



**Rosegarth Square  
Community Archaeology**

Boston, Lincolnshire

Excavation Report

January 2025

**Report**

Community Excavation

**Site**

Rosegarth Square, St Georges Road/ Lincoln Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8RU

**Planning Authority**

Boston Borough Council

**Grid reference**

TF 32473 44072

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Figure 1: Site location outlined in black

## 1. Introduction

In the autumn of 2024, Rocket Environmental Services Ltd was commissioned by Boston Borough Council to design and carry out a community archaeology project before the redevelopment of Rosegarth Square, Boston.

The redevelopment of Rosegarth Square includes the removal of disused commercial buildings and the creation a new public park between the River Witham and the Len Medlock Centre, offering green spaces, pedestrian routes, and artwork, as well as the conversion of Crown House to a mix of residential and community support spaces. A total of £14.8million was secured through the Levelling Up Fund in 2023 to deliver the scheme (Boston.gov.uk 2024).

A planning application has been submitted for the site, but this archaeological work sits outside of the planning process. The work was principally a community project, designed to engage local people in both the heritage of the area and the development process, to foster a sense of community, and to develop new skills.

However, the work still had the potential to help the Planning Authority understand the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological remains (known as non-designated heritage assets) that are present within the footprint of the Rosegarth Square scheme. This report has been structured to provide the same information that would be expected to support the discharge of a planning condition, whilst specifically focussing on the details that are of local community interest.

Work was conducted in line with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Rocket 2024), designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, the Standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a), and the Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b).



## 2. Location, Topography and Geology



Plate 1: Rosegarth Square from the southwest corner, looking towards the footbridge

Rosegarth Square is in the centre of Boston, Lincolnshire (at the approximate national grid reference TF 32473 44072). Boston itself is 26km to the east of Sleaford and 30km southeast of Skegness.

The boundaries of the area that was to be investigated (referred to here as the site) were defined by the former B&M building to the south, a path adjacent to the River Witham to the east, the boundary with the Police Station to the north and the former Department of Work and Pensions building to the west. A public footpath crossed the site this and the area around the Fisherman's Memorial were excluded from excavation.

The bedrock geology beneath the site is Amptill Clay Formation - Mudstone. This is a sedimentary bedrock that was formed between 163.5 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Over the bedrock are superficial deposits of clay and silt formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present day. A borehole drilled nearby (BGS ID: 504293) found two layers of made ground, together more than 8 metres deep. The made ground sealed the natural deposits, a black organic clay with traces of peat.



### 3. Aims & Objectives

An archaeological excavation involves a programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives. The work examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits (layers of soil), features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves finds (artefacts and ecofacts), within a specified area or site (CIFA 2023a). The main aims of an excavation are to create a better understanding of the past through recording and interpreting the archaeological remains, and to publicise the results. The objective of an archaeological excavation is to investigate and document any surviving archaeological remains within the site, using the methods that have been laid out in a fit-for-purpose project design – a written scheme of investigation (WSI). The work must be undertaken by suitably competent people, carefully following the project design and relevant Cifa Standards (2020; 2023b). The programme of work will result in a report and an accessible archive that has been organised according to industry standards (Cifa 2023a, 2023b).

To help guide the archaeological work, the potential to answer specific questions outlined in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) was to be considered. The questions were selected based on desk-based research that had been carried out before the community project was designed.

- 9.2.1: Can we establish a typology of modern buildings, particularly of the twentieth century, and how does this vary regionally?
- 9.2.2: How have building types changed (e.g. adaption of industrial buildings to new uses) and what has been the impact of building regulations?
- 9.2.3 How have mass housing developments and civic or public buildings such as prisons, schools and workhouses influenced settlement growth?
- 9.2.4: To what extent are issues of power, control and status reflected in regional building types?

This project was also designed to improve engagement with local heritage, provide a valuable experience for the local community, engaging with a wide range of members of that community. A separate report evaluating the success of the community project has been produced (Rocket 2025).





*Plate 2: Pupils from St Thomas's C of E Primary Academy on site (photo from Lincolnshire Wold)*



## **4. Archaeological and Historical Background of the Site**

### **4.1. Prehistoric (450,000 BC to AD 43)**

The prehistoric period covers the time from the first arrival of humans in the area that would become Boston, until the arrival of the Romans and their written records. This period saw the construction of complex societies, the shift from hunting and gathering to settled farming, and the development of the use of metals, first bronze and then iron.

No prehistoric sites are known within Boston, but finds from this period have been recorded. The lack of evidence from this period may be because the prehistoric ground surfaces have been covered by later marine alluvium (soils laid down by inundation by water). Investigations elsewhere have shown that the prehistoric land surface is sealed by as much as 11 meters of alluvial deposits. Peat deposits within these alluvial layers are the result of the natural build-up of decomposed plants and organic material and many can be dated to the Iron Age. This suggests that the rapid accumulation of the alluvial soils happened during the Iron Age (Boston Borough Council, n.d.).

The River Witham was an important site during the Iron Age and some amazing discoveries have been made elsewhere along its route. This includes the Witham Shield, a bronze shield dating from about the 4th century BC which is now on display in the British Museum. Despite this there have been no notable prehistoric finds made in the site in the past.

### **4.2. Roman (AD 43 to 410)**

Britain became part of the Roman Empire in the second half of the first century AD. The Romans constructed roads and towns, and goods and foods that were grown and made across Europe and the Mediterranean became more accessible to the wider population. The Romans navigated the River Witham and a few pieces (sherds) of Roman pottery have been found near the site, including one at Corporation Yard/Old Poultry Market just 500 metres to the northeast. A Roman stone vault and urn were found around 400 metres to the southeast of the site. Roman pottery has also been found at Boston Grammar School, 491m southeast of the site (Lincolnshire HER, 2024).



### **4.3. Early Medieval (AD 410 to 1066)**

After Roman authority broke down through the late fourth and early fifth century AD, there were new arrivals along the east. Travelling from northwest Europe these new settlers eventually founded new Anglo-Saxon kingdoms through the seventh century. An early medieval settlement is recorded in nearby Skirbeck in the eighth century. The only evidence of this date found within Boston comes from the chance discoveries of two coins: one of Athelwulf (AD 839 – 858) and one of Cnut (AD 1016 – 1035) (Boston Borough Council, n.d.).

