

98/23

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
COMMON WAY,
TYDD ST. MARY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMC 98)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
COMMON WAY,
TYDD ST. MARY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMC 98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr. P. Cullen

Report Compiled by
P. Cope-Faulkner

December 1998

Planning Application No: H21/0544/97
National Grid Reference: TF 4451 1867
City and County Museum Accession No:270.98

A.P.S. Report No: **87/98**

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (No. 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a house at Common Way, Tydd St. Mary, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Nothing earlier than the medieval period (AD 1066-1500) is known from the village although Romano-British (AD 50-410) material has been found in the parish. The church, a cross shaft and a sea bank represent the only extant medieval remains in the village.

The investigations revealed an undated, posthole, sealed beneath the topsoil. Finds retrieved from the investigation include 18th and 19th century pottery and an unstratified medieval sherd.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as '*a formal programme of observation and investigation, conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr. P. Cullen to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to Common Way, Tydd St. Mary, South Holland District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H21/0544/97. The watching brief

was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Tydd St. Mary is located 19km east of Spalding and 29km south of Boston in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 110m to the northwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary (Fig. 2). The development site is situated at a height of c. 3.5m OD and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 4451 1867.

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). These soils are developed on a drift geology of marine alluvium. Beneath the drift deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill Clay (GSGB 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Tydd St. Mary is located in an area of Romano-British and later remains. No prehistoric material has been found as the area has been subjected to a series of marine and freshwater inundations, resulting in the deposition of several metres depth of alluvium (peats, silts and clays).

Romano-British pottery has previously been found at depth northwest of Tydd St. Mary. No associated settlement has been identified in this area, although cropmarks further west indicates widespread occupation during this period.

Tydd St. Mary is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The name is derived from the Old English *titt* meaning 'a teat' and used in the transferred sense of a

slight hill (Ekwall 1974, 484). The church is located on a slight prominence, believed by some to be a saltern (salt producing site) mound (Owen 1984, 46).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was owned by the King, Ivo Taillebois and Guy of Craon and comprised 110 acres of meadow and a wood with a fishery and a church (Foster and Longley 1976),

Extant remains of the medieval period include the church of St. Mary, built largely in the 14th century, but containing reused Norman stonework (Pevsner and Harris 1987, 770). This material is probably derived from the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey. In the churchyard is the shaft of 14th century cross (*ibid.*). Earthworks of a medieval sea bank survive to the east of the village.

Besides the church, Tydd St. Mary also had three chapels, of which nothing survives at present, these were the chapels of St. John, St. Mary and the Holy Trinity (Owen 1975, 21). A 14th century doorway is located within a post-medieval garden wall at Greyfriars on Hannath Road (DoE 1987, 61), which might indicate the position of one of these chapels. A coin of Edward 1 (1272-1307) was found in the west of the village.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a depth of 0.95m as required by the development. Following excavation, the

sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following specialist descriptions, three phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Located at the base of all foundation trenches was a deposit of firm yellowish brown silt (004). This deposit was identified as the underlying alluvium of probable marine

origin.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural alluvium (004) was a feature appearing in section only (003). This measured 0.3m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill of greenish brown silt (002) with frequent coal fragments (Fig. 4, Section 1). The profile of the feature suggests it was a posthole.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a layer of friable, mid brown silt (001). Measuring 0.54m thick, this was identified as the topsoil. In places the topsoil had been replaced by a layer of crushed brick, gravel and tarmac (005) to provide a firm base for a car park associated with the adjacent Five Bells public house.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural silt (Phase 1) was the earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief and was identified as the underlying marine alluvium.

A posthole (Phase 2) represented the earliest archaeological feature identified on the site. The absence of pottery or artefacts leaves this feature undated. No other postholes or features were observed.

Few finds were recorded from the site and comprise 18th and 19th century pottery fragments from the topsoil. A single 12th to 14th century sherd was also found but not in a stratified layer.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land at Tydd

St. Mary were carried out because the site lies within an area of settlement dating from the medieval period.

