

**SHAMROCK COURT, CLUMBER STREET  
LINCOLN**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**

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NGR: SK 9704 6887  
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Report prepared for

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by

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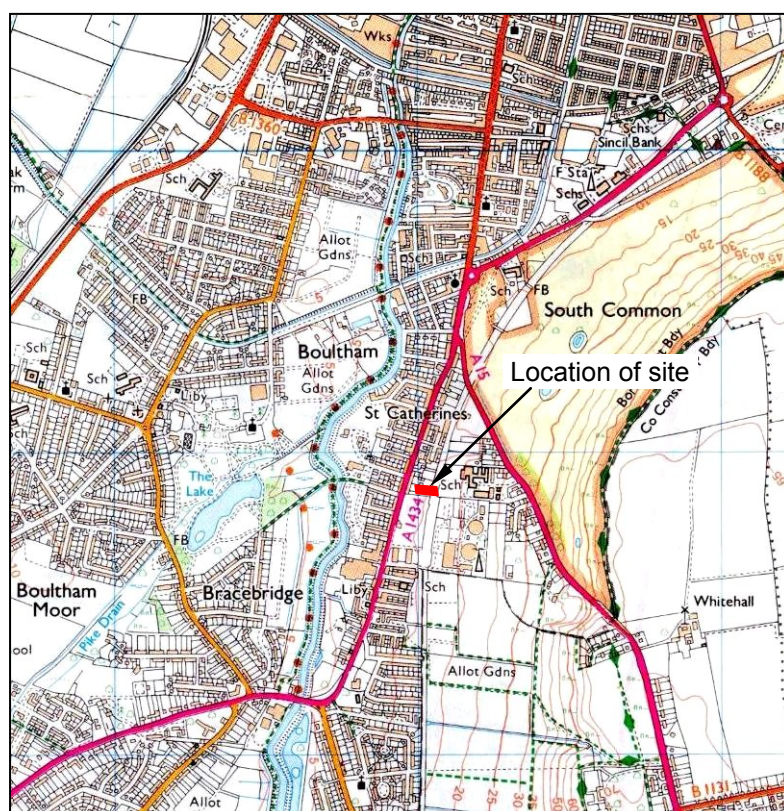
- Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000
- Fig. 2:** Site location plan at scale 1:1250
- Fig. 3:** Plan of the groundworks subject to archaeological monitoring, at scale 1:100, with two sample sections at scale 1:20

## Plates

- PI. 1:** General shot of the site during the groundworks, looking north-east
- PI. 2:** The completed trench at the south-eastern corner of the plot, looking north-east
- PI. 3:** Brick structure 005, looking north-west

## Summary

- Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during contractors' groundworks for seven new dwellings at the southern end of Shamrock court and to the rear of Nos. 102 – 116 Newark Road
- The monitoring of foundation trenches revealed no significant archaeological deposits and just one modern rubbish pit within the northeast corner of Plot 1.



**Figure 1:** Site location. (Based on the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Explorer map, Sheet 260. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording for D. Cross Developments Ltd during groundworks for seven new dwellings at Shamrock Court, Clumber Street, Lincoln. This monitoring was undertaken by D Ferguson (28/09/09 & 01/10/09) and S Savage (30/03/10).

The investigative works were undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a planning condition attached to a planning approval issued by City of Lincoln Council (Application 2008/0216/F). Archaeological observation and recording was carried out in accordance with current best practice and national guidelines, as set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy and Guidance Note 16* (Department of Environment 1990), and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 2008).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description (figs. 1 & 2)

Clumber Street is situated to the east of the A1434 Newark Road, to the south of the St Catherine's area of Lincoln. At the eastern end of Clumber Street, Shamrock Court uses the easement of the former railway line, providing access to the land that formerly lay at the eastern end of gardens of Newark Road houses. The proposed development site is at the southern end of Shamrock Court, to the rear of Nos. 102 – 116 Newark Road.

