

THE NEW VICARAGE, CHURCH WALK, BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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Report prepared for
Stephen Roberts Associates
(on behalf of the **Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance**)

by

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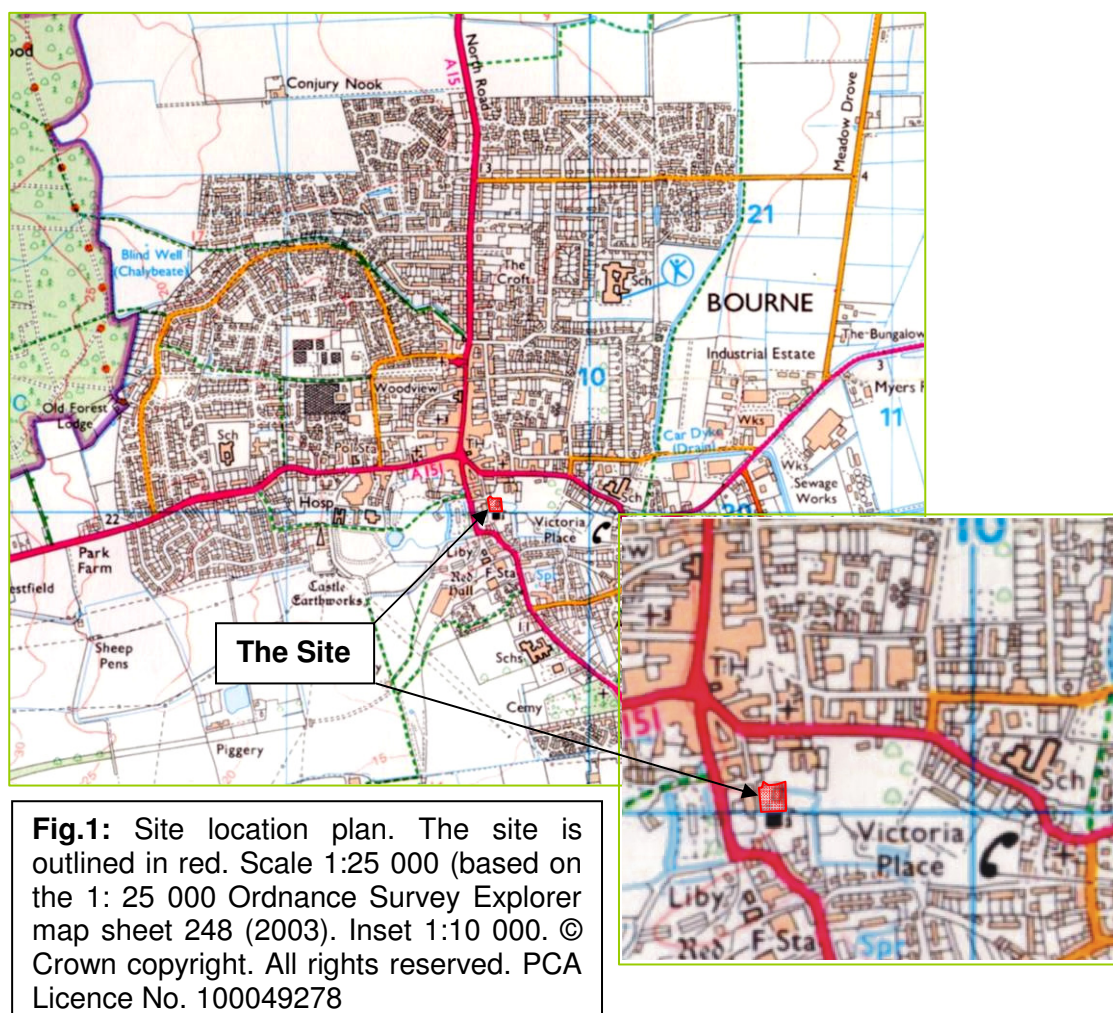
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Summary

- Archaeological recording was conducted during groundworks for an extension to Bourne Vicarage, within the grounds of the former abbey.
- A layer of demolition rubble had sealed a stone-lined drain which crossed part of the footprint of the new extension.
- The drain walls incorporated two architectural fragments which are thought to have been associated with the medieval priory. The drain may have been laid as part of a re-landscaping of the site, and may have drained a natural depression. A post-Dissolution date is suggested for the works.