### **4.4. Medieval (AD 1066 to 1485)**

Boston became a wealthy North Sea trade port in the twelfth century. Unfortunately, the River Witham slowly became harder to access by ship because of it silting up and this eventually affected trade. A medieval baluster jug was found during the redevelopment of Lincoln Lane, and archaeological work at the former Co-Operative store recovered medieval pottery, brick, and tile fragments.

About 100 metres to the south of the site, a sequence of layers of soil that may have been occupation and dumping deposits were dated to the medieval period by 13th-century pottery found within the layers. The preservation conditions meant that organic matter had also survived and samples of this provided evidence for the preservation of wood, leather, straw, insects and cereal grains. Lots of brick and mortar was also found and came from the buildings that once lined the medieval high street.

The Church of St Botolph (known as the Boston Stump) is located 65 metres to the northeast of the site. The church dates to the early 14th century, and the western tower is the tallest tower of a parish church in England. The tower is also notable because there are incised markings that record the height of historic flood waters. Those floods would have covered the area around the river not just with water, but also with silty soils.

The Saracens Head is located 100 metres southeast of the site. This timber-framed public house dates to the 15th century (Lincolnshire HER, 2024).



#### **4.5. Post-Medieval and Modern (AD 1485 to the present day)**

The 15th and 16th centuries saw major social upheaval as new Protestant forms of Christianity emerged. There was then a period of development as society stabilised across Britain and Ireland and gained access to new global trade networks. The 17th and 18th centuries brought the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, which reached its peak in the 19th century. New factories caused urban areas to grow and created new relationships between rural markets and hungry urban populations. A divide in wealth emerged between wealthy industrialists and poorly paid labourers and factory workers. Cheaper manufacturing and widespread trade enabled people to buy more and brought new objects into every home.

There are a lot of notable post-medieval buildings within Boston, with one Grade II\* listed building and 27 Grade II Listed Buildings within 100 metres of the site. This includes religious buildings (churches and chapels), shops, meeting houses, public houses, and factories. There have also been finds of objects relating to the activities carried out in those buildings.

During the 1960s, the Lincoln Lane area was cleared in preparation for redevelopment. When it was built, the area had been a prosperous place, boasting two or three large merchant's houses and large gardens. The area was mainly housing but there were also pubs and inns, shops and industry. This included the shoelace factory of Arthur Whittle and Co. Ltd., and a slaughterhouse.

The re-development of the site during the 20th century will have truncated or removed buried any archaeological remains associated with many of the post-medieval buildings. However, foundations, cellars and floors from a Pound used to round up animals, several pubs (The Hop Pole, The Flying Dutchman, Victoria Inn, Duke of York, Nag's Head, The Blue Lion and the Stag and Pheasant); a Wesleyan Methodist School, Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, and Bond Street Maltings may remain beneath the car parks and open spaces.

Archaeological monitoring (also known as a watching brief) took place when the Len Medlock Voluntary Centre was built. It was constructed on the site of the Boston Steam Laundry and the archaeologists found two pieces of 19th-century pottery.





## 6. Methods

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance (CIfA 2024a, 2024b) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015a).

A triangular area was selected for excavation, based on the results of the GPR survey. The area sat to one side of the footpath running through Rosegarth Square and was prioritised as it seemed to contain walls and surfaces. Before excavation began, the area was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) to ensure there were no live services. The area of excavation and a site compound were enclosed within Heras fencing to secure the site. The turf was removed from the excavated area by hand and the turf was placed on tarpaulins so that it could be reinstated when the work was completed. The overburden was cleared by hand until the remains were discovered and what is known as an archaeological horizon was established. The spoil (soil dug out from the excavated area) was stored on the carparking space next to the site.

To start with, a 1m x 1m trial pit was dug to see what features and layers of soil (deposits) were beneath the ground. This pit was then extended as a slot across the width of the site. The excavated area was further extended through the course of the next fortnight to accommodate the team of volunteers. All archaeological features identified were cleaned and excavated by hand, using trowels and hand shovels.

The location of the excavated area and all features within it were recorded in plan and in section. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. The plans and sections were tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid so that the site can be located in three dimensions.

All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded onto paper forms using a single context recording method (MoLAS 1994). This gives each deposit and feature a unique number – shown in the text in brackets. Registers (catalogues) were kept of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken in the field.

Digital colour photography of features was undertaken with a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels and in line with Historic England guidance (Historic England 2015b). Photographs included a scale bar and north arrow.



## 7. Results

Work on site took place from 18 October to 2 November 2024. Although the work took place in the autumn and the conditions were overcast, it remained mostly dry with only light rain.

Tables with the full details of the dimensions and depths of each of the deposits that were discovered can be found in Appendix A. The site sequence is described below.



The topsoil was a mid-greyish brown, clayey silt (100), that was an average of 0.32 metres thick. This sealed a light orangey brown sandy silt (101) with frequent inclusions of gravel, between 5mm and 20mm in size. Deposit (101) was a levelling deposit that was between 0.08 metres and 0.31 metres thick.

Below the levelling deposit was layer (102), a dark grey-brown silty clay with lots of fragments of brick, stone, and organic material. Archaeological features were present within and below this layer. Some of the features had been truncated and they were sealed by the gravelly levelling deposit (101).

*Plate 4: Southeast-facing section showing topsoil (100) and levelling deposit (101) (1m scale)*



## 7.1. The Buildings

A brick wall <sup>103</sup> was found in the eastern half of the excavated area, running east to west.

Two courses of bricks were present, and the wall had been laid in English bond, a pattern that consists of alternate courses of bricks placed end-to-end and side-by-side. This is a very traditional standard pattern for constructing brick walls. The wall was within the hole dug to construct it, referred to as a cut, [105] which was 0.39 metres wide and 0.28 metres deep. The north side of the cut was filled by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (106), which had been used as packing to ensure the wall was stable, 0.07 metres wide and 0.11 metres deep.

