

**BLenheim ROAD**

**LINCOLN**

**Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

**Museum Project Code: BLEN12**

**Network Project Code: LBR16**

**NGR: 4965680 3718390**

**Museum Accession Number LCNCC: 2012.35**

**Prepared by**

**NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**for**

**CAD ASSOCIATES LTD**

**on behalf of**

**LINCS EFFICIENT HOMES LTD**

**Report Number: 592**


**March 2012**



## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

|                             |   |  |          |            |        |         |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------|------------|--------|---------|
| <b>Project title</b>        | <b>Blenheim Road, Lincoln</b>   |  |          |            |        |         |
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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
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| <p>Network Archaeology delivers a complete consultancy and field service nationwide. The company's particular expertise is linear infrastructure, such as pipelines, roads, rail and cables. Its emphasis is upon good communication and recognition of clients' individual needs and priorities. Network is known for delivering professional support, taking care of the archaeology and enabling projects to keep moving forward.</p>   |   |   |
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## CONTENTS

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Document control sheet .....</b>                | <b>i</b>   |
| <b>Contents .....</b>                              | <b>ii</b>  |
| <b>Tables .....</b>                                | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Appendices.....</b>                             | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Plates .....</b>                                | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Figures.....</b>                                | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Non-technical summary.....</b>                  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>1 Introduction .....</b>                        | <b>2</b>   |
| 1.1 Purpose of the report .....                    | 2          |
| 1.2 Commissioning bodies .....                     | 2          |
| 1.3 Proposed development area.....                 | 2          |
| 1.4 Legislation, regulations and guidance .....    | 2          |
| 1.5 Archaeological and historical background ..... | 3          |
| 1.6 Aims .....                                     | 3          |
| <b>2 Fieldwork procedures .....</b>                | <b>5</b>   |
| 2.1 Quality standards.....                         | 5          |
| 2.2 Project codes and number allocations .....     | 5          |
| 2.3 Assessment of archive and finds .....          | 5          |
| <b>3 Results .....</b>                             | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>4 Discussion.....</b>                           | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>5 Conclusion.....</b>                           | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>6 Archive .....</b>                             | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>7 Acknowledgements.....</b>                     | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>8 References .....</b>                          | <b>10</b>  |

## **TABLES**

Table 2.1 Finds assessment

Table 6.1 Quantification of the site archive

## **APPENDICES**

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Appendix A | Context Summary       |
| Appendix B | Photographic Register |
| Appendix C | OASIS Form            |

## **PLATES**

Plate 1 General site shot looking northeast

Plate 2 South facing representative section, 1m scale

Plate 3 Extent of groundworks at northern end of site, 1m scale

Plate 4 General site shot looking west

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1 General location of site

Figure 2 Plan of development

Figure 3 Representative sections

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Blenheim Road, Lincoln was undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012.

Monitoring of the work revealed late nineteenth or twentieth century layers thought to have been deliberately deposited to raise the ground level. No archaeological features were present and low levels of early modern artefacts were recovered from made ground deposits close to the surface.

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Purpose of the report**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken within a development area at Blenheim Road, Lincoln (Figure 1). This report indicates the level of impact on archaeological remains recorded during groundworks and the successful mitigation strategy adopted.

## **1.2 Commissioning bodies**

Network Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by CAD Associates Ltd on behalf of Lincs Efficient Homes Ltd to undertake the archaeological monitoring and recording.

## **1.3 Proposed development area**

### **Location**

The development site lies approximately 1km west of Lincoln Cathedral at the northwestern end of Blenheim Road, directly opposite St Faith's Church of England Infant School (NGR 4965680 3718390) (Figure 1).

### **Development**

The development involves the erection of a residential building comprising three apartments and associated car parking on the site of former brick buildings at Blenheim Road, Lincoln.

### **Geology, topography, soils and land use**

Local soils are unrecorded for this area, but are known to overly Jurassic Scunthorpe mudstone formation and Charmouth mudstone formation (BGS 2012)

The development site is situated on a southwest facing slope between heights of roughly 8m and 10m OD.

## **1.4 Legislation, regulations and guidance**

Planning permission (2007/0823/F) was granted by Lincoln City Council for the erection of a building and associated car parking following the demolition of existing brick buildings, providing certain conditions were met.

