

STONEGARTH, NORTHGATE, LINCOLN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING
REPORT

Site code	SNL 08
NGR:	SK 979 719
Planning Ref:	2008/0047/F
Accn No:	2009.155
PCA Ref:	07/513

Report prepared for

Horsman Homes

by

G. Tann

January 2010

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47 Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

©Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Contents

Site Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
2 Site Location	2
3 Planning Background	2
4 Archaeological Background	2
5 Methodology	3
6 Results	3
7 Discussion and Conclusion	4
8 Bibliography	4
9 Acknowledgements	4
10 Site Archive	5
Appendix 1: Selected Photographs	
Appendix 2: Context Summary	
Appendix 3: Roman pottery archive report (I.M. Rowlandson)	
Appendix 4: OASIS form summary	

Illustrations

- Fig 1** Site location plan (not to scale; © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA OS Licence No. 100049278).
- Fig. 2** Location of the monitored areas (© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).
- Fig 3** a) Sketch plan of the new garage foundation trenches area.
b) Sample section of deposits monitored in the Garage plot area. Scale 1:20.
- Fig 4** Sample section for monitored area to the north of The Vinery. Scale 1:20.

Summary

- *Archaeological monitoring and recording during contractors' excavations of foundation and new drainage trenches identified evidence of a large feature, thought to be a quarry pit, backfilled in the 19th century*
- *The backfilling pre-dated construction of The Vinery, which is marked on maps from 1842.*
- *Two residual Roman pottery sherds were recovered.*