The wall was cut through by a drain running north to south <sup>116</sup>, within a cut [115]. The drain was made from a ceramic pipe, and the pipe had been broken but it had been left in position. The ceramic pipe had been crushed when the building it had served was demolished and the area levelled.

The cut for the drain contained a packing fill (120), and soil was found within the remains of the pipe itself (119).



Plate 5: Wall <sup>103</sup> and drain <sup>116</sup> in the foreground (1m scale)





*Plate 7. East end of the excavation looking south. Dark deposit (133) is to the left of the photo board (2 x 1m scale).*



Several stones (127) had been placed beneath the drain where it cut through wall ^103^ . The stones were roughly squared and may have been added to reinforce the wall when the drain was cut through it.

To the south of wall ^103^ , within the building that it was part of, was a compact layer of crushed brick with elements of plaster. This was a floor or surface ^109^ . The layer was 0.10 metres thick and measured 0.65 metres by 1.10 metres. The floor sealed a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay (123) which was like the layer above (102) and contained modern pottery.

Brick wall ^114^ was at the west end of surface ^109^ . The wall ran north to south from the south limit of excavation where it met wall ^103^ . Two courses of bricks were present, showing that this wall was also laid in English bond.

On the west side of wall ^114^ was a patch of nearly black silt (133) with lots of flecks of coal and some evidence of burning having happened here. This deposit extended slightly to the west of drain ^116^ , which cut through it. The burnt material suggests that this may have been material from a stove rather than the remains of a coal store. This deposit contained pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although as it abuts (136) containing 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, it is likely to represent post-medieval activity preceding the brick structures.

North of wall ^103^ the gravelly levelling layer (101) sealed a compact layer of crushed brick ^104^ . This was not a well-made floor but may have been an external surface for a yard. The visible area of the possible yard surface extended 1.90 metres by 0.52 metres, with a depth of 0.22 metres.

Deposit ^104^ overlay both the packing deposit for the wall (106), and a layer (121) of light greyish brown silty clay with brick fragments, measuring 1.45 metres x 0.52 metres, with a depth of 0.12 metres. This sealed a deposit of dark brown or black silty clay (117) which was 0.09 metres thick, and contained fragments of brick and coal, small stones, and shells. This is likely to be an earlier occupation layer (the soil created by the domestic and industrial activities associated with life in this part of Boston) that had been cut through by the construction of wall ^103^ .

West of wall ^114^ was another occupation layer (118) of friable dark brown silty clay, which contained fragments of pottery, brick, shell and some animal bone. This deposit was 0.11 metres thick. This deposit sealed a shallow gully [108] running east to west across the centre of the excavated area. The gully was concave in profile, 0.33 metres wide



and 0.08 metres deep. The fill (107) was a dark grey-brown silty clay with lots of small stones and fragments of brick and plaster from the demolition of the area in the 1970s. The occupation layer extended to wall ^103^ to the north and brick surface ^113^ to the west.

Gully [108] was cut into layer (136), a 0.25-metre-thick dark brown silty clay containing a lot more brick and stone. Pottery fragments recovered from (136) dated to the 15th century, suggesting that while the deposit looked like the layer below the floor (123), it was older.

At the western end of the excavated area, the same sequence of topsoil (100) and a gravelly levelling layer (101) was present. The gravelly layer sealed a dark clayey silt (111) 0.05 metres thick. The clayey silt covered part of brick surface ^113^, with the rest sitting directly beneath levelling layer (101).

The brick surface formed a platform ^113^, surrounded by curb on the east side ^110^ and a curb on the north side ^125^. The platform was one course of bricks deep and had been laid in a herringbone pattern.

The middle of the platform had subsided and some of the bricks were missing or displaced. It looked like this had happened before the demolition of the buildings, while the floor was still in use. The bricks were surrounded by and sealed by a deposit of crushed plaster (112). The plaster was extremely compact and had small stones and brick fragments in it. The plaster deposit was 0.91 metres by 0.61 metres and 0.06 metres thick. It probably formed when wall plaster fell onto the surface during the demolition of the building.

Curbs ^110^ and ^125^ were made from single bricks laid end to end. Surface ^113^ had been split to create a close-fitting join with the northern curb, while the east curb was laid over the brick surface.

Immediately to the north of this was a roughly built brick wall ^124^. The function of this wall was not clear, but it may have been intended to hold back the soil (122) to the north. The wall was within a construction cut [132] with a packing fill on the north side (131). A line of rubble ^126^ was found east of ^125^ and north of ^110^ and may have been the collapsed remains of another retaining wall. Rubble ^126^ closed the gap with wall ^103^.





Plate 6: West end of the excavated area looking south with brick surface  $\wedge 113 \wedge$  (1m scale)



## 7.2. Medieval and Post-medieval Layers



At the east end of the excavation, the foundations for the brick buildings were cut into a reddish brown to greyish brown silty clay (130). This extended from the south edge of the trench to the north side of wall ^103^A. This layer contained lots of shell, animal bone, and pottery fragments dating to the 15th century. The layer was approximately 0.12 metres thick and was the highest of several deposits above a horizon that sloped down to the south. These layers probably represented successive phases of occupation and levelling.

A possible posthole [128] was cut into layer (130), slightly to the west of drain ^116^A. The posthole was 0.28 metres in diameter and 0.05m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill of the posthole (129) was a mid-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small fragments of brick.

Layer (130) sealed (139), a greyish brown clay with some red sand in it. This layer was 0.10 metres thick, and contained fragments of pottery, shell, and brick and/or tile. Layer (139) sealed (143), a thin layer of dark grey clay containing fragments of charcoal and brick or tile.

The possible buried slope to the north was made of layers of sand and clay (140)(141)(142) with flecks of coal and charcoal and fragments of shell. It looked as if the soil had slipped downslope over time. The lowest deposit here (142) and the lowest deposit to the south (143) sealed a mid-greyish blue clayey sand (144). This was an alluvial deposit meaning that it had been formed by past flooding of the area by the river.