1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Stephen Roberts Associates (on behalf of their clients, The Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance) to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for an extension at The New Vicarage, Church Walk, Bourne, Lincolnshire. Archaeological recording commenced with a visit by Colin Palmer-Brown on 11th May 2010 and was completed by Julian Sleep the following day.

The archaeological programme was undertaken to meet the objectives of a project specification prepared by PCA (dated 23/4/2010), based upon a detailed brief issued by the Senior Historic Environment Officer of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (dated 27/8/2009). The project followed current best practice and national guidance including the *Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2010), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *as revised*), and *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008).

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 & 2)

The market town of Bourne is located 30km north-west of the city of Peterborough and 19km south-west of Spalding within the administrative district of South Kesteven.

Church Walk is situated close to the centre of the town, to the south-east of the cross-roads where the A151 and A15 converge within Bourne. It lies close to the medieval core of the town and within the precinct of Bourne Abbey. It is centred on NGR: TF 09691 20023.

The development area, which had been part of the lawn of the vicarage garden, is bounded to the north by the existing vicarage and small car park, to the east by a timber fence and further garden area, to the west by a stone boundary wall with Church Lane beyond, and to the south by a hedge line and the priory church.

The site lies at approximately 10m AOD, being predominantly flat with a very slight slope from the north to the south. The solid geological substrate for the area is Oxford Clay, which is overlain with sands and gravels (BGS 1972).

3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted by South Kesteven District Council for the construction of an extension to the priest's study and sitting room. The consent had conditions attached, including Condition 3:

"No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during construction work in accordance with written details which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event of important archaeological features or remains being discovered which are beyond the scope of the watching brief to excavate and record and which require a fuller rescue excavation, then construction work shall cease until the applicant has secured the implementation of a further programme of

archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to provide a reasonable opportunity to record the history of the site.”

A specification for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording was produced by PCA in April 2010 and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Online searches of the *Heritage Gateway* and *Archaeological Data Service* provided records of archaeological evidence for domestic settlement at Bourne from the prehistoric period onwards. The search revealed over 300 results; a general overview of the archaeological background is provided, with close attention to the area surrounding the development site.

Finds relating to the prehistoric period have been discovered in the area, including Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools (HER 38895 & 33248) and sherds of Bronze Age pottery (HER 38895 & 34116). Cut features relating to Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement have also been revealed by excavation and geophysical survey in the north-east of Bourne (HER 34114 & 34835).

Evidence for Roman settlement throughout Bourne is fairly intensive: the town lies upon the route of King Street, a 1st century AD road running from Water Newton to Sleaford where it joins Ermine Street, the current A15 (Whitwell 1992). The Car Dyke, a 2nd century AD canal, also runs along the eastern edge of Bourne and possibly less than 500m east of the current development site.

It is unsurprising therefore that Roman settlement evidence in the form of finds scatters and cut features are present throughout Bourne. Less than 250m south of the development site, at the frontage of South Road, an excavation revealed evidence of a building, rubbish pits and two human burials (HER 36484).

A tessellated pavement and coin hoard, along with other artefacts, were discovered in the 1750s less than 400m south-west of the site and indicate the location of a possible villa (HER 33198).

Saxon finds have been recovered in small quantities from the north-east edge of Bourne, predominantly from Romano-British settlement sites, suggesting a continuation of occupation from the Roman period albeit on a smaller scale (HER 34117, 34135 & 34137).

Less than 400m to the south-west of the site, the earthwork remains of the Norman castle of Bourne are visible. Excavations have revealed walls, a rampart, a moat and fish ponds, along with pottery dating from the 10th-17th centuries (HER 30043).

The development site lies within the precinct of Augustinian Abbey of Bourne. The abbey was founded in 1138 and was surrendered in 1536-1539, at which date its buildings were mostly demolished. The abbey church, dedicated to St Peter and St Paul, survives to the south of the new vicarage. The vicarage itself is located where the monastic buildings would have stood.

Excavations conducted to the north of the church in 1985, prior to construction of the new vicarage, identified parts of the north, east and west ranges of the abbey. The north range revealed remains of robbed out walls and plaster and mortar floors.

During a watching brief at The Cedars Care Home, less than 100m to the northeast of the site a sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and two fragments of dressed limestone, probably from the Abbey buildings, were recovered (HER 33233).

Evidence of further medieval activities is prevalent throughout Bourne. Several phases of medieval building and domestic settlement have been revealed less than 400m to the east of the site. Industrial activities such as pottery manufacturing were also revealed close to this area, while evidence for metal working and ridge and furrow farming has been recorded on land adjacent to South Road, less than 250m to the south of the site (HER 35005, 35512, 36485 & 34890).