## 3.0 Topography and Geology

The drift geology of the area consists of undifferentiated river terrace sand and gravel overlying lower lias clay, shale and rare limestone. (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), 1973).

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The development site is located at the foot of Cross O' Cliff Hill, an area which may have been grazed, farmed or occupied since prehistory. It lies close to Newark Road, which re-uses the course of the Roman Fosse Way, and is close also to Roman Ermine Street (now the A15). From the Roman period onwards, land at the edge of the hillside may have been used for clay or stone quarrying (Tann, 2009).

The Witham Act of 1812 facilitated the drainage of the low lying land to the south of the city by extending the Sincil Dyke to Bardney (Hill, 1965). This allowed reclamation of the land for industry and most notably the railway in 1846 (Kemp, 1993). The development site is along the former easement of the Lincoln - Honington railway, which opened in 1867 and closed in 1965 (but continued to serve the Bracebridge gasworks until 1971).

## 5.0 Methodology

The monitoring works focused on the footing trenches associated with the new development, an area approximately 46m by 30m, located at the southern end of Shamrock Court and to the east of Newark Road.

The groundworks involved the excavation of foundation trenches to a depth of 1m using a JCB equipped with a 0.5m bucket. Recording was hampered and made dangerous by collapsing trench sides, induced by a high water table and resultant flooding. Due to health

and safety concerns it was deemed prudent to produce photographic records and not enter trenches in order to produce a complementary drawn record (see Fig 2).

All groundworks were monitored by the attending archaeologist.

## 6.0 Results (fig. 2)

Horizontal deposits exposed during the monitoring of all trenches revealed an identical sequence:

(100): topsoil containing occasional building debris; 25-30cm deep

/  
(101): clean red-brown subsoil; 20-25cm deep

/  
(102): natural deposit of clean light grey/brown silty sand; 25-30cm deep

/  
(103): natural red sandy silt/grey silty clay; depth unknown.

Cut through the topsoil in the northeast corner of Plot 1 was a large area of modern disturbance (Fig 2), and this was the only vaguely archaeological feature that was observed over the entire build area.

## 7.0 Conclusion

The programme of archaeological monitoring at Shamrock Court yielded no significant archaeological findings whatsoever. The only deposits encountered were natural silts and sands, overlain by topsoil, and in one place cut by a modern rubbish pit. This feature was probably associated with the activities of existing properties bounding Shamrock Court to the east and Newark Road to the west.

## 8.0 Bibliography

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), 1973, Lincoln, Sheet 114, Drift Edition. 1:50,000 Provisional Series.

Hill, J.W.F., 1965, *Medieval Lincoln*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Kemp, S.J., 1993, 'Evolving Lincoln', in Bennett S. & Bennett B. (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Lincoln*. The University of Hull Press, Hull.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS would like to thank D. Cross Developments Ltd for this commission and for their cooperation and assistance during the fieldwork.

## 10.0 Site Archive

The archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd, Saxilby, Lincolnshire, where arrangements are in hand for deposition at a suitable local museum.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view of site looking west, incorporating Plots 3 to 7.



**Plate 2:** Plot 1. Foundation trench, (Frame 15) looking south, showing modern rubbish pit in foreground.



**Plate 3:** Plot 2. Foundation trench (Frame 14) looking south.



**Plate 4:** Plot 3.  
Foundation trench  
(Frame 2) looking west.



**Plate 5:** Plot 4.  
Foundation trench  
(Frame 9) looking south.



**Plate 6:** Plot 6.  
Foundation trench (Frame  
13) looking north.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary (SCL 09)

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds/Dating
<b>100</b>	Layer	Above (101)	Topsoil	Modern
<b>101</b>	Layer	Below (100) above (102) (103)	Sub-soil	Natural
<b>102</b>	Layer	Below (101)	Natural silty sand	Natural
<b>103</b>	Layer	Below (101)	Natural red sand silt	Natural



### **Appendix 3: OASIS summary**