*Plate 7: Posthole [128], looking south*





Plate 8: Occupation layers and alluvial (flood) deposits below wall 103A, looking east (1m scale).

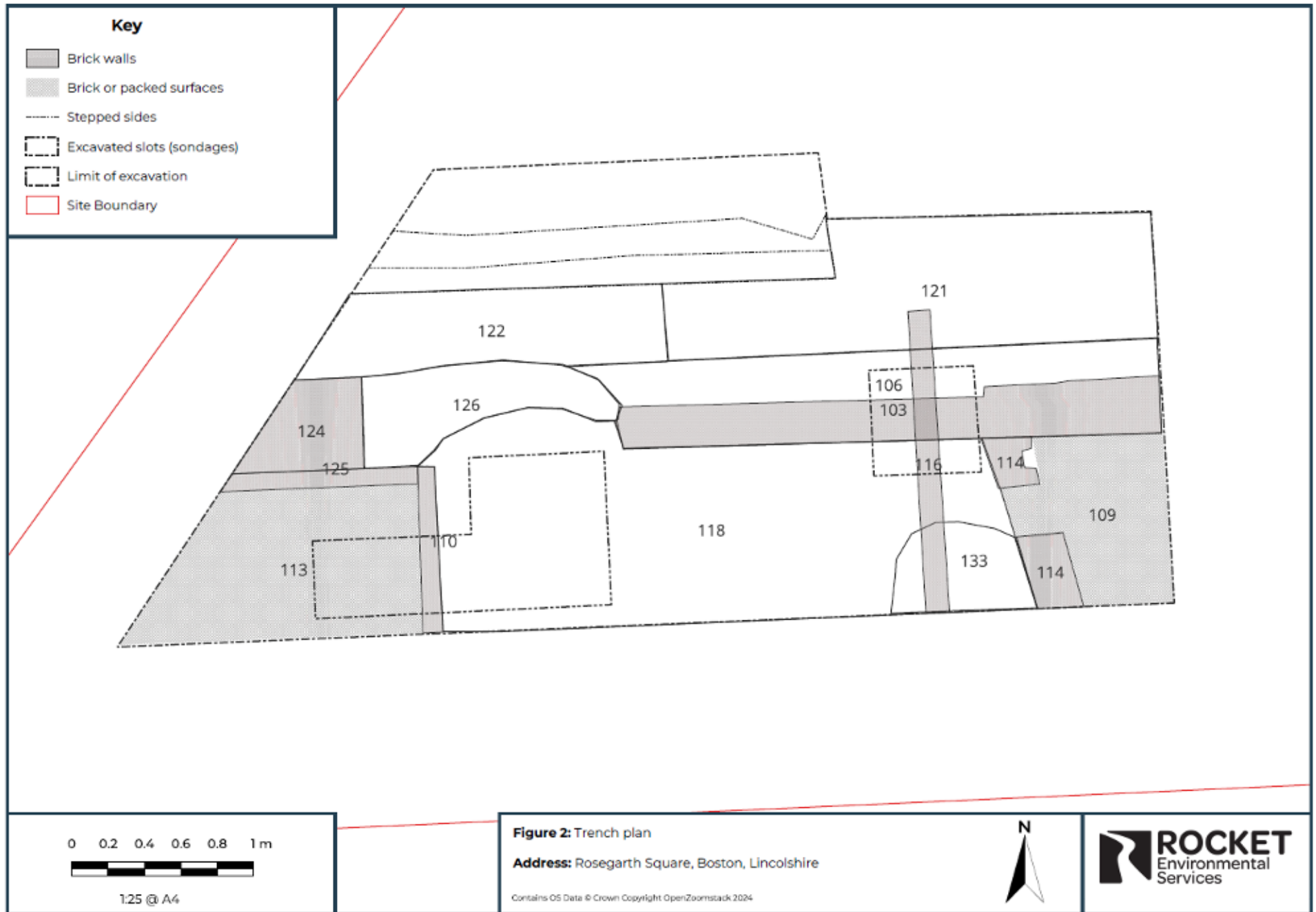


At the west end of the excavated area the sequence was similar. The earlier layers beneath deposit (136) were thinner and were a dark orangey brown sandy clay (147) sealing a greyish brown silty clay (146). This was the earliest deposit excavated, and pottery recovered from this layer dated it to the 13th century. Below these layers was a silty sand (145) with bands of light yellowish brown and mid greyish brown. This was also an alluvial deposit, formed by past flooding of the area.



Plate 9: Occupation layers and alluvial (flood) deposits under brick surface 113A, looking west (1m scale).