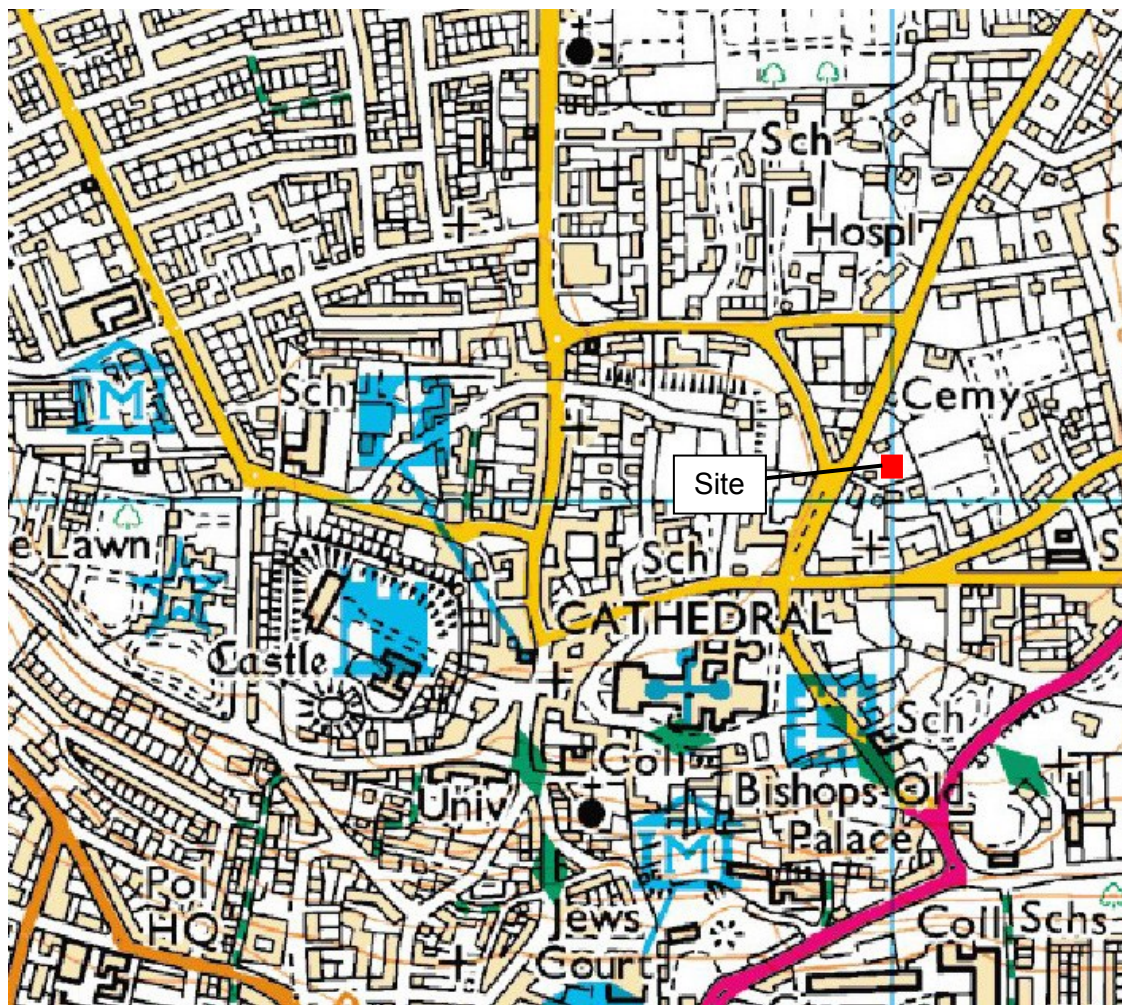


Fig. 1 Site location plan (not to scale; © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Between November 2008 and June 2009, Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) (formerly Pre-Construct Archaeology [Lincoln]) conducted intermittent archaeological monitoring and recording for Horsman Homes at Stonegarth, Northgate, Lincoln during groundworks associated with the construction of a new double garage and drainage system (centred at NGR: SK 979 719). The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out as a condition of planning permission 2008/0047/F. Three visits were made, by E. Rowe (17th and 18th November 2008) and G. Tann (24th June 2009).

The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with an agreed Archaeological Works Specification, dated 14/11/2008. The work followed the standards recommended in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy and Guidance Note 16* (Department of Environment 1990), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 2008) and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

2. Site location and description

The site is situated to the east of Northgate, in the uphill area of Lincoln (Fig. 1). Ground level falls to the east of the street frontage. The development was within the grounds of the existing 20th century property 'Stonegarth', and the new garage occupied land to the north of the existing house. The Vinery, a stone structure originally functioning as a horticultural building, is situated at the base of the slope and to the north of the access.

The underlying geology of the area is Jurassic limestone, with minimal cover (BGS 1973).

3. Planning Background

Full planning permission (2008/0047/F) was granted for the conversion of The Vinery to a dwelling, and the erection of a double garage, subject to conditions, including one requiring a scheme of archaeological monitoring, recording and reporting.

4.0 Archaeological Background

The site lies outside of the boundaries of the 'Lincoln Colonia' Scheduled Ancient Monument, but remains associated with the Roman period extend beyond the city's defences, and Roman quarrying occurred further to the east.

The footprint of the new garage is within 5m of The Vinery, a building known to have been constructed before 1842, and which appears to contain re-used medieval carved masonry (Pls. 1 and 2). The re-used architectural fragments may have derived from the medieval Deanery site (now occupied by No. 30 Eastgate), which was demolished in 1847 (J Herridge, pers. comm).

The new garage site occupies part of the site of a backfilled private swimming pool that had belonged to Stonegarth (Fig. 2; Pls. 3 and 4).

5.0 Methodology

The foundation trenches for the new garage were excavated by machine. The 0.6m wide foundation trenches were dug to 2.0m below present ground level. A 0.4m wide trench was excavated by mini-digger in the 1.5m wide space between the Vinery and the property boundary wall.

6.0 Results

6.1 *The Garage* (Figs. 3a and 3b; Pls. 5 and 6)

The garage foundation trenches encountered the reinforced concrete block wall of the backfilled swimming pool. This curved, forming the eastern end of the former pool, with part of the northern side within the garage footprint. Brick rubble had been used to backfill the pool construction trench, and the pool had been filled with clean limestone chips.

Only the north-eastern side of the garage footprint had not been previously removed by the swimming pool. Here the sequence of deposits comprised 0.4m of made ground (001), containing limestone chips, builders' sand, and soil, above a 0.4m thick layer of dark sandy silt (002). The layer had been disturbed by roots, and incorporated charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles.

Beneath context (002) was a 0.2m thick layer of yellow/brown silt (003), with a small element of limestone rubble. This layer contained two sherds of 3rd-4th century Roman pottery. Beneath it was a 0.4m thick stonier soil layer (004), with limestone bedrock (005) encountered at a depth approximately 1.4m below ground level.

Service trenches excavated beside the new garage foundation were observed to cut through similar deposits.

6.2 *Pumping Chamber Pit and Pipe Trench* (Fig. 4; Pls. 7 and 8)

A small length of trench between the new garage and the Vinery was excavated for a drain. This trench was examined after the pipe had been inserted, and no archaeological features were observed.

The drain trench formed part of a new drain run leading to a pumping chamber adjacent to the north wall of the Vinery. The new pumping chamber pit, 1.75m x 1.1m, was situated beside the rear door of the building, at the western end of the drain trench (between 4.4m and 6.2m from the north-eastern corner). The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.8m.

At the eastern end of the building the 0.06m thick asphalt surface sealed the fill (101) of the construction cut for the Vinery's north-eastern corner buttress. The fill contained brick and stone rubble, mixed with dark brown sandy silt. The construction cut (107) was at least 0.44m deep, with a steep-sided western face. To the west of the disturbance, the 0.5m deep trench cut through dark brown sandy silt (102) but here there was very little rubble.