The church of St Peter and St Paul shows evidence of alteration to its medieval form during the post-medieval period, with its churchyard continuing in use until the modern era. Ordnance Survey maps from the 19th century onwards show the site north of the church to be open land devoid of buildings, presumably until the construction of the vicarage in the 1980's.

There was the potential for the watching brief to reveal finds dating from the prehistoric periods onwards, though evidence relating to the Abbey buildings and its possible cemetery were considered most likely to be disturbed by the groundworks.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The primary objective of the scheme was to identify, record, and interpret any archaeological remains exposed, disturbed or destroyed by groundworks associated with the development.

6.0 Methodology

Groundworks for this scheme were completed without an archaeologist in attendance, as the result of a breakdown in communication. This was immediately brought to the attention of the Senior Historic Environment Officer of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire and archaeological assessment and recording was carried out in retrospect.

All exposed plan and section surfaces were examined to assess the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and features. Context sheets were completed for each feature/deposit, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan and section. Plans were recorded at 1:50 and sections were recorded at 1:20. These scales were sufficient to allow a comprehensive understanding of relationships to be made and to show the detail of features and deposits. Following completion of the groundworks the stripped area was accurately located on to a master plan provided by the developer by triangulation. Colour slide and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts.

6.1 Post-Excavation

Following completion of the fieldwork, all finds were washed and processed at the offices of PCA following in house standard operating procedures. A post-excavation assessment of all context descriptions, drawings and finds was then carried out, with all finds being sent for specialist assessment.

7.0 Results (Figs. 3 - 7)

At the base of the foundation trenches for the new extension, mid-orange-brown sandy gravel and silty clay (105) was encountered (Pl. 1). This is interpreted as natural drift geological deposits, surviving to a maximum height of 0.95m below ground level.

Above the orange sandy gravel was a 0.4m thick layer of mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay (104), which contained frequent limestone fragments. The layer sloped upwards towards the south. This material may have been the fill of an extensive deep feature such as a pit, extending below the existing vicarage building, but this was not confirmed.

The mixed deposit (104) was overlain by a stone drain (103) which was aligned north-east/south-west across the development area (Pls. 2-4). It was unclear whether this had been constructed within a trench excavated from a higher level, or whether it had been built on an earlier ground surface and then buried. As no construction trench could be identified, the latter interpretation may be correct. The interior of the drain was approximately 0.2m wide and 0.1m high, with its walls constructed from rectangular limestone rubble, limestone fragments, and glazed roof tile fragments. Two pieces of re-used architectural fragments were retrieved. The tile fragments from the drain date between the 13th-16th centuries, deriving from two local kiln sites. They indicate that the drain was constructed no earlier than the 14th century (Appendix 3). The worked stone is assumed to derive from the priory but again it could have been re-used while the monastic site remained in use (Appendix 4).

The drain was covered by a 0.8m deep mixed layer of dark grey-brown silty clay (102). This deposit contained frequent brick fragments, limestone rubble and cobbles, suggesting it was at least partly derived from demolished structures.

The construction trench for the existing southern wall of the vicarage [101] had been cut through layer (102). Its fill (108) varied, and it may have been further disturbed by an exploratory hole or planting hole [107] which contained a much darker soil and parts of a rubber tyre (100).

Prior to the new development, the area had been covered by a 0.12m thick layer of dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (106). This had been stripped and replaced by crushed brick hardcore.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The dating evidence recovered from the archaeological recording comprised the roof tile and the limestone architectural fragments, which were used, together with limestone rubble, in the fabric of the stone drain. The tile is from two local sources, with one fragment dated to the 13th -14th century, but the other with a much wider potential range of late 14th - 16th century. On this basis, the drain could be of medieval date and contemporary with Bourne Abbey, or it could represent a post-Dissolution rearrangement of the site.

The pieces of worked stone almost certainly derive from the monastic buildings but need not represent post-Dissolution destruction. They could have been previously reused in a repair while the abbey was in use.

The drain appears to have been laid within, perhaps close to the edge of, a partially backfilled earlier feature, centred further to the north. The broad, shelved or gradually sloping, southern side of that feature is unlikely to represent a ditch. Where the feature was deepest, the presence of relatively clay-rich natural deposits may indicate that it was originally a natural depression rather than an archaeological feature.