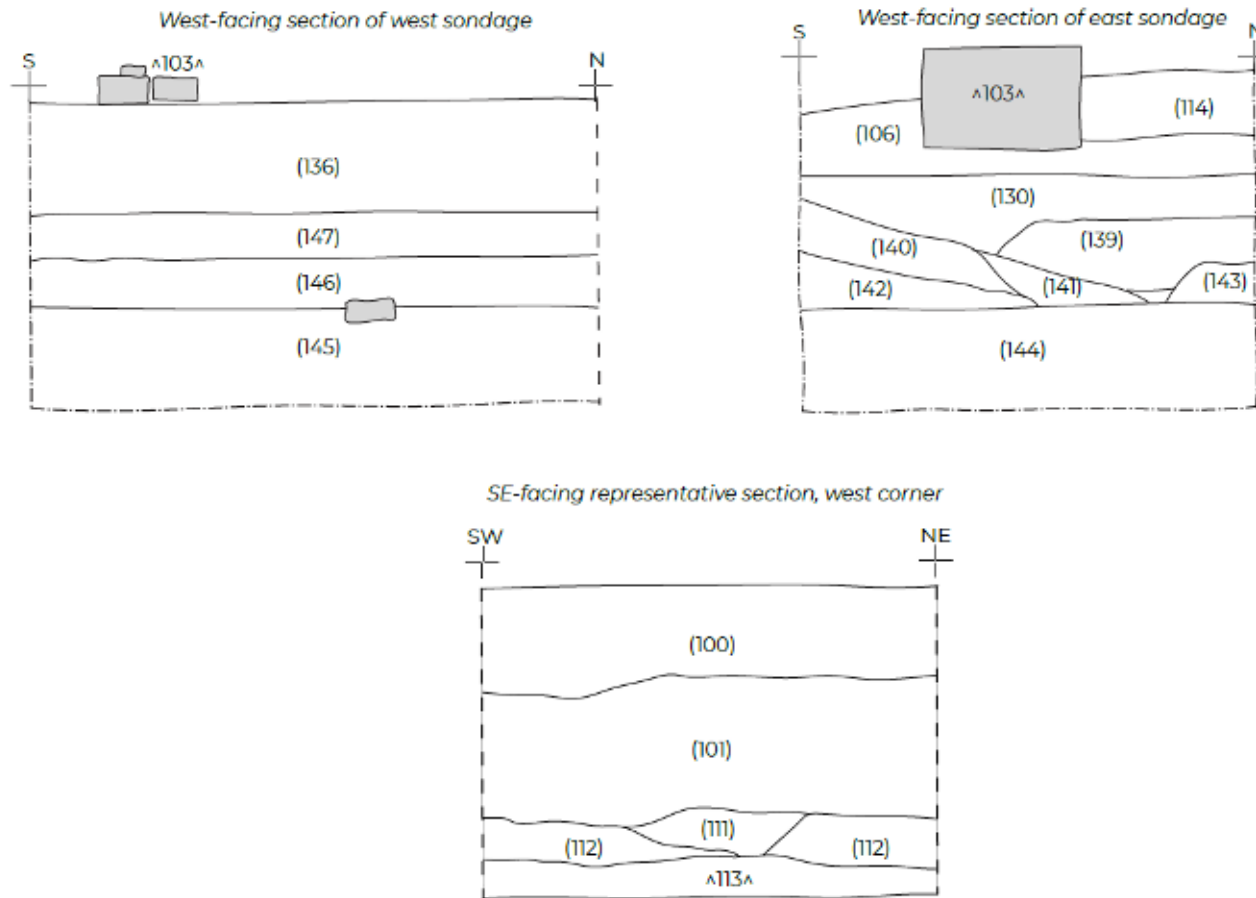


Figure 3: Sections through the layers on site



## 8. The Finds

There were hundreds of pieces of pottery, glass, brick and tile, metalwork and shells and animal bones found by the team on site. The total count is shown in the graph below. CBM is ceramic building material, or bricks and tile, and CTP is clay tobacco pipe. Some of the interesting discoveries are explained in this section.

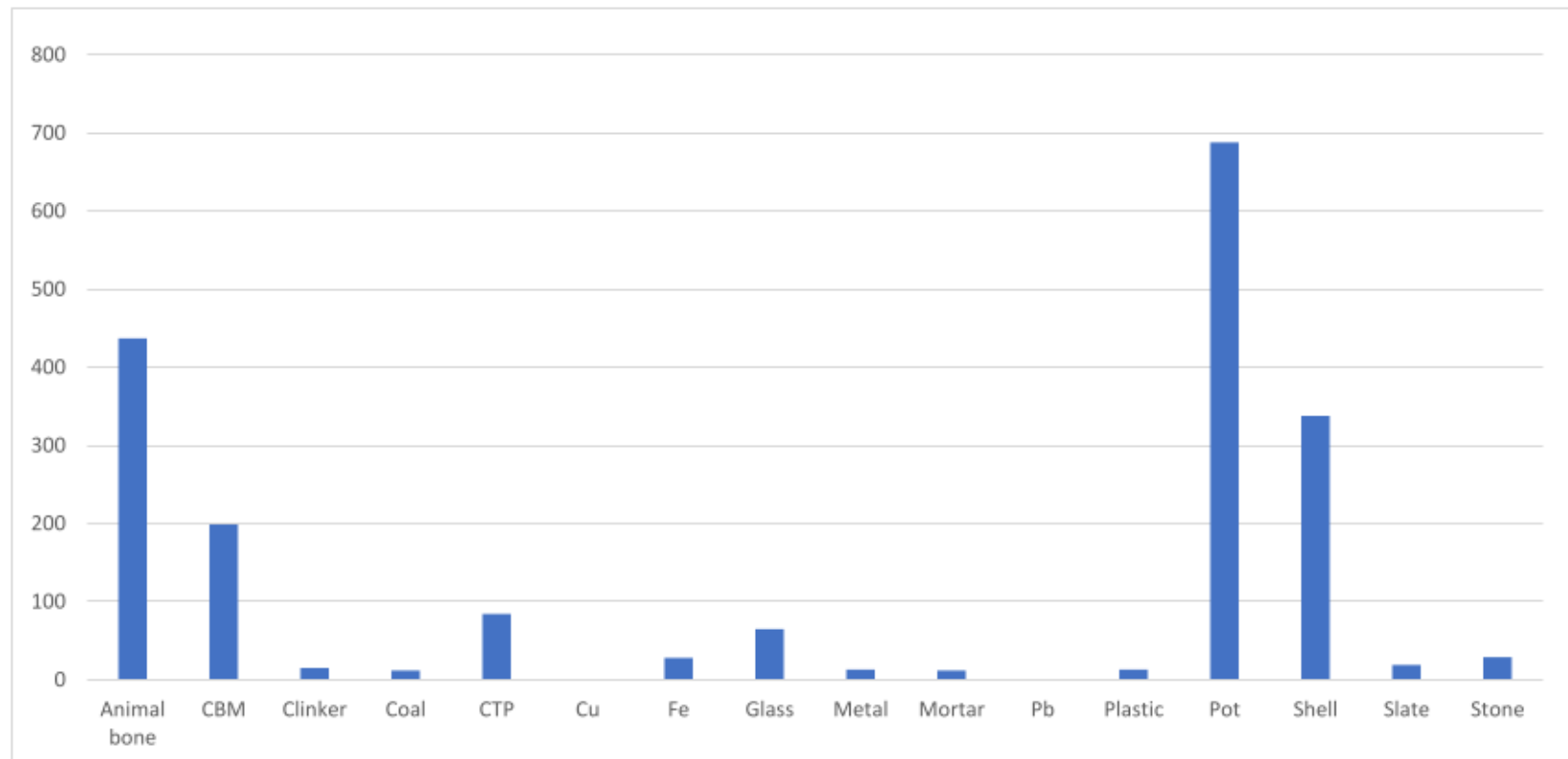




Plate 10: The finds from the topsoil












Plate 11: Some of the finds after sorting into types



### 8.1. Animal Bones and Shell

There were 507 individual bones and bone fragments found. Of these 195 were so fragmentary or damaged that they could not be identified. The size of some of the fragments suggests that they are either cattle (cow) or sheep. Of the 312 identifiable bones, more than half (57.37%) were sheep or goat, and 31.41% were cattle. The other bones were from birds, fish, rodents (mice and rats) and there was one pig jaw. Sheep (*Ovis Aries*) and goat (*Capra Hircus*) are incredibly difficult to distinguish from their bones and so “sheep” has been used as shorthand for all *Ovis/Capra*.

Animal	Number of bones
 Sheep/Goat	179
 Cattle	98
 Pig	1
 Rodent	3
 Bird	26
 Fish	4
 Crab	1 (claw)



Butchery marks, made when the animal carcasses were prepared for eating, were found on many of the sheep and cattle bones: 28 of the 179 sheep bones showed signs of butchery (15.64% of all sheep bones) and 26 of the 98 cattle bones showed signs of butchery (26.53%).

Boston is very close to the coast, less than six miles in a straight line, and the tidal River Witham has allowed shipping right into the heart of the town. Boston was an important trading town from as early as the 11th century and will have seen river and sea-going traffic from at least this time. Despite this, four fish bones and one crab pincer are all that showed that the marine and river resources were being used.

Most of the bone comes from domesticated animals. There is a record of at least one slaughterhouse in the area in the post-medieval period and houses on the site may have contributed through the waste thrown away when preparing and after eating meat.

Alongside the animal bones 338 shells or pieces of shell were found. Most of this came from oysters, which were once a common food, as well as being used in the preparation of lime for fertilizer and use in plaster. There were also mussel and wewk shells.

## **8.2. Pottery and Other Finds**

Brick and tile were the most common finds. This is not surprising as the area of the site was once covered with buildings and those buildings were just the most recent structures in a long history of occupation. The building material was mostly redeposited: it had been moved some distance from where it originally came when the site was levelled after demolition. The bricks included modern Lincoln stock bricks, which you would recognise from a trip to a builder's yard today, and pieces of handmade bricks that were poorly fired, and were black and dark red in colour. These handmade bricks are older and look very much like those that can be seen in some of the buildings on the other side of the river. Fragments of glass from windows, bottles and drinking vessels were also found.

The pottery included pieces of glazed cups, willow pattern plates and 'transfer wares' from the 19th and 20th century. There was also a lot of earlier pottery. The earliest pieces dated to the 13th century and there were lots of



pieces from vessels that had been made between the 15th and 16th centuries. This included French, Dutch and German pottery and a neck from a costrel, a sort of water-bottle often associated with sailors and travellers.



*Plate 12: The bricks in this building are similar to some of those found in the excavation*





*Plate 13: One of the more modern finds*





*Plate 14: A modern 'stock' brick (above) and medieval pottery (below)*



### 8.3. Special Finds

Fifteen objects found during the excavation were of particular interest in telling the story of the site and were given unique “Small Finds” numbers. These objects give us a cross section through time for the activities on the site.

Material	Count	Weight(g)
Ceramic	3	139.6
Glass	1	2.4
Iron	2	97.2
Lead	1	106.6
Other metal	2	6.1
Plastic	1	1.1
Stone	2	183.9
Worked bone	3	15.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>552.8</b>

SF 1 is a long stone object that measures 118mm long and 45mm wide. It has been shaped and smoothed on two faces and the smaller face as an incised line. Its function is not clear, and it may be a piece of architectural stone that has broken away from a larger block.

SF 2 is a plastic wrapper from an ice pop (or ice lolly or ice pole) you can see this in Plate 11. It has text written in white ink on both sides: Tip Top, 2D (repeating) on the front and A SOFT DRINK CONTAINS SUGAR AND PERMITTED ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS. CRYSTALLISED CONFECTIONS, TUNNEL ROAD, HILL TOP, WEST BROMWICH, TEL WEDNESBURY 1416 on the back. Crystallised Confections (Tip Top) was incorporated as a limited company in 1971 and in 1989 it changed its name to Tip Top Soft Drinks Limited. As the price is given as 2D (pre-decimal pennies) and Decimal Day was the 15 February 1971 this wrapper was probably made sometime between the 1950s and 1960s.



SF 3 is a lead (Pb) weight. It is oval in plan with a sub-triangular cross-section and has a crudely formed pendant loop at the top with a small perforation for suspension. It was cast in a one-piece mould and may have been a fishing weight, although other purposes are possible. A similar example has been found in London and dated between c.1350–c.1400 (Egan 2010, 310, fig. 231).

SF 4 is a complete, although distorted, metal lid, possibly made from tin or aluminium. The outer surface features beige and black enamel paint with geometric decoration and the silhouette of a woman's face in profile. It originally contained Snowfire face powder. Snowfire products were produced from the 1920s onwards by F.W. Hampshire & Co. based in Derby (Bennett 2024). The company had been established in

1895 and produced powdered foods, medical products and toiletries. The Snowfire makeup range used several different designs. The design featured on SF4 dates from 1935 and may have been used until 1947 when the range was re-branded after World War II.

SF 5 is an iron (Fe) object with heavy corrosion. The weight of it (95.11g) suggests that there may also be a lead component. It seems to be a cast long cylindrical object with a flat head at one end and an angular pointed end at the opposing end. It may have functioned as a weight or perhaps as a tool. It cannot be closely dated.