Condition 8 states: 'No development groundwork shall commence on site until advance written notice (minimum 14 days) of the date of commencement of works on site and the confirmation of appointment of a competent archaeological body to conduct a 'watching brief' has been given to both the Local Planning Authority and the nominated archaeology body. Provision shall then be made for the nominated archaeology body to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the course of all groundwork associated with the development (including any geotechnical investigation of strata, any site clearance or other enabling work and the excavation of foundation and services trenches).'

The document 'Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment' (PPS 5) sets out the Government's national planning policies relating to the conservation of the historic environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). It is accompanied by a best practice guide (English Heritage 2010).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Network Archaeology Ltd detailing the procedures to be followed (Wood 2012)

## 1.5 Archaeological and historical background

The Lincoln Urban Archaeological Assessment (Jones *et al* 2003) has classified the site as having the following research agendas:

### Prehistoric Era (-10000BC-AD 60)

The development site would have lain on the limestone uplands north of the River Witham. Isolated find spots of prehistoric artefacts are known from these uplands and some form of prehistoric settlement may be expected (*ibid*, 35).

### Roman Military Era (60-90)

Lincoln was the site of a military fort following the Roman conquest in what had been a former *Corieltauvi* settlement. The development site would have been situated within the legionary *prata* and *territorium*, where land surrounding the Roman fortress would have been dedicated to agricultural production and services supplying the legion (*ibid*, 51).

### Roman Colonia Era (90-410)

Lincoln became a thriving commercial and ‘ritual’ centre during this period. The development site would have lain near known cemeteries to the west of the city centre (*ibid*, 104, 139-40).

### Early Medieval Era (410-850)

The development site lies within an area of re-use and abandonment of central elements of the Roman city. Evidence for activity during this period is scant and predominantly found in the upper city (*ibid*, 156-159).

### High Medieval Era (850-1350)

The area of the development site would have lain within enclosures west of Newland as Lincoln’s economy shifted following the collapse of the cloth industry (Heritage Connect Lincoln 2012).

### Early Modern Era (1350-1750)

A prolonged phase of economic decline followed the High Medieval Era and led to an overall decline in the population. It is thought that throughout this period the site would have remained common pasture (Jones *et al* 2003, 333).

### Industrial Era (1750-1945)

By the 19th century, there were two brickworks (Foster’s and Allison’s) and several clay extraction pits near the development site, west of Newland (*ibid*, 366-367). The junction of two undated lanes is marked on Padley’s 1842 map passing through the edge of the development and may be impacted upon by groundwork.

## 1.6 Aims

The aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation, as set out in the WSI, were to:

- establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains;
- locate, recover, identify, and conserve where appropriate any archaeological artefacts;
- locate, sample, interpret and record archaeological deposits;

- determine the palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic potential of any archaeological remains;
- accurately assess the ordnance datum (OD) heights of dated deposits to add to Lincoln's deposit model;
- assess the overall archaeological significance of any archaeological remains;
- produce a report that addresses the above;
- produce and submit a suitable archive to Lincoln Museum;
- provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record (HER);
- provide information for accession to the Lincoln Heritage Database;
- publish significant results in an appropriate journal, if appropriate.



## **2 FIELDWORK PROCEDURES**

### **2.1 Quality standards**

All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' standard and guidance documents (IfA 2008a, 2008b, 2008c, 2010).

Network Archaeology is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the IfA and adhered to the standards represented by that status throughout.

#### **Survey**

The excavated area was located and recorded, where appropriate, using a Leica GPS 900.

#### **Hand excavation, recording and sampling**

A full written record was maintained on site, including standardised context descriptions on pro-forma record sheets. Sections were drawn showing representative soil profiles across the site. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken.

### **2.2 Project codes and number allocations**

The scheme of work has been given the internal Network Archaeology project code LBR16. In addition, a museum project code (BLEN12) has been issued for the deposition of the site archive. All documents relating to the site archive for this project have been referenced, where appropriate, with these codes.

Each deposit was allocated a unique number starting from 100.

### **2.3 Assessment of archive and finds**

Following completion of the evaluation, the stratigraphic information gathered was assessed to determine its potential and significance.

The finds were quantified, assessed and recommended for discard by Mike Wood of Network Archaeology.

**Table 2.1 Finds assessment**

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Material type</b> | <b>Date</b>       | <b>Count</b> | <b>Weight (g)</b> | <b>Comments</b>        |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 102            | Pottery              | 18th-19th century | 1            | 12                | Tin glazed earthenware |
| 102            | Clay pipe            | Late 18th century | 1            | 4                 | Stem                   |
| 104            | Pottery              | Late 18th century | 2            | 19                | Tin glazed earthenware |

### 3 RESULTS

Groundworks were undertaken on an area measuring 30m by 20m, which formed the entire extent of the development site. This consisted of the demolition and removal of existing brick buildings before levelling the site and excavation of the proposed building footprint. Following this, piles were driven into underlying deposits.

#### **Levelling (Figure 2 and 3, Plates 2 and 3)**

The development site was initially levelled to a height of 8m OD, entailing the removal of almost 2m of overburden from the northern end.

The earliest deposit present here was brownish orange sand, *106*. Above this archaeologically sterile deposit lay six separate episodes of made ground. Directly above *106* was firm bluish grey clay *105* which was 0.34m thick and contained occasional fragments of CBM. A 0.29m thick layer of demolition rubble, *104*, overlay this, followed by light, reddish brown sandy silt *103* for 0.14m. At the top of the recorded section a 0.32m thick layer of light brownish orange silty sand *102* lay below modern overburden layers *100* and *101*.

A small quantity of late eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery and clay pipe was recovered from made ground layers *102* and *104*.

#### **Excavation of proposed building footprint (Figures 2 and 3, Plates 1 and 4)**

The footprint of the proposed building consisted of two segmented rectangles, each measuring 17m by 6.8m, with their long axes aligned northeast to southwest.

The earliest deposit encountered at the northern end of the excavation was firm, grey clay *109*. A 0.38m thick deposit of light, reddish orange sand, *108*, overlay this and was sealed by a layer of limestone rubble, *107*, placed by the construction team to stabilise the ground during excavation.

At the southern end of the building footprint only two deposits were observed. Greyish brown sandy clay subsoil *110*, measuring 0.21m thick, overlay light, brownish grey sand *111*.

No finds were recovered from these deposits.

#### **Piling (Figure 2)**

Fifty-six piles were placed within the proposed building footprint, twenty-eight on each side.

No archaeologically significant remains were recorded from the piling element of groundworks

## **4 DISCUSSION**

Archaeological monitoring and recording revealed successive deposits of early modern made ground. Finds recovered are of a late eighteenth and nineteenth century date but were found within these layers and are likely to have been deposited at a later date.

Padley's map of 1842 indicates the presence of two lanes in the eastern half of the development site in the early nineteenth century, however; no evidence was found on site to corroborate their existence or any other form of activity during this period.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The aims of the scheme of archaeological work have been achieved, in that the extent of any archaeological remains within the development site has been assessed, and it has been established that those present are minor and of low significance. Indeed, no archaeological features were present and only low levels of early modern artefacts were recovered from made ground deposits close to the surface.

## 6 ARCHIVE

The documentary archive will comprise:

- a copy of the written scheme of investigation;
- a copy of the final archaeological report;
- finds catalogues.

Site records, as detailed in the table below:

**Table 6.1: Quantification of the site archive**

| Item                        | Count |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Context registers           | 1     |
| Context sheets              | 11    |
| Drawing registers           | 1     |
| Drawing sheets              | 1     |
| Photographic registers      | 2     |
| Black and white photographs | 10    |
| Colour slide photographs    | 10    |
| Digital colour photographs  | 14    |

On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage in a format agreed in advance with the relevant local depository. This will be in accordance with guidelines prepared by the UK Institute of Conservation (Walker 1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992). The project archive will be managed in accordance with current guidelines.

The recipient museum is The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN2 1LP; tel: 01522 550990, which has assigned this project the accession code LCNCC: 2012.35.

The recipient museum will receive the document archive, and with the permission of the landowners, any finds generated from the archaeological works.

Prior to the deposition of the archive, the necessary arrangements will be made with the site owners regarding the transfer of ownership of any archaeological finds to the recipient museums. In the event that deposition of the archive cannot be concluded, Network Archaeology will store the archive to a suitable standard until deposition can be arranged. In this event, Network Archaeology will retain ownership of the document archive until the document archive and its ownership is passed to the recipient museums.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Network Archaeology would like to thank Matthew Sharpe and Jonty Hawley of Lincs Joinery Services; Carl Medd of CAD Associates Ltd, and John Herridge of Lincoln City Council Heritage Team.

For Network Archaeology, the work was managed by Chris Taylor and Mike Wood, and fieldwork carried out by Chris Casswell. Illustrations were by Jacqueline Churchill.

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## Appendix A

### Context Summary

| Context | Description   | Interpretation           | Height above Ordnance Datum | Deposit model surface |
|---------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 100     | Loose light grey sandy silt, occasional CBM and mortar                  | Modern overburden        | 9.70m                       | MODT                  |
| 101     | Compact brown silty sand, moderate angular stones and CBM               | Modern demolition rubble | 9.62m                       |                       |
| 102     | Compact light brownish orange silty sand, rare small sub-angular stones | Made ground              | 9.37m                       |                       |
| 103     | Firm light reddish brown sandy silt                                     | Made ground              | 9.22m                       |                       |
| 104     | Friable brown clayey sand, moderate CBM                                 | Demolition rubble        | 9.01m                       |                       |
| 105     | Firm bluish grey clay with occasional CBM fragments                     | Made ground              | 8.79m                       |                       |
| 106     | Firm brownish orange sand   | Natural deposit          | 8.32m                       |                       |
| 107     | Limestone rubble  | Modern levelling         | 8.37m                       | MODT                  |
| 108     | Firm light reddish orange sand  | Natural deposit          | 7.97m                       |                       |
| 109     | Firm grey clay  | Natural deposit          | 7.75m                       |                       |
| 110     | Friable greyish brown sandy clay, occasional small sub-angular stones   | Subsoil                  | 7.98m                       |                       |
| 111     | Compact light brownish grey sand  | Natural deposit          | 7.80m                       |                       |

## **Appendix B**

### **Photographic Register**

#### **Films 1 and 2**

| <b>Shot</b> | <b>Contexts</b> | <b>Description</b>                            |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| 1           |                 | General shot from western corner of site      |
| 2           |                 | General shot from western corner of site      |
| 3           |                 | General shot from western corner of site      |
| 4           |                 | General shot from southeastern corner of site |
| 5           |                 | General shot from southeastern corner of site |
| 6           |                 | General shot from southeastern corner of site |
| 7           |                 | General shot from southeastern corner of site |
| 8           | 100-106         | South facing representative section           |
| 9           | 100-106         | South facing representative section           |
| 10          | 100-106         | South facing representative section           |



## Appendix C

### OASIS Form

OASIS ID: [networka2-120247](#)

#### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Blenheim Road, Lincoln   |
| Short description of the project       | A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Blenheim Road, Lincoln was undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd on the 23rd February 2012. Monitoring of the work revealed late nineteenth or twentieth century layers deliberately deposited to raise the ground level. No archaeological features were present and low levels of early modern artefacts were recovered from made ground deposits close to the surface. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 23-02-2012 End: 23-02-2012  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / No  |
| Any associated project reference codes | LBR16 - Sitecode   |
| Any associated project reference codes | BLN12 - Sitecode   |
| Any associated project reference codes | LCNCC: 2012.35 - Museum accession ID   |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2007/0823/F - Planning Application No.   |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 2 - In use as a building   |
| Monument type                          | NONE None  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | CLAY PIPE Post Medieval  |
| Investigation type                     | 'Watching Brief'   |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition   |

#### Project location

Country England

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Site location     | LINCOLNSHIRE LINCOLN LINCOLN Blenheim Road, Lincoln                   |
| Postcode          | LN1 1PU   |
| Study area        | 600.00 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates  | SK 966 717 53.2332513281 -0.552585196719 53 13 59 N 000 33 09 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 7.80m Max: 8.32m   |

#### Project creators

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation         | Network Archaeology Ltd                       |
| Project brief originator     | City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist |
| Project design originator    | Network Archaeology Ltd                       |
| Project director/manager     | Michael Wood                                  |
| Project supervisor           | Christopher Casswell                          |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer                                     |

#### Project archives

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No   |
| Digital Archive Exists?  | No   |
| Paper Archive recipient  | The Collection Lincoln   |
| Paper Archive ID         | BLEN12   |
| Paper Contents           | 'none'   |
| Paper Media available    | 'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Report','Section','Unpublished Text' |

#### Project bibliography 1

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)               |
| Title                         | Blenheim Road, Lincoln, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Casswell, C.  |
| Other bibliographic details   | Report no. 592  |
| Date                          | 2012  |
| Issuer or publisher           | Network Archaeology Ltd   |
| Place of issue or publication | Lincoln   |
| Description                   | .pdfa   |
| Entered by                    | Chris Casswell (chrisc@netarch.co.uk)                           |

## **Plates**

- Plate 1 General site shot looking northeast
- Plate 2 South facing representative section, 1m scale
- Plate 3 Extent of groundworks at northern end of site, 1m scale
- Plate 4 General site shot looking west





**Plate 1** General site shot looking northeast



**Plate 2** South facing representative section, 1m scale





**Plate 3** Extent of groundworks at northern end of site, 1m scale

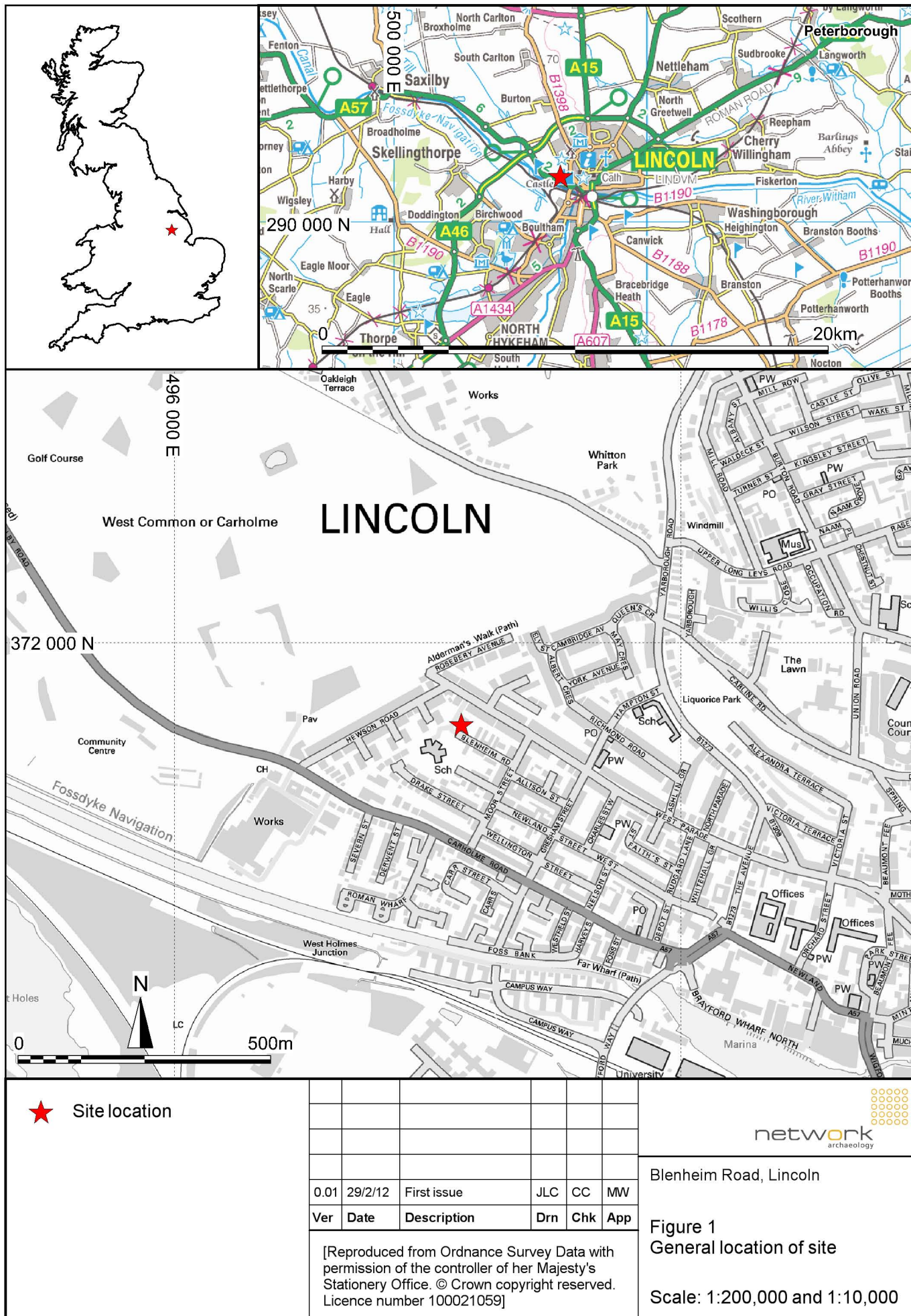


**Plate 4** General site shot looking west

## Figures

- Figure 1 General location of site
- Figure 2 Plan of development
- Figure 3 Representative sections







- Development area
- Building footprint
- Piles

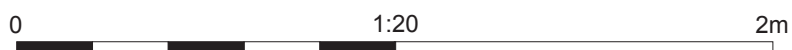
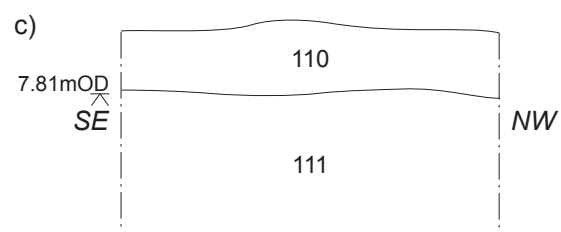
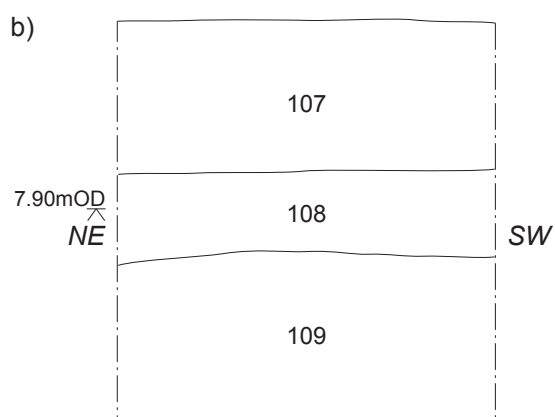
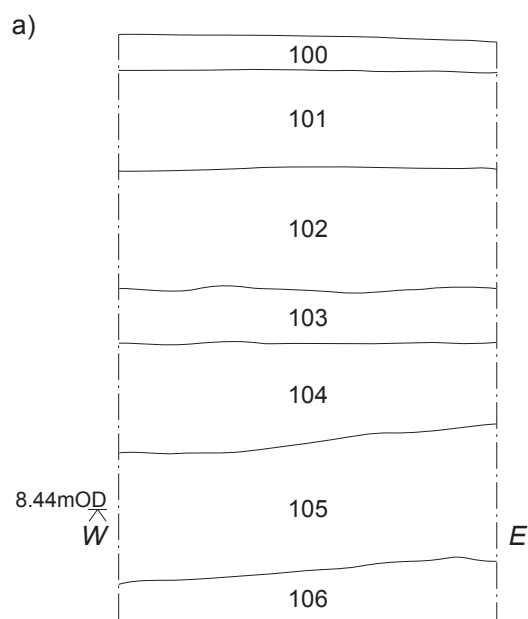
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|      |         |             |     |     |     |
| 0.01 | 29/2/12 | Development | JLC | CC  | MW  |
| Ver  | Date    | Description | DM  | Chk | App |
|      |         |             |     |     |     |
|      |         |             |     |     |     |

**Blenheim Road, Lincoln**

Figure 2: Plan of development

Scale 1:20





--- Limit of excavation

— Layer line

1233 Layer/fill number

|      |         |             |     |     |     |  |
|------|---------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
|      |         |             |     |     |     |  |
| 0.01 | 29/2/12 | Sections    | JLC | CC  | MW  |  |
| Ver  | Date    | Description | DM  | Chk | App |  |
|      |         |             |     |     |     |  |

**Blenheim Road, Lincoln**

Figure 3: Representative sections

Scale 1:20