A single undated posthole was the only archaeological feature found. No waterlogged deposits were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

This represents one of the first archaeological interventions in Tydd St. Mary and indicates that there is potential for survival of archaeological features.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Cullen who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by David Fell and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Sarah Grundy kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: David Fell
Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

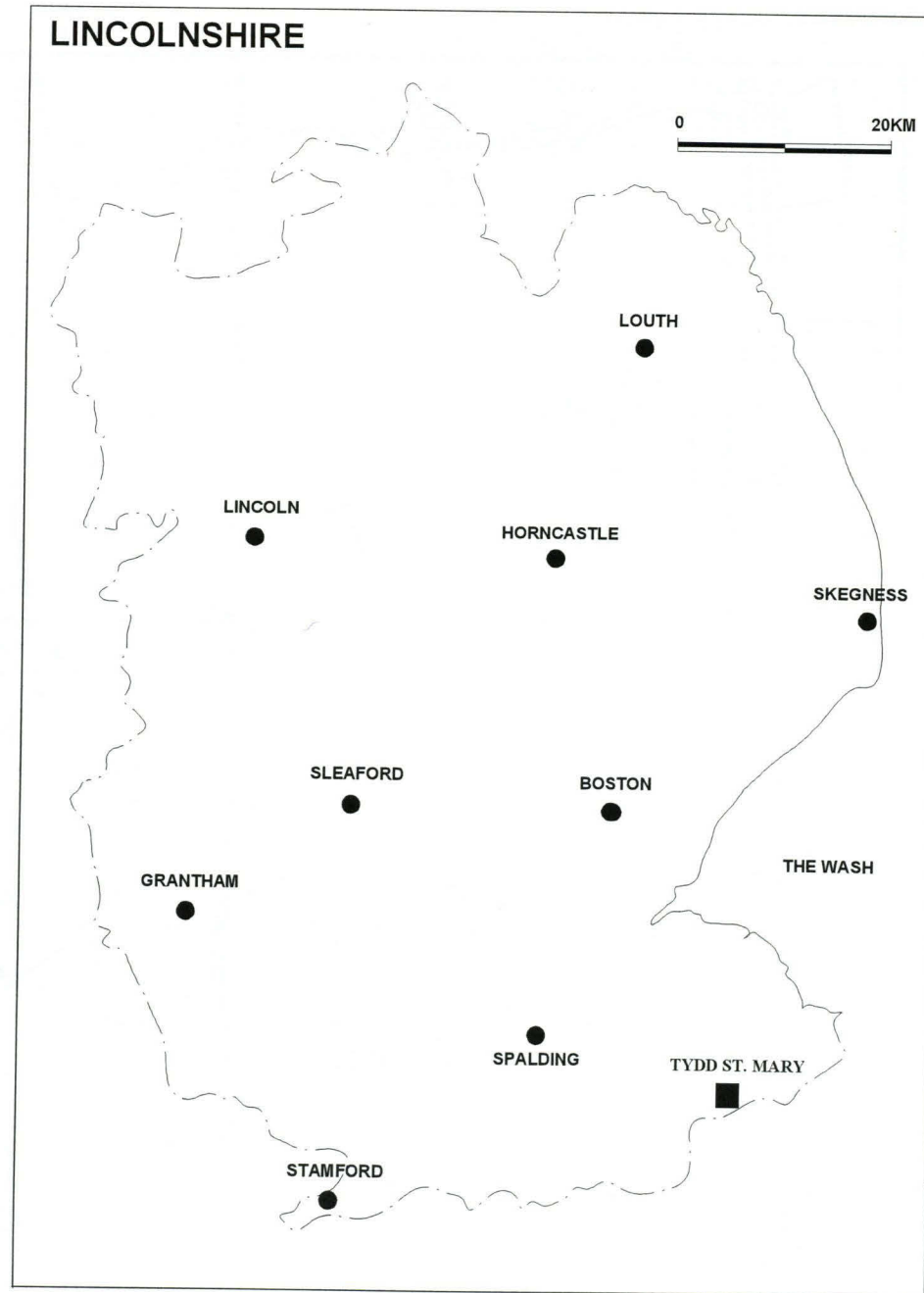
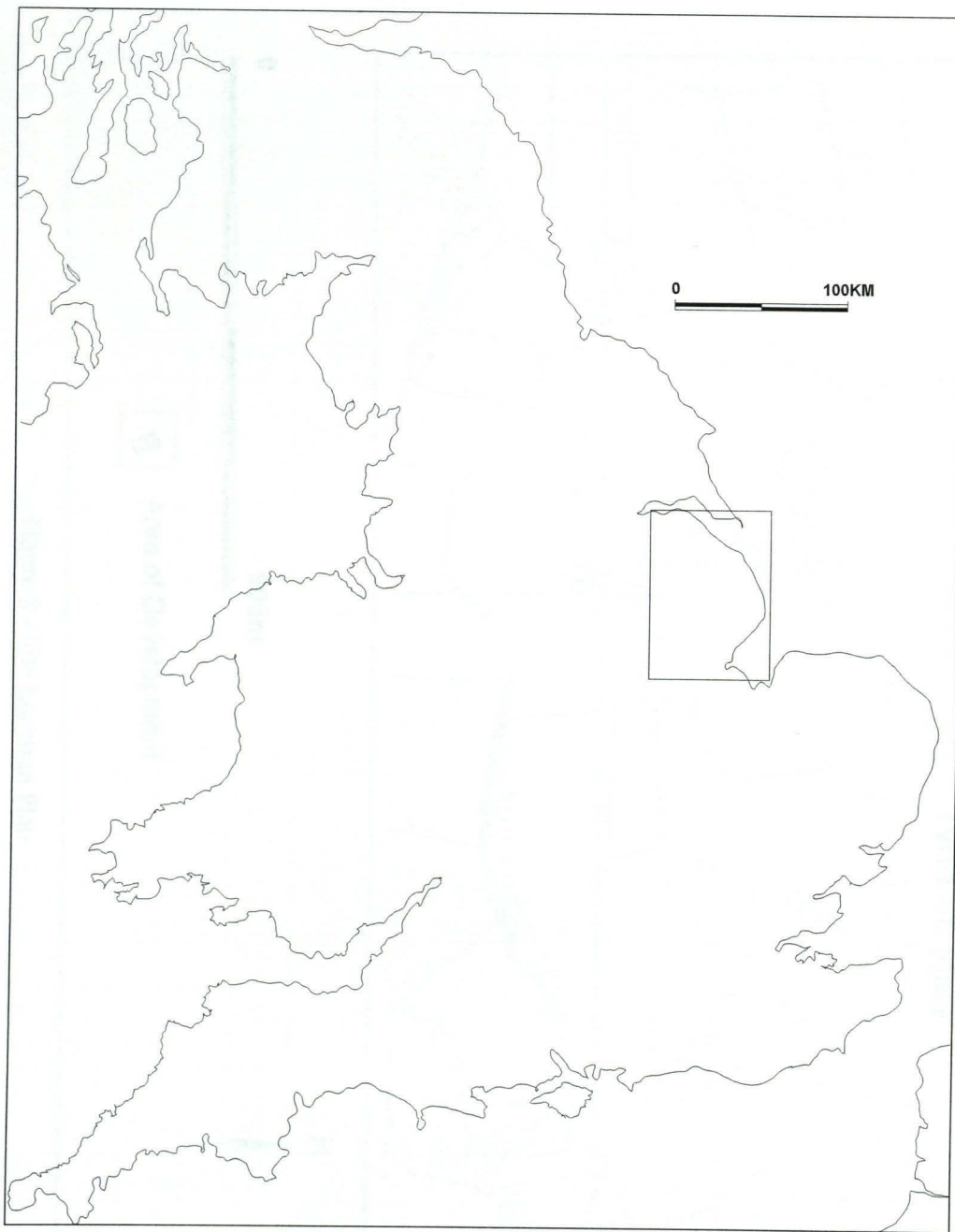
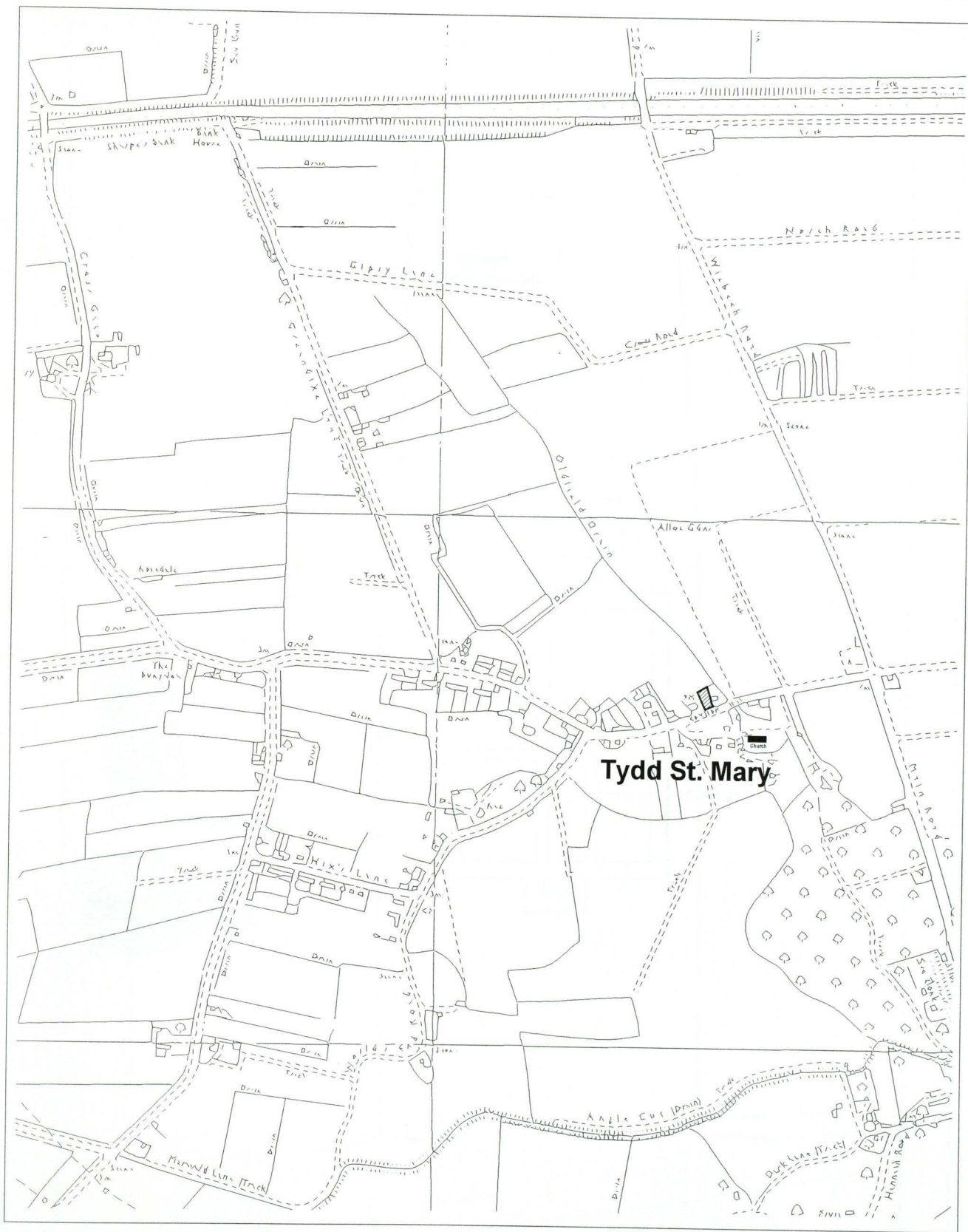


