincoln, approximately 2km south-south-west of the centre. It lies directly west of St Catherines, and approximately 125m east of the River Witham within the Lincoln Conservation Area 4. It encompasses an area of approximately 875m² and is centred on SK 97095 69355.

The site was previously occupied by two Victorian residential properties and their associated gardens. It is bounded on its northern, western and southern sides by similar properties and on its eastern side by St Catherines.

The underlying solid geology of the area is Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone, with drift deposits of undifferentiated river terrace sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 1973). The site slopes gently from west to east and lies at *c* 8.0m AOD.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was sought for the erection of a three-storey apartment building. This was approved subject to conditions, one of which required the undertaking of a programme of archaeological building recording and evaluation that would inform a mitigation strategy that would seek to address the archaeological interest and ensure the successful redevelopment of 45-47 St Catherines.

The final excavation, analysis and reporting herein fulfils the objectives of the final agreed mitigation strategy, which was designed and executed to discharge the planning conditions (planning references: 2006/0558/F and 2006/0559/CAC).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Until recently, settlement evidence pre-dating the later Iron Age within the city boundaries was sparse; based only on Neolithic and Bronze Age flint implements, the majority of which were recovered from the lower part of the town close to the river

(Jones and Stocker, 2003, 19). Recently, however a small number of excavations within the lower city have identified finds, horizons and possible features dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Allen Archaeological Associates, 2008, McDaid, pers comm).

Following the Roman Conquest of AD 43, local Iron Age settlements soon came under military influence. At Lincoln, a legionary fortress was established in the reign of Nero (AD54-68) on the hillside to the north of the Witham, although an earlier fort may have existed in the lower city, reflected by the discovery of early military tombstones in the vicinity of Monson Street (Jones, 2003).

When the legionary fortress became strategically redundant, a decision was made during the second half of the 1st century to convert it into a veteran settlement or *colonia*, after which the Roman settlement spread and diversified (Jones, 2003). The area covered by the current site was occupied by industrial and residential properties fronting major roads such as the Fosse Way and Ermine Street to the south of the defended city (*ibid.*).

Evidence for abandonment and decline of the city in the late 4th to early 5th centuries is widespread, although a much-reduced settlement with infrastructure and a church institution was still clearly occupied. Evidence for an early post-Roman presence is minimal; apparent in ceramic assemblages and a small number of burials (*ibid.*).

The development site is located on the lands of the Gilbertine Priory of *St Katherine* which was established shortly after 1148 by Bishop Robert de Chesney within the vicinity of the earlier St Sepulchers Hospital (Hill, 1948). The Gilbertines were a mixed order of canons and nuns, with mixed and single sexed housing. The priory of Lincoln was for canons only, with lay sisters caring for the sick at St Sepulchers hospital and lay brothers providing for the lay sisters needs and the maintenance of the priory (Midmer, 1979).

The layouts of the monastic precincts differed between the orders and the different houses within them though they all contained the same essential structures. These were: the church, the buildings in which the brethren lived, the buildings in which they cared for the sick and provided for their guests, and the domestic and maintenance buildings which served the precinct (Gilyard-Beer,1976). The church usually occupied the highest ground forming one side of the cloister square, the three further sides consisting of the monks quarters. Buildings that required contact with the outer community were situated in an outer courtyard or "*curia*" with the buildings relating to the care of the sick being on the opposite side to this. A precinct wall with one or more gatehouses surrounded the area (*ibid.*).

The buildings of St Katherine's priory occupied the land between the Sincil Dyke to the north, the Witham to the west, the highway to the east and south beyond the foot of Cross Cliff Hill (see Fig.3). The priory also owned land to the south of the priory buildings, known as Southcarth Grange, and areas of Bracebridge and it often appropriated areas of the common to pasture their sheep, for a large percentage of the priory income was based on the wool trade (Hill 1948).

The excavation site was located to the very east of the priory limits, close to the highway, approximately mid-point between the most northern and southern elements of the priory buildings (see Fig.3). As the precinct was bounded on the west by the Witham, the public buildings may have been located on the east side near the highway for ease of access, and the hospital of St Sepulcher may have been located to the west near the river. Therefore, the excavation could possibly have been expected to expose features and structures relating to the precinct wall, gatehouses and other public buildings.