The narrowness of the pipe trench presented difficulties for examining deposits closely and for recording. The wider space of the pumping chamber pit allowed the trench section to be viewed more easily, and, as a result, it was possible to distinguish a number of separate layers which had not been identifiable in the drain trench. It is likely that these continued to the east.

Within the new pit, (102) was 0.1m thick, above a 0.15m thick layer of tile fragments, mortar, and yellow/brown sandy silt (103). A 0.32m thick layer of loose rubble with some soil and ash (104) covered a 0.5m thick layer of dark brown sandy silt with stone rubble (105). This overlay a deposit at least 0.7m thick of similar soil (106), mixed with stone rubble and roof tile fragments. The inclusion of a fragment of a stoneware blacking jar indicated that this material had been deposited no earlier than the 19th century, despite its depth, 1.8m below present ground level. Lenses of redeposited topsoil were also present within this layer.

The material was interpreted as multiple fills within a large feature [108], but no evidence of the extent of this feature was visible.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The deposits exposed to the north-east of the garage appear to represent an undisturbed series of naturally and probably agriculturally produced soil horizons, covered by redeposited soil which may have been derived from excavation of the swimming pool. There remains the possibility that none of the deposits above the bedrock are *in situ*, but have been laid after the cessation of limestone quarrying on the site.

The deep disturbance to the rear of the Vinery, definitely pre-dating its construction (and probably the reason for its buttresses), is assumed to mark a post-medieval or earlier quarry pit. The derivation of the modern house name of 'Stonegarth' may be a documentary or cartographic source giving the post-medieval or medieval name for a field in this position. The name seems to indicate either an enclosed yard/field with a predominance of stones, or the site of a stone quarry (Field 1972, 220-221). A field-name containing 'garth' would seem to push back the origins of such activity on the site into the medieval period.

8.0 Bibliography

BGS 1973 *British Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales); Solid and Drift; Sheet 114 Lincoln*. Scale 1:50,000.

Field, J. 1973 *English Field Names*.

9.0 Acknowledgements

PCA would like to thank Horsman Homes for this commission.

10.0 Site Archive

The archive is currently held at the offices of PCA, Saxilby, Lincolnshire and will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln (LCNCC 2009.155).

Appendix 2

Context Summary (SNL 09)

Context No.	Type		Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Above 002	Made ground, probably associated with construction of 'Stonegarth' or swimming pool	
002	Layer	Below 001, above 003	Dark brown silt loam, with charcoal flecks. Buried topsoil, possibly imported	
003	Layer	Below 002, above 004	Yellow/brown silt with some stone rubble	2 x Roman pot sherds
004	Layer	Below 003, above 005	Yellow/brown silt with frequent stone rubble	
005	Layer	Below 004	Limestone bedrock	
100	Layer		Asphalt surface. 0.06m thick	
101	Fill	Fill of 107. Above 107, below 100	Fill of 107	19 th century brick, tile; not retained
102	Fill	Fill of 108. Cut by 107, above 103.	Dark brown sandy silt, 0.45m thick	
103	Fill	Fill of 108. Above 104, below 102	Yellow/brown sandy silt, with mortar and tile fragments; 0.18m thick	
104	Fill	Fill of 108. Above 105, below 103	Stony brown sandy silt; 0.24m thick	
105	Fill	Fill of 108. Above 106, below 104	Dark brown sandy silt with stone rubble; 0.5m thick	
106	Fill	Fill of 108. Below 105; lowest visible fill of 108	Dark brown sandy silt with stone and tile rubble; 0.7m thick	19 th century glass, stoneware fragments; not retained
107	Cut	Filled by 101. Cuts 102	Steep-sided construction cut for north-east corner buttress, The Vinery	
108	Cut	Filled by 102, 103, 104, 105, 106	Presumed quarry pit – no edges seen. 1.8m + deep, 6.6m+ west-east.	

Appendix 3

The Roman pottery archive- Stonegarth, Northgate, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (SNL08)

I.M. Rowlandson
September 14th 2009

Dating Summary						
Context	F No	Spot date	Comments	Sherds	Weight	Rim eve
003	003	3-4C	Two sherds from a subsoil layer- dated by a colour coated base sherd	2	31	0

Pottery Archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
003	NVCC?	CLSD		1			BASE; PATCHY FABRIC BROWN COLOUR COAT		1	24	0	0
003	GREY	CLSD		1			BS; LOC GREYWARE		1	7	0	0

Appendix 4

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

STONEGARTH, NORTHGATE, LINCOLN - Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

OASIS ID - preconst3-70605

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Geoff Tann	geoff@pre-construct.co.uk	18 January 2010

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?

Grey literature	Upload boundary file	Request record re-opened	Printable version
-----------------	----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

[Email Lincolnshire HER about this OASIS record](#)

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2009 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Wednesday 1 July 2009

Cite only: /d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/formctl.cfm?OID=preconst3-70605 for this page