Figure 1 - General location map



Area of Development

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

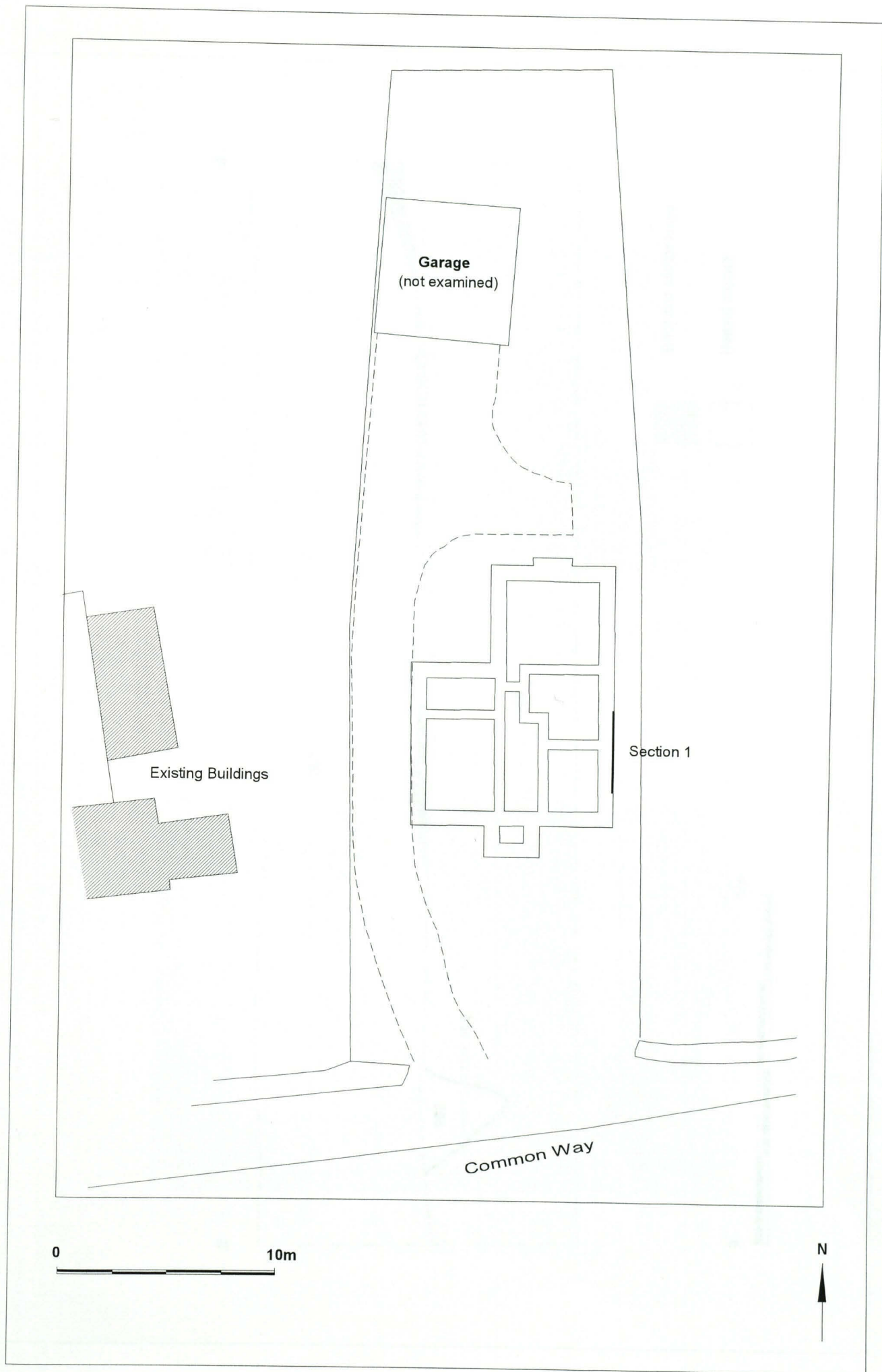


Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing Section location

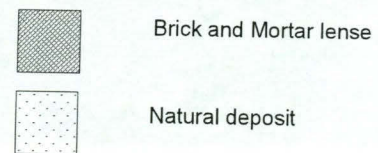
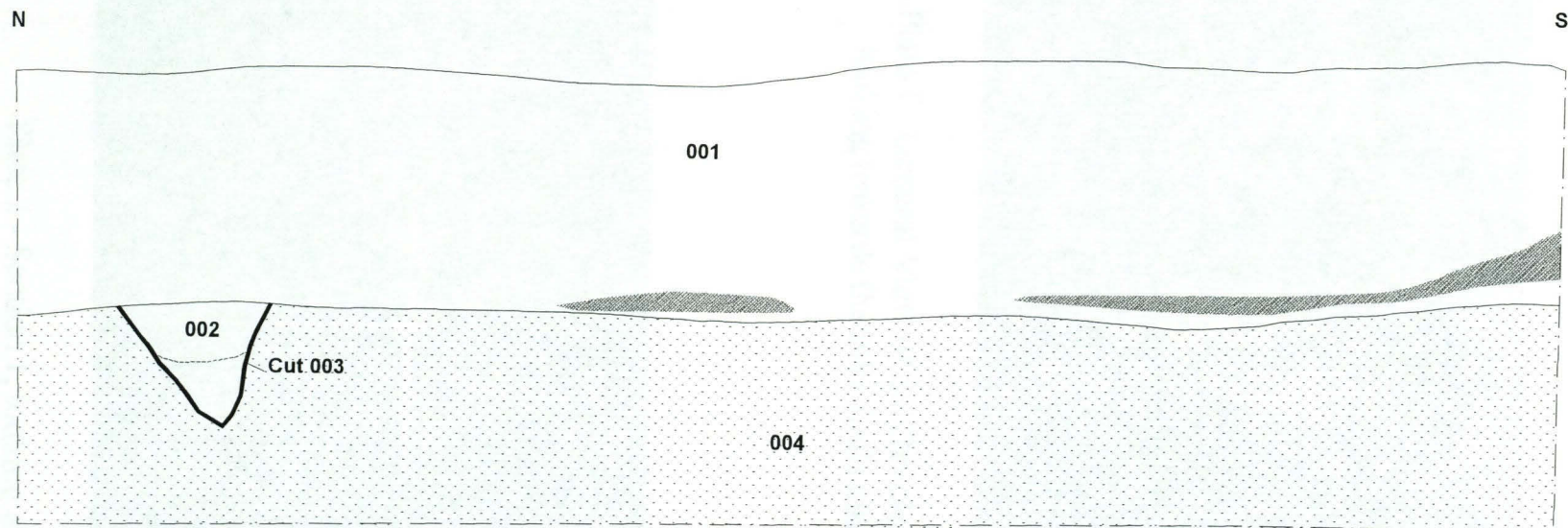