During the construction of a house in the late 19th century on the priory lands, a number of inhumations, architectural remains and other important finds were unearthed. Among these was a small ivory seal inscribed *tecta lege lecta tege* (read what is written, hide it when read). Unfortunately, as these artefacts were not considered to be of great importance at the time, it was not recorded whether this was recovered from a grave, nor was the exact location of the excavation noted.

Previous archaeological work to the north of the site identified structural remains relating to the priory, including two phases of gatehouse, as well as inhumation burials belonging to its cemetery (Daley, 2008, McDaid, pers comm).

Following the dissolution of the monasteries c1536 the priory buildings were granted to the Duke of Suffolk who later sold them to the Grantham family. The Grantham's built a substantial mansion, reusing some of the remains (UAD Monument entry 878). By the late 19th century, residential housing was being developed on the priory lands, the majority of which are still standing and as such little is known of the exact location of the different priory buildings.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Fieldwork

Following a Level 1 photographic survey (Savage, 2007) and the demolition of the 'Priory Villas', an intrusive evaluation was undertaken to determine the effects on archaeological remains of redeveloping the area. Two 2.0m wide trenches running the length and width of the development footprint were located to the west of an existing basement to avoid modern disturbance.

Initial machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision using a toothless blade. The trenches were then cleaned, photographed, sample excavated by hand and recorded. A substantial structure and a number of inhumation burials were exposed within the trenches and, following consultation with the City Archaeologist and the developer, it was deemed appropriate to undertake a full excavation within the footprint of the proposed new building to preserve by record archaeology that would be destroyed by the construction of basement and other apartments.

The area at risk was stripped down to the first layer of archaeological significance, hand cleaned, investigated and recorded. All archaeological features, structures, and deposits were cleaned and/or excavated by hand and artefactual remains were recovered from stratified and unstratified contexts. Bulk soil samples (30 litre) were

recovered from appropriate contexts to further inform an interpretation of the archaeology.

Comprehensive single context recording sheets were completed for each archaeological feature or deposit, and multi-context drawings were prepared for each section and plan (sections and plans were produced at a variety of scales to assist a comprehensive understanding of stratigraphic relationships and depict details associated with features and deposits). Colour slides, black and white and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts and provide an objective record.

A range of deposits had been disturbed and truncated by modern features, and these are depicted on Fig. 5 and Sections A, B and C. These will not be discussed in detail except to indicate the depth of disturbance. A full context list is attached as Appendix 2.

Following the completion of all site works, the excavation area was accurately located by triangulation.

The fieldwork was directed by Mike Daley with the assistance of Lisa Baker, Laura Hill and Neil Jefferson.

5.2 Post-Excavation

Following completion of the fieldwork, all finds were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, and samples were sorted following our in house standard operating procedures. A post-excavation assessment of all contexts, drawings, finds and samples was then carried out, and a stratigraphic matrix was prepared.

Once the assessment and matrix were completed, unstable artefacts were sent for remedial stabilisation followed by specialist analysis, while bulk soil samples were sent for processing and environmental analysis.

Artefacts and ecofacts sent for analyses were:

- Post-Roman pottery (Jane Young)
- Post-Roman ceramic building material (Jane Young)
- Animal bone (Jennifer Wood)
- Lithics (Jim Rylatt)
- Human bone (Laura Hill)
- Small Finds-including glass and metal objects (Jenny Mann)
- Clay pipe (Jenny Mann)
- Environmental samples (Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd)

6.0 Results

6.1 The general stratigraphy

The solid geological substrate was not encountered, although a sondage excavated in the southwest corner of the trench cut through alluvial deposits to reveal the drift

geology of river gravels at a depth of *c*2m below present ground level. The deposits at the base of the main excavation area, at *c*1.30m below present ground level, were re-deposited sands. These were laid down during consecutive phases of flooding of the River Witham and are likely to have sealed any earlier surviving archaeology on the site. Sealing the entire trench area was a mixture of topsoil and building rubble to a depth of *c* 0.50m below present ground level.

6.2 Overview

Significant archaeology was encountered at depths between 0.50m and 1.40m below present ground level. Modern truncation was observed within the excavation area from a depth of *c* 0.55m to *c*3.20m at its deepest; the latter associated with early modern pits and building slots below Victorian cellars (Fig. 4).