Both the lower layer of material (below the drain) and the layer that covered the drain were of very similar character. This could be indicative of a single episode of site levelling which incorporated the laying of a drain. The mixed nature of the deposits may add support to a post-Dissolution date for the landscaping.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.

The methodology employed was sufficient to allow the identification and recording of archaeological deposits and features exposed by the groundworks.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Stephen Roberts Associates for this commission.

11.0 Bibliography

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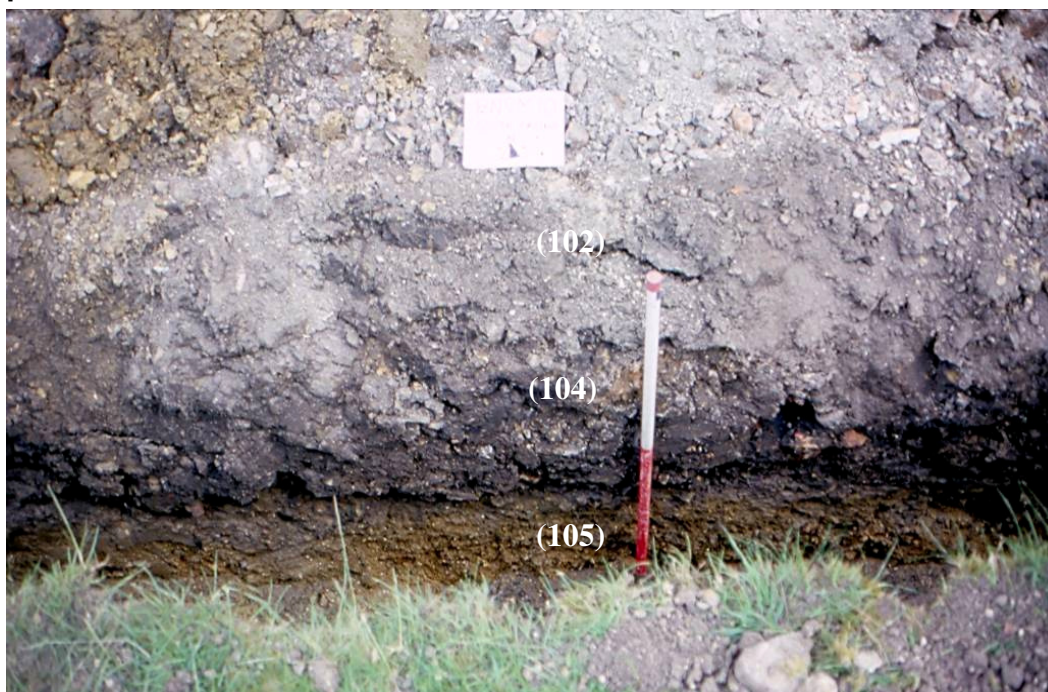
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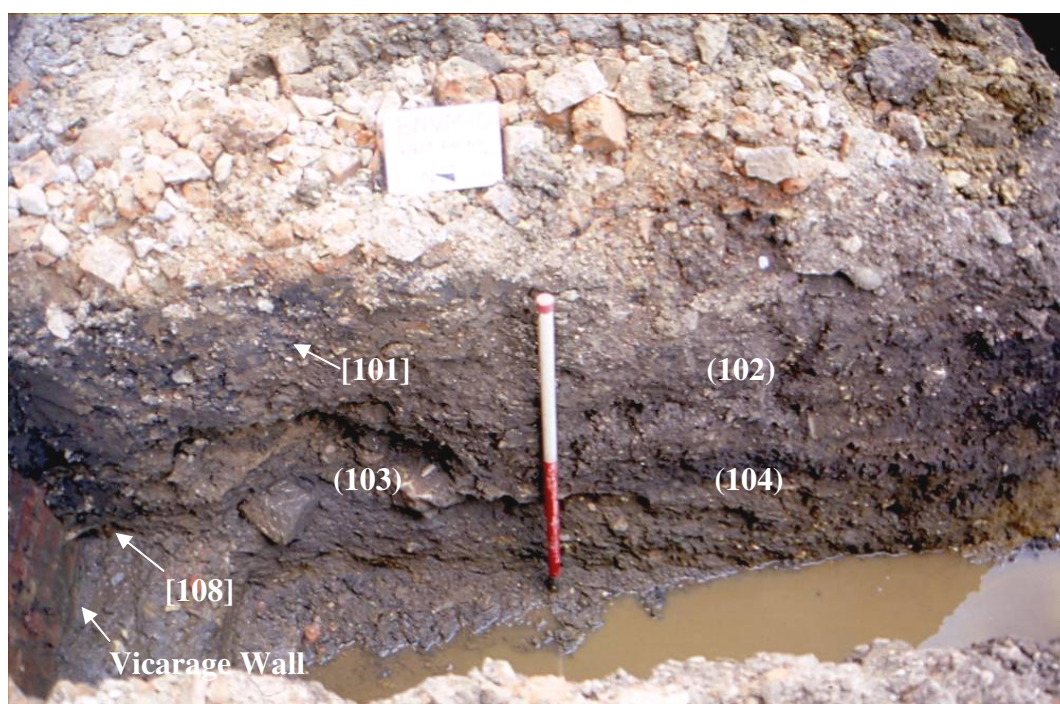
12.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently held by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited with The Collection within six months of completion of the project: access to the archive may be gained by quoting the LCNCC: 2010.67.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Pl. 1 South facing section of the new foundation trench. The natural sand (105) is sealed by dark mixed soil (104), which in turn is sealed by a thicker but lighter coloured mixed layer (102). (Looking north, scale 1m).



Pl. 2 West facing section of the new foundation trench. The remains of a limestone drain (103) can be seen between the two mixed layers. Worked stone and tile were built into the construction of this feature. This drain has then been sealed by made ground (102) which is seen cut by the construction trench of the vicarage wall. Scale 1m.



Pl. 3 Detailed shot of post-medieval drain (103), looking south. Scale 1m.



Pl. 4 Looking south-west along drain route exposed within the north facing face of the foundation trench (See section A).

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description
100	Fill	Dark greyish-brown silty clay fill of planting hole or investigative trench slot [101]
101	Cut	Cut of investigative trench slot against vicarage wall
102	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay fill containing frequent brick and limestone fragments- made ground
103	Structure	yellowish-grey limestone SW- NE orientated drain
104	Layer	Mid-dark greyish-brown silty clay- made ground, possibly filling natural depression.
105	Layer	Orangey-brown sandy gravel- natural
106	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay- topsoil
107	Cut	Cut of construction trench for vicarage wall
108	Fill	Dark blackish-grey silty clay fill of construction slot [107]

Tile Archive for The New Vicarage, Church Walk, Bourne, Lincolnshire (BNVM 10)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
103	GRID	Glazed ridge tile	Bourne Fabric D	1	85	thin patchy yellow/light green glaze;light yellow slip;10mm thick;finger impression on underside;finely	late 14th to 16th
103	GRID	Glazed ridge tile	Bourne Fabric B	1	344	weathered;med-coarse bedding on underside;corner;thin reduced green glaze;10-12mm thick;finger marks on int	13th to 14th

Appendix 4 Architectural Fragments (S. Savage)

SF 1

Context: 103
Material: Oolitic limestone, probably Barnack
Colour: Off yellow/grey, occasionally orange
Conversion: Roughly squared
Dimensions: 265mm x 213mm x 98mm



Description

Most faces display the remains of coarse diagonal chiselling (part of the squaring process) but one side has been given a smoother face with a finer chisel and this face has an incised 'chevron' (or 'V' shaped groove) near to its end. The groove is 20mm wide and 15mm deep, clearly part of a larger decoration. The angle of the faces of the groove is c.75° at its base, and the upper face has been locally thinned to 82mm on the side with the groove. With the exception of the decorated face, small amounts of a hard white lime mortar are present adhering to all surfaces but are predominantly present on the flat underside.

SF 2

Context: 103
Material: Lincolnshire limestone – probably Ancaster
Colour: Yellow/white
Conversion: Roughly squared
Dimensions: 158mm x 130mm x 85mm



Description

Again, most faces display diagonal chisel marks. These are generally finer than those on SF1. The stone displays a clearly chiselled chamfer, however this is not regular to the block, being deeper and better defined on one side (where it is 80mm from the back edge and 24mm from the lower edge and at c.45° where well defined). The chamfer appears to only have been roughed out: it displays obvious deep chisel marks, from a tool with an edge at least 35mm in length. The unfinished appearance, and the presence of mortar on the lower edge of the chamfered face suggests that it may be reused or possibly an unsatisfactory practice piece later incorporated into a wall with the chamfer hidden.

Conclusion

The small area of decoration on SF1 is not extensive enough to allow a stylistic interpretation of the decoration, but the presence of these fragments in a secondary context which also contained tile of a 13th-16th century date would suggest a medieval origin.