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General View of the Development Area,
looking towards the Five Bells public house

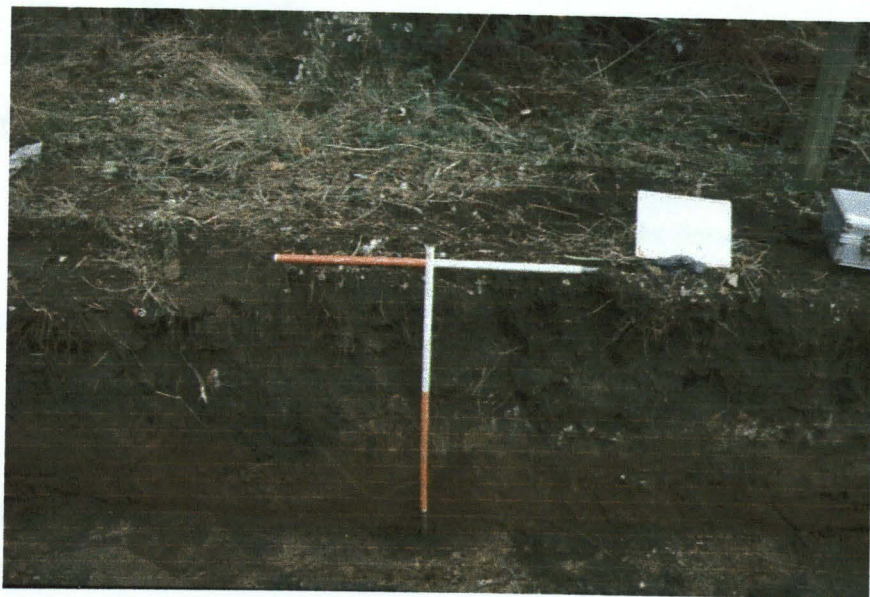


Plate 2 - Section 1, looking east

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the construction of a house and detached garage adjacent to the Five Bells Public House, