

Summary

- *Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr K Ravivaruman to undertake an archaeological watching brief during alterations to the Grosvenor Hall Nursing Home, Newark Road, Bracebridge, Lincoln.*
- *Full planning permission was granted for an extension to the nursing home, subject to an archaeological recording brief taking place on all groundworks, as recommended by the Lincoln City Council Heritage Team.*
- *No significant archaeology was recorded during the brief.*

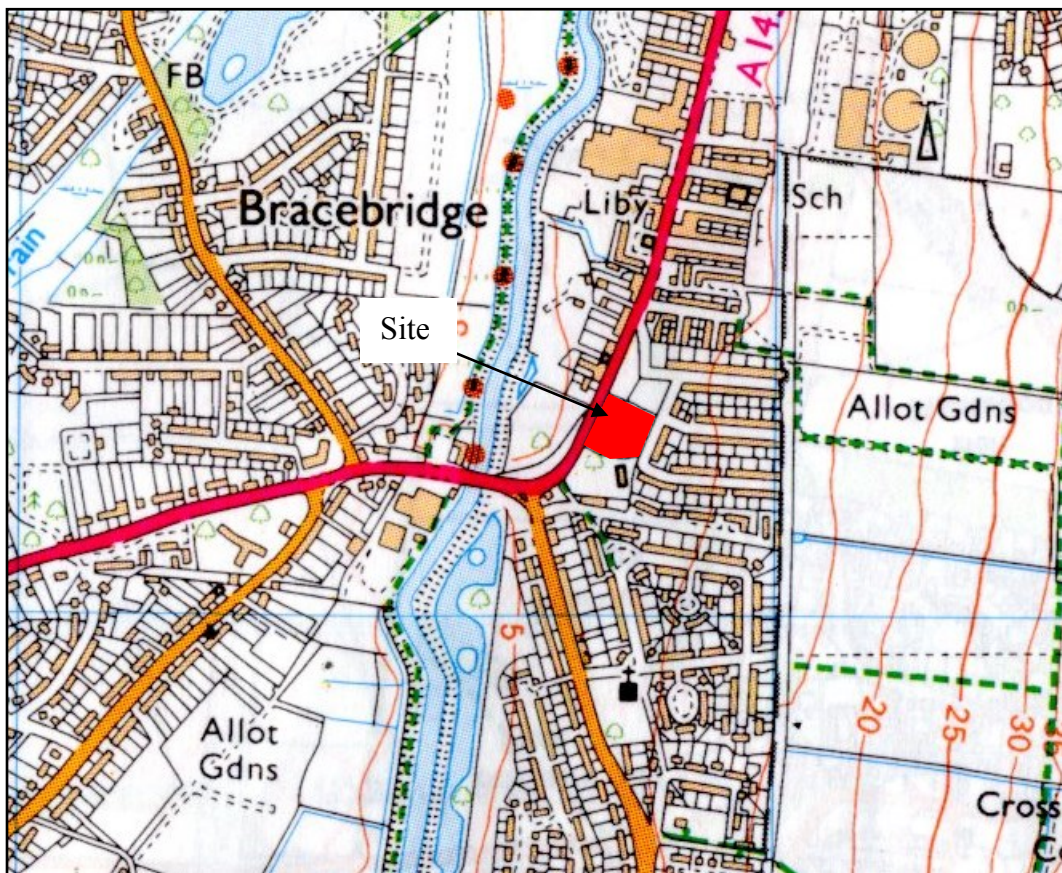


Fig. 1: Site location (scale 1:10 000)
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr K Ravivaruman to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the Grosvenor Hall Nursing Home, Newark Road, Bracebridge, Lincoln.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the requirements of Lincoln City Council as a condition attached to a planning application; an approach that 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, 1994 as revised) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998*.