The features, deposits and artefacts encountered dated between the prehistoric and modern periods. For ease of understanding, the archaeology will be described by phase, where eight significant phases have been identified:

- Phase 1 Prehistoric
- Phase 2 Mid-12th century burial ground
- Phase 3 Mid-12th-13th century apsidal chapel and cemetery
- Phase 4 13th-14th century replacement chapel?
- Phase 5 Post-14th century decline and relative dormancy
- Phase 6 Pre 1536, larger burial ground
- Phase 7 Post-16th century, abandonment of burial ground following dissolution
- Phase 8 Early modern residential development

6.3 Phase 1: Prehistoric

A number of pre-Roman flint artefacts were recovered from residual contexts.

The earliest archaeological phase was reflected not by any discrete archaeological deposits or features, but by a small number of residual flint artefacts: a Mesolithic to early Neolithic blade-like flake and two hard hammer flakes dating to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age periods (Appendix 5).

These artefacts provide scant evidence for an extended sequence of prehistoric activity within the locality although, as noted, all three were from residual contexts. Two were within grave fills (122) and (192) lying in the centre and east of the cemetery, and a third was recovered in the east of the excavation from a 'garden soil' abandonment layer (182).

6.4 Phase 2: mid-12th century (indicated yellow on Figs. 4 & Section D)

A group of cist burials were exposed, as were a number of post holes, possibly relating to an early timber structure.

The establishment of a burial ground was associated with the origins of St Katherine's Priory.

In the northwest of the excavation, truncating a yellow-grey alluvial sand (248) were six sub-rectangular, east-west aligned graves ([131], [158], [174], [330], [333], [336]). These features were all cist burials constructed from large limestone blocks and slabs. The sides were fully lined and the tops capped, and all those that were fully excavated had head niches incorporated into their design. All but one followed the same construction pattern, with the blocks set on edge lining the grave cut. Structure (311) was the exception, which was made from three courses of angular limestone blocks of single stone thickness walling the inside of the grave cut. A large limestone slab was then placed at the head and foot of the grave (Plate 7).

Five of the cist burials were excavated and yielded young to prime aged adult males. Their internment and osteological evidence suggests that these individuals were of high status or wealth, possibly noble benefactors of the monastery (Appendix 9). It is known that, compared with the other houses of this order, the endowments and benefactors were considerable and in its earlier years the income of *St Katherine's* was high (*British History on line*). The burials may have been associated with a structure of which no trace survives or possibly a building further to the northwest of the excavated area. Only one yielded datable finds [330], but all were sealed by a layer of fine whitish-yellow wind blown sand (107). Fill (331) yielded a single pottery sherd from a mid 12th-mid 13th century jug (Appendix 3).

Approximately 5m to the south of the burials, also truncating layer (248) was a sub-rectangular feature [274]. This appeared to be a simple earth-cut grave, though it did not contain a body or any evidence of a lining. It was truncated by the construction trench of a later stone building (109) – see below. This feature could have been a grave which had its contents removed for reburial elsewhere when it was disturbed by later construction, and this interpretation is enhanced by the fill; consisting of a dark blackish-grey seemingly backfilled silty-sand deposit (273) yielding fragments of mid 12th-mid 13th century roof tile (Appendix 4).

Also associated with this phase, in the south-west of the excavation, truncating an orange-brown alluvial sand (230) were four shallow circular features ([255], [257], [259], [261]). Features [255] and [261] were stratigraphically earlier than [257] and [259]. These features, interpreted as the bases of postholes, possibly formed part of a timber structure that may have been associated with the cist burials. Dating evidence was not recovered but all four features were sealed by a dark brownish-grey silty-sand buried topsoil (228), dated by associated finds to the mid 12th-mid 13th century (Appendix 4).

6.5 Phase 3: mid 12th-13th century (blue on Figs. 4 & Sections B-F)

In the mid-12th or 13th century, a large stone apsidal building was established, with an associated burial ground to its east.

In the western half of the excavation, stratigraphically later than Phase 2 (truncating the windblown sand (107) to the north and the topsoil (228) to the south) were the foundations of a large limestone apsidal foundation dating to the mid-12th or 13th century ((109), (225) (114), (166)). This consisted of a 1.60m wide apsidal wall (109); a 1.40 wide north-south cross wall (225), and two 0.90m wide east-west parallel walls attached to the apsidal wall (114) and (166). Four buttresses were incorporated into the construction of this building; one to the north and south of wall (225) and one to the northeast and southwest aspects of the apse. The buttresses would have taken the load of the walls on the joins and on the curve of the apse to prevent them from leaning or falling.

All four walls and buttress foundations were constructed from irregularly tightly packed angular limestones ranging from 0.45m x 0.35m x 0.12m to 0.05m x 0.05m x 0.05m. These stones were of red, grey and blue hues, being of poorer quality limestone or possibly subjected to an intense heat prior to construction. With the exception of the southern end of walls (109) and (166), only the lowest foundation course survived. The stones of all foundations were pitched. Foundations (109), (114) and (166) flowed in one direction, indicating that the parallel walls and apse were constructed as a single entity, the surviving course starting from the northwest and finishing in the southwest. Foundation (225) was constructed from the north to the south, and within the fabric a sherd from a mid 12th-mid 13th century jug was recovered (Appendix 3).

The construction trenches for each of the foundation sets were of similar form, being simple U-shapes just large enough to accommodate trench-built walls. The only variant was the large trench for foundation 225 (context [113]), being somewhat larger than the walled area at 1.90m wide, extending 0.25m either side of the wall. This trench had partially silted prior to construction, suggesting perhaps that it had been left open for some period of time. On removal of the foundation and excavation of the trench, clearly visible in its base were two narrow (0.40m) u-shaped trenches running longitudinally for the length of the cut. These trenches had cut deeper into the sand, and had also silted up prior to construction of the foundation. They were possibly shovel slots.

To the west of wall (225), butting up against it and sealing the foundation trench was a fragment of light yellow-grey sandy mortar floor (229) (see Fig 4). The subsoil (228) at the time of the construction of this building had been sealed with a layer of fine mid orange-yellow silty sand which contained compacted small and medium angular limestone fragments (233). This formed a make-up layer for surface (229).

Located to the south and east of the building, surviving in patches, and sealing subsoil deposit (228) was a possible external construction layer (165) (263), or alternatively a make-up deposit for a surface. This layer was a compacted light whitish-grey sand mixed with frequent limestone fragments. It did not have the clear defined metalling of a pathway, but its distance from the walls provides doubt for this being a

construction deposit resulting from the erection of the walls. Certainly, its production appears to have been contemporary with the construction of the walls. During the use of the building, this layer was cut through by graves associated with the building (although not all graves that cut this deposit are securely dated to this particular phase -see below).

If this deposit was the make-up or foundation of a pathway, the fact that graves had cut through it is not necessarily unusual: pathways as a choice of burial location differ throughout monastic communities. The alleys of the heart of the precinct, such as those of the cloister were seen as a central part of the processional life of the monastery and were chosen by different members of the community from different orders as burial sites (requiem).

The apsidal structure took the form of a chapel; perhaps with an attached rectangular nave. Buildings of the priory likely to have conformed to this pattern were the priory church, the hospital, the chapter house or an ancillary chapel. Due to the size, position in the priory lands, and proximity to the road it is likely that this structure was a chapel associated with a gate: a place for the private worship of travellers and places that often attracted their own burial grounds (James, 1895). There is evidence from the later 12th and early 13th centuries of gatehouse chapels becoming parochial churches and thus attracting their own cemeteries (Hall, 2001).

The surviving foundations of this building, and some of the associated features, were sealed beneath 0.20m of mid-yellowish-orange silty sand containing moderate amounts of small and medium-sized angular stone (227). This deposit was probably derived from the demolition and dismantling of the superstructure and parts of the substructure. The depth to this deposit suggests that dismantling and reuse was thorough.

Twenty-two graves to the east of the putative chapel, and one within the centre of the nave, are likely to have been associated with the life of this structure (shaded blue on Fig 4). Due to the location and depth of the Victorian cellars, stratigraphic relationships were not always entirely clear and there is therefore a possibility that some graves relate to the later structure (145). Within this phase, seven of the inhumations were full or partial cist burials, 10 simple earthen burials and 5 anthropomorphic earthen burials (Appendix 9).

Only twenty of the graves yielded skeletons; the other two being disturbed by later building (see below). All of the individuals recovered were adult; the full range of adult ages being expressed. The group appears to be dominated by males: only four were female; two could not be sexed, where the remaining fourteen were males. The osteological, archaeological and internment data suggests that these were middle ranking individuals from the local community.

It is known that in the later 12th or 13th century, monasteries actively encouraged middle ranking lay men and women to request burial within their precincts, where the opportunity to be buried in the precinct often came with the bequest of land. Charters recording these requests have been found to be higher for men than women and many charters stipulated that burial could not be in the church or the heart of the precinct

(Requiem). This would give the priory a steady income and an ancillary chapel would be a prime location for such burials.

The individuals within this phase are likely to have been people from the local community, middle ranking benefactors possibly family members of the order and possibly one individual who served the chapel.

6.6 Phase 4: 13th-14th century (green on Fig. 4 & Sections A, B , E & F)

Following demolition of the structure described above, a fourth phase of archaeology saw the erection of a much larger building; a replacement possibly to the smaller chapel.

In the southern half of the excavation, truncating the demolition layer associated with the chapel, and built on top of walls (166), (225) and (109) were the remnants of another substantial structure. This consisted of two possible walls; a 1.20m wide east-west aligned wall with a possible buttress on its southern side (145) and a 0.80m stub of a possible north-south aligned (?internal) wall (270). Wall (145) extended from the western end of the trench and terminated or turned southwards under the bulk in the eastern half of the trench. Wall stub (270) protruded northwards from the north face of wall (145) over the top of wall (225).

Both walls were made from large angular blocks of greyish-white limestone ranging from 0.60m x 0.40m x 0.12m to 0.12m x 0.10m x 0.05m. For the majority of its length, wall (145) amounted to only the two lowest foundation courses. Towards the very east of its limits, the foundation had cut through two burials [249] and [117]. The skeletons associated with these cist burials had been removed (presumably reburied elsewhere) and the cists themselves packed with limestone to provide a deeper and stronger foundation for the wall.

Gaps between the stones in wall (145) were filled with fragments of roof tile dating from the 12th-15th century, and a number of sherds of pottery within the lowest course dating to the late 13th-mid 14th century were also recovered (Appendices 3 & 4). In the western end of the wall, some mortar bonding was evident.

Wall stub (270) was represented only by two blocks of limestone in one course; conceivably forming an internal buttress rather than a wall *per se*. It was directly opposite the other possible buttress. The construction trenches for both walls were simple U shapes, just large enough to accommodate the foundations. This structure also had been thoroughly dismantled, where stone robbing was evident in the western end [234]. Sealing the remains was a layer of demolition debris, 0.75m at its maximum depth (155).

No other features or graves can be confidently phased with this structure and, due to the absence of any other associated walls within the excavation, the true character of the building is difficult to establish. However, the quality of the materials used in the build perhaps indicate a substantial and potentially costly structure, possibly reflecting a larger, squarer replacement for the earlier chapel. Interestingly, it was in the mid-13th century that Lincoln Cathedral replaced its rounded eastern chapels with larger

square chapels, which were both more fashionable architectural styles at the time and were more apt to cope with increasing pilgrims and the more elaborate mass that was developing at this time (Lincoln Cathedral website).

6.7 Phase 5: Post-14th century (grey on Fig. 4 & Section A, B, C & F)

Following dismantling of the Phase 4 structure, there appears to have been a chapter of relative dormancy, where a possible natural accumulation and development of soil occurred, sealing the top of the remaining structures.

Phase 5 is characterised by a shift in the monastic architecture and a change in land use. During this period no further buildings were constructed within this part of the monastic lands and a phase of possibly localised abandonment ensued. This was visible as a layer of mid-orange-brown naturally accumulated sandy soil, which contained occasional limestone fragments (245) (106). This deposit ranged in depth over the trench area, being 0.75m at its deepest, and would presumably have taken a considerable time to accumulate. The cause of this accumulation is not clearly perceptible.

The deposit yielded a high quantity of residual 12-13th century tile and some 15th-16th century pottery (Appendices 3 & 4). This layer also yielded some important small finds, including a 13th-14th century silver half penny, some pre-16th century window came and some 13th century decorated window glass. These residual finds are thought to relate to the structural alterations or demolition of the earlier buildings (Appendix 8).