*Plate 15: SF3 a lead fishing weight*

SF 6 is made from a slightly translucent orange coloured glass and has a long, tapered shape. It is rounded at the large end but broken at the small end. Originally, it may have had a hole for a wired attachment loop. The function is not clear, but it could have been used for jewellery or perhaps as a decorative fitting for a light fixture. It is not closely datable, but it is probably post-medieval or modern.



SF 8 is a complete salt-glazed inkwell or ink bottle with a short cylindrical body, a slightly concave base, and narrow neck and rim. It stands at 54.4mm tall and has a base diameter of 48.6mm. There are no maker's marks or other identifying marks on the body. It probably dates from around the mid-19th century until the early 20th century. Similar examples can be seen in the National Trust collections (NT196369, NT 342388, NT 205696).

SF 9 is a marble, which was made from stoneware or porcelain. It measures 15.5mm in diameter and weighs 5.13g. Ceramic marbles have been produced for centuries and were commonly used for games. Unfortunately, without any marks or decoration it is impossible to date this one, but it is from the post-medieval or modern period.

SF 10 is the head, upper torso and right arm of a figurine made from a white clay with a white glaze. The figure appears to be female and wearing 18th century dress (possibly French). They have a headdress over the front of their head, and their hair is tied in a bow at the back. They appear to be holding an object (possibly a crossbow). The figurine looks like those produced by the Staffordshire pottery industries, but the style is also like those produced in Japan in the 1950s and 1960s. A similar figurine can be seen in the Sudbury Hall Museum of Childhood, and this may point toward the earlier date (NT 667389).

*Plate 16: SF8 a salt-glazed inkwell*

*Plate 17: SF10 glazed figurine*

SF 11 is a near complete polished agate. It is oval in with a plano-convex cross-section. It measures 23.0mm x 18.5mm and is 4.9mm thick. It would have been set into a metal fitting as part of jewellery or a decorative fixture.

SF 12 is a complete coin in excellent condition. It is a 20 centimes coin from France and is dated 1968. The obverse depicts the profile of Marianne facing left with lettering:



'REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE' around the upper edge (Numista N.D.). On the reverse is a wheat ear and an olive branch with the French motto: "LIBERTE - EGALITE - FRATERNITE" (liberty, equality, fraternity). In the centre of the reverse is the face value of 20 centimes and the year '1968'. Marianne is a national icon in the French Republic and is the personification of the country. The Phrygian cap that she is wearing has its origins in ancient world but after the American and French Revolutions of the 18th century, it became a symbol of freedom and the pursuit of liberty.

SF 13, is a near complete Coca-Cola bottle cap. It is painted with red with white writing: Coca-Cola, Sparkling soft drink with vegetable extracts and the ingredients. Coca-Cola originated in the USA in Georgia in 1886. The crown cork closure (this type of cap) was first patented in 1892 and became popular after 1907 with the advent of the Owens fully automatic bottle machine (Talbot 1974, 58–61). SF 13, probably dates from the late 20th century.

SF 14 is part of a pin or needle that measures 92.4mm long. It was neatly shaped to a tapered point, but it is now missing the head or eye. Simple pins and needles, such as this one, are known from the later prehistoric period onwards.

ID 2 is a small flat fragment from a bone plaque, possibly used as a decorative fitting (Plate 18). One end is angled and has a small attachment hole, while the other is broken. The incised decoration suggests a post-medieval date, but it could be earlier.



*Plate 18: ID2 a small bone plaque*

SF 15 is a cow rib that has been trimmed and shaped (Plate 19). It may have been a tool or a roughout for something like a knife handle. A similar trimmed cow rib is known from a 10th century context at Flaxengate, Lincoln (Mann



1982, 61, no. 308, fig. 35), although the date of this find is not clear. The Flaxengate find was suggested to have been used for scaling fish or cleaning pelts (ibid. 1982, 33).



*Plate 19: SF15 a worked cow rib that may have been used for scaling fish*

## 9. What has the Excavation Told Us?

The excavation has shown that the walls and floors identified by the GPR survey do remain below the ground. We now know that in the 1970s, after demolition, the site was extensively levelled and built-up using the rubble that the demolition had created.

The walls found in the excavation line up with a building that is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1886 and 1903, a strip fronting onto St George's Lane with an open area, presumably a yard, behind it. The building was narrower than the buildings around it and appears to have been an outbuilding or workspace rather than a house. The walls and surfaces that were found are consistent with this. At two bricks wide, the walls were relatively thin and there were no substantial foundations. The possible floor surfaces were rough although fragments of floor tiles were found. The herringbone-pattern brick surface appears to have been a path providing access to the building or to the yard behind it. The badly built retaining wall or rubble deposit suggests that the yard north of the building was at a higher level than the building and the path. The objects found are a mixture of household and industrial waste, including shell, animal bone, and pottery, and a lot of building material (bricks, tiles, drains and window glass) from the demolition, that was moved around the site when it was levelled.

The result of the excavation suggests that the 19th-century building was constructed on a level surface (context (130)). This tells us that the ground was cleared and levelled to ready the plot for building. This explains why very little remained of posthole [128] which was from an earlier phase of structures on the site. The occupation layers beneath the 19th century building, which are therefore older, contained lots of animal bone, including some with clear butchery marks, as well as pottery that had been made in the 13, 15th and 16th centuries.

The silty alluvial deposits also show that this area had flooded several times in the past, with a series of roughly levelled surfaces that developed against a slope to the north. These deposits may have been deliberate attempts to raise the ground and avoid flooding or could have simply developed over time.

The most recent finds on the site were food wrappers and lids and cigarette lighters. Rubbish that reflects the modern use of Rosegarth Square.





*Plate 20: Flood height marks on the Boston Stump*



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## Appendix A: Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1							
General description						Orientation	E-W
<p>Wall ^103^ running east-west across the trench from the east end.            Wall ^114^ running north-south in the southeast corner.            Brick surface ^113^ and associated kerbs in the southwest corner.            Retaining walls ^124^ and (126) continue line of ^103^.            Drain ^116^ running north-south, cutting wall ^103^            Occupation layers (130), (139), (144), (146), and (147) beneath south side of trench.</p>						Length (m)	4.10m - 5.80m
						Width (m)	2.58m
						Max. Depth	
						Min Depth	
Context No.	Type	Depth	Length	Width	Description & Interpretation	Finds	Date
100	Deposit	0.32m	5.80m	2.58m	Topsoil, mid-grey brown clayey silt		Modern
101	Deposit	0.20m	5.80m	2.58m	Levelling deposit, loose silty sand with gravel		Modern
102	Deposit	0.25m	5.80m	1.10m	Subsoil, dark grey-brown silty clay with brick fragments and small stones		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
103	Structural	0.34m	3.06m	0.27m	East-west red brick wall in English bond, two courses deep		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
104	Deposit	0.52m	1.90m+	0.22m	Firm deposit of crushed dark orange brick, with small stones		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
105	Cut	0.28m	3.06m	0.39m	Construction cut for wall 103. North side a moderate straight slope; concave break of slope to flat base		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
106	Fill	0.28m	3.06m	0.39m	Fill of [105], mid-grey brown silty clay		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
107	Fill	0.08m	0.51m+	0.33m	Fill of gully [108], dark grey-brown silty clay, with small stones, brick fragments and plaster	CBM	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
108	Cut	0.08m	0.51m+	0.33m	Cut of gully beneath (118), concave sides and base		
109	Structural	0.10m	1.10m	0.65m	Possible floor. Compact off-white chalk and plaster deposit.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
110	Structural	0.10m	0.70m	0.10m	North-south red-brick curb on east edge of surface ^113^		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
111	Deposit	0.05m	0.64m	0.30m	Dark brown-black clayey silt overlying plaster (112)		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
112	Deposit	0.06m	0.91m	0.61m	Plaster base to brick surface ^113^. White to beige crushed plaster with small stones and brick fragments.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century



Trench 1							
113	Structural	0.10m	0.91m	0.61m	Herringbone brick surface		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
114	Structural	0.12m	1.10m	0.24m	North-south red brick wall		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
115	Cut	0.30m	2.08m	0.33m	Cut of north-south drain. Vertical sides and concave base. Linear in plan.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
116	Structural	0.25m	2.08m	0.12m	North-south drain, broken in situ.	Ceramic drain in segments	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
117	Deposit	0.09m	1.45m	0.52m	Compact dark brown to black silty clay, with small stones, brick fragments, shells and coal		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
118	Deposit	0.11m	1.65m	1.10m	Dark brown clayey silt with brick fragments	Pottery, shell, animal bone	19 <sup>th</sup> century
119	Fill	0.10m	2.08m	0.10m	Fill inside drain ^116^ . Mid-grey brown clayey silt with small stones	Pottery, animal bone	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
120	Fill	0.30m	2.08m	0.33m	Fill of drain cut [115]. Mid-grey brown silty clay with small stones	Pottery, shell, animal bone	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
121	Deposit	0.12m	1.45m	0.52m	Subsoil north of ^103^ . Light grey-brown silty clay with brick fragments		19 <sup>th</sup> century
122	Deposit	Unexc.	0.71m	0.46m	Subsoil north of ^113^ . Mid-grey brown silty clay with plaster, brick fragments, small stones and coal.		19 <sup>th</sup> century
123	Deposit	0.08m	1.10m	1.00m	Occupation layer under (109). Mid-grey brown silty clay with small stones and brick fragments.	Pottery dated to 15 <sup>th</sup> century, stratigraphically residual.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
124	Structural	0.20m	1.40m	0.35m	Loose brick wall north of ^113^		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
125	Structural	0.10m	0.91m	0.10m	Red brick retaining curb to ^113^		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
126	Deposit	0.11m	1.92m	0.47m	Mid-grey brown silty clay with sandstone blocks and brick fragments		18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
127	Deposit	0.10m	0.30m	0.10m	Stones under drain ^116^		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
128	Cut	0.05m	0.28m	0.26m	Cut of posthole under 103/116		
129	Fill	0.05m	0.28m	0.26m	Fill of posthole 128		
130	Deposit	0.06m	0.90m	0.82m	Occupation layer under [105]. Light orange-brown silty clay		15 <sup>th</sup> century



Trench 1							
131	Fill	0.20m	0.50m	0.09m	Packing fill of cut [132]. Mid-grey brown silty clay with small stones.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
132	Cut	0.20m	0.50m	0.44m	Construction cut for ^124^Λ. Linear in plan, steep sloping sides and flat base.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
133	Deposit	0.05m	0.92m	0.42m	Black deposit with burnt material		13 <sup>th</sup> century
134	Deposit	0.08m	1.16m	0.58m	Levelling deposit of compact beige silty clay and plaster, with gravel and brick fragments		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
135	Deposit				Identical to 123		
136	Deposit	0.25m	2.30m	1.33m	Deposit under (118)		18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
137	Fill				Identical to 106		
138	Deposit				Identical to 130		
139	Deposit	0.10m	0.54m	0.50m	Occupation layer under 130. Grey-brown clay with red sand inclusions. Contained shell, crushed brick and tile.		Post-Med.
140	Deposit	0.25m	0.19m	0.50m	Subsoil under 130. Grey-brown sand with coal and charcoal flecks.		
141	Deposit	0.04m	0.12m	0.50m	Subsoil under 139. Light grey clayey sand with charcoal flecks		
142	Deposit	0.15m	0.43m	0.38m	Subsoil under 140 & 141. Light red to grey sand with coal and charcoal		
143	Deposit	0.07m	0.14m	0.12m	Occupation layer under 139, dark grey clay with charcoal and brick		
144	Deposit	-	-	-	Alluvial deposit, firm blue-grey sandy clay.		
145	Deposit	-	-	-	Alluvial deposit under 146, light orange-brown clayey sand,		
146	Deposit	0.11m			Occupation layer under 106. Dark grey-brown silty clay with small stones	Shells, animal bones	13 <sup>th</sup> century
147	Deposit	0.10m	-	-	Dark orange-brown sandy clay	-	