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1 and 2)

The footprint of the new development covers a broadly rectangular area measuring approximately 174m², situated to the immediate north of the existing Grosvenor Hall Nursing Home. It also includes a service trench, approximately 58m in length, to the west. The Hall is located in Bracebridge just to the east of the River Witham on the east side of Newark Road, in the administrative district of the City of Lincoln.

The north and east boundaries of the development area are flanked by housing, whilst to the west is the A1434 Newark Road. The site is generally flat, with a mean elevation of 5m AOD, and centred on NGR SK 9680 6825.

The drift geology of the area consists of undifferentiated river terrace sand and gravels overlying a solid geology of late Jurassic Lower Lias Clay, Shale and rare limestone (British Geological Survey, 1973).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for an extension to the existing building (Ref. 2007/0763/F). The granting of this permission was subject to there being an archaeological recording brief on all associated groundworks, as advised by the City of Lincoln Heritage Team.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The village of Bracebridge appears in the Domesday Book of 1086, grouped with the adjacent settlement of Canwick. It appears to have been a typical nucleated village, which made full use of the river, utilising mills and fisheries (Jones *et. al.* 2003).

Grosvenor Hall was constructed in 1883 by Albert Vicars (Pevsner, 1989).

Recent excavation (c.600m to the southwest of the site) recorded a kiln and waster sherds, indicating late Roman pottery production (Williams, 2008). It has been postulated that in this area the Fosse Way crossed the River Witham, running west along an area known as *The Pingles* (Mick Jones pers. comm.).

Work carried out by Archaeological Project services in 2003 (c.100m northeast of the site) recorded early Roman beam slots, pits and high status pottery possibly associated with the Fosse Way.

Individual finds from the area consist of a Bronze Age flint scraper, a Roman coin and a Viking spearhead.

5.0 Methodology

Foundation trenches for the new development were excavated down to the formation level of the extension. The machining was undertaken using a mini tracked excavator fitted with a 0.50m toothed bucket. The exposed soil profile was then intermittently recorded at 1:20 scale. A colour photographic record was also maintained, and descriptions of all deposits encountered were written on pro forma record sheets. Given an absence of significant archaeology, coupled with health and safety issues, scale plans of individual archaeological features were not prepared on this occasion.

6.0 Results (Figs. 2 and 3; Plates 1 and 2)

No significant archaeology was recorded during the recording brief.

At the time of the brief, the area of both the extension and the associated service trench was a tarmac car park and driveway (006). Underlying this was a sub-base (005).

The eastern part of the site (Section 1) exhibited a substantially different stratigraphy to the rest. Therefore the results are presented in two groups (see below).

Section 1 (Fig. 4)

The solid geology (Lower Lias Clay) (001) was recorded 0.78m below the current ground level. Sealing this was a layer of natural limestone brash (002), 0.30m thick. This in turn was sealed by a 0.10m cultural layer (003) containing frequent charcoal and mortar flecks and early 20th century pottery (not retained).

Section 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Fig. 3, Plate 2)

The earliest layer recorded was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with modern brick inclusions (008). Sealing this was brown sandy silt; a re-deposited topsoil (007). Both of these layers result from major levelling during the early 20th century.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Although the site is within close proximity to know areas of archaeological significance, no significant archaeological deposits were exposed during this watching brief.

The site has undergone major levelling in the 20th century to a depth of 1.50+ in the western area. It is possible that more significant archaeology has been preserved beneath these deposits, but no such remains have been disturbed as a result of redeveloping the nursing home.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology was effective, in that it enabled the thorough examination and recording of all natural and cultural deposits that had been disturbed by the redevelopment. In this instance, the deposit sequence was archaeologically insignificant.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr K Ravivaruman for this commission.

10.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1973 *Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50,000 Provisional Series.* Keyworth, Nottingham, British Geological Survey.

Williams. S. *Land to the rear of 41-73 Hykeham Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire.* Pre-Construct Archaeology

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

Pevsner N. and Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.* Butler & Tanner Ltd, Frome & London.

11.0 Archive

The documentary and finds archive is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive can be gained by quoting number 2006.149