It is unclear what caused this change or decline in the priory, but it is known that in the 14th century fortunes changed for St Katherine's due to reckless speculations over wool sales and loss of sheep, from which the Priory were heavily dependent financially (Midmer, 1979). A further factor having a detrimental effect on all religious orders of England in the mid 14th century was the Bubonic Plague, due to the vast amount of the population that it killed in such a short space of time. All monastic communities felt the effects of this in the 15th century, suffering from falls in income and reduced maintenance of their properties (*ibid.*). It is possible that the combination of these factors caused a decline in St Katherine's that it never fully recovered from.

6.8 Phase 6: Pre 1536 (red on Fig. 4; Sections A & C-G)

During phase 6, the area was re-established as a burial ground; now open to the wider public. A ditch to the south appears to have defined the cemetery area.

Phase 6 reflects the latest stage of activity directly related to St Katherine's Priory and is represented by the re-establishment of a cemetery, which cut through the abandonment layer described above. There were 21 burials yielding human remains associated with this phase. These were situated in the very east and central area of the excavation, although no burials of this phase survived just east of centre, where Victorian cellars will have removed all shallower graves. The graves included two cists, seventeen simple earthen and only three definite examples of coffin burials.

Interestingly, the cist burials were not as substantial as in earlier phases, being constructed of smaller limestone slabs; most likely cheaper to produce (Appendix 9).

At the eastern limits of the excavation, nineteen of the inhumations yielding human remains were exposed. The graves survived in two horizontal rows (with the feet of one row at the head of the other row). Both of these rows survived as two vertical 'stacks' (the grave cuts of later inhumations cutting the fills of earlier examples).

All of these graves truncated deposit (245) except the latest tier of the easternmost row (burials [212], [252] & [207], not shown on plan). These burials truncated deposit (196) a mid orange-grey redeposited silty sand which accumulated as a result of the production of graves. A number of these later graves yielded residual medieval window glass and lead came (Appendix 8).

Twenty-two individuals were associated with this phase. Again, the group was dominated by prime age adult males, with only five of the individuals being female. This phase, however, did yield the only infant burial on site. The combined internment, phase and osteological evidence suggest that these people were from the wider echelons of the local society. They were not of the same status as the earlier phased burials but still of sufficient status to obtain burial within the grounds of the precinct.

It is known that with time monastic cemeteries became more socially permeable and the regulations on who could be buried in the grounds were slackened. Burials, however, were not free and the lowest ranks of society would have had to look to their parish churches for burial.

Also within this phase were a number of sub-rectangular features interpreted as empty graves ([275] and [145]), a small U-shaped pit of unknown function [246] and a ditch. Ditch [154], ran east-west along the southernmost part of the trench, partly beyond the south section, and terminating at its west end just within the excavation boundary: its eastern extent was not established. This ditch appears to have been a southern boundary to the cemetery area. It appears to have naturally silted up over time with deposits (153) and (152), but was re-cut [151] to re-establish the boundary, eventually silting up naturally (150) and passing into disuse with the cemetery. The earliest ditch deposit (153) yielded a sherd of a large jar dating from the 13th-15th century (Appendix 3).

Graves continued beyond the excavation to the north, its northern limits therefore being unknown. There appeared to be no graves further west than the limit of the ditch, suggesting perhaps that some other physical boundary existed to delimit the cemetery and render the ditch unnecessary in this area.

6.9 Phase 7: Post-16th century (pink on Sections A-C, F & G)

In the post-medieval period the site underwent a further phase of abandonment, when the burial ground was no longer used and a natural 'garden soil' accumulated. This deposit, at varying depths across the site, appears to have been spread in an attempt to level the area, prior to renewed construction in the early modern period.

The whole excavation area, incorporating all medieval archaeology, was sealed by a layer of naturally accumulated dark brown grey sandy silt (105) (182). This deposit reflects the final abandonment of monastic activity on the St Katherine's lands and would probably date to around the 16th century based on documentary evidence of the dissolution of the monasteries. The deposit was 0.75m at its deepest and appears to have been put down to level the area, possibly just prior to the activities of Phase 8.

Due to the prolonged period of development and the highly truncated and disturbed nature of this deposit, it yielded finds from the prehistoric to the modern era (Appendix 3, 4, & 8). A number of important small finds were recovered, including 13th century decorated window glass and several fragments of lead waste. These residual finds are thought to relate to the structural alterations or demolition of the buildings from earlier phases (Appendix 8). Also yielded from this context was an animal bone assemblage representing food waste and possibly bone working, neither of which is uncommon within a post-medieval urban environment (Appendix 6).

6.10 Phase 8: Early Modern (orange on Fig. 4 & Sections A-C, F& G)

The site was truncated by a number of building slots relating to residential development of the area.

The most intrusive of the post-medieval developments was the construction of cellars for Victorian buildings. At this time the excavation area was truncated by a number of building slots and pits which impacted the archaeology in the centre of the site and removed relationships between layers in the east and west of the excavation.

The majority of these pits and building slots had been backfilled with modern building rubble and associated finds and a number of residual finds, including pottery sherds and medieval window glass (Appendices 3, 4, 8 & 9).

Below one of these features was a steep sided U-shaped possible well [325]. Due to truncation by the later cellars, the stratigraphic relationships and phasing of this feature remain unclear. The potential importance of a medieval well within the cemetery area warranted further assessment, and a bulk sample from its basal fill was taken for analysis. This yielded waterlogged deposits and waterside taxa. The presence of certain species indicates that standing water was not present all the time and that decomposing organic matter was (Appendix 7). As these are not ideal conditions for a well, it is likely that this feature was in fact a pit of early modern origin.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The archaeology has been grouped into 8 stratigraphic phases, reflecting occupation of the area from the prehistoric to the early modern era, with two hiatuses, at least in terms of structural and intrusive development, during the medieval period.

The earliest phase is represented only by a few residual artefactual remains. These finds possibly relate to some form of, perhaps transient, settlement on the banks of the Witham.

During the second, much later, phase, the archaeology is dominated by the occurrence of cist burials dating to the mid 12th century. These would have been expensive to construct, and are therefore seen as expressions of the wealth or importance of the individuals entombed within them. The structure to which they relate is unclear, although it is possible that they were associated with an early timber chapel.

Phase 3 is characterised by the construction of a large apsidal building in the mid 12th-mid 13th century. Its form and location suggest that this was most likely a gatehouse chapel, though there are other structures within a monastic landscape with similar form that cannot be completely dismissed. Associated with this structure were a number of burials; the demographic profile of which suggests they were members of the lay community who paid for the privilege.

Phase 4 sees the establishment of a larger structure; little can be gained from the remains due to thorough dismantling and robbing. However it is possible that this was a larger more accommodating version of the original gatehouse chapel, built in the 13th-14th century.

Phase 5 is represented by a period of reduced structural activity. This is evident in the archaeological record as layer (106) (also recorded as (245)). The origin is uncertain but possibly relates to a decline in the prosperity of the priory as a result of financial loss and reduced numbers due to a fall in the wool trade and the combined effects of the bubonic plague.

Phase 6 sees the re-establishment of more tangible archaeology; in the form of a larger cemetery. The data yielded from osteological and internment evidence suggests that this cemetery was open to the wider community and possibly represented a lax in the regulations of who could and could not be interred.

Phase 7 reflects a second apparent hiatus, physically visible as layer (105) (also recorded as context (182)) and is more easily explained as the period of decline immediately following the dissolution of the monasteries, during which the lands were sold off. Although the Grantham's are known to have converted the remains of the priory buildings into secular mansions, there was no evidence for this on the current site.

Phase 8 is dominated by the vestiges of late 19th century residential development, and it is this activity that accounts for the majority of disturbance and truncation of earlier archaeological remains.

The existence of St Katherine's priory on the lands south of the Bargate and east of the Fosse Way have long been documented, and numerous finds yielded in the area have been credited to this complex. The current investigation one of a very limited number of controlled excavations in the area and provides a substantial insight into the monastic architecture, structural development, and the associated cemetery population. It has thus made an important contribution to an expanding corpus of information.

8.0 Effectiveness of the methodology

The methodology applied has allowed an entirely satisfactory level of archaeological investigation and recording to take place in advance of residential redevelopment. The works have produced significant results relating to the development of *St Katherine's* Priory that are of local importance.

9.0 Acknowledgements

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11.0 Site Archive

The documentary and physical 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 of completion of the project. The global accession number for this scheme is 2007.139. The Human remains will be archived or reburied following further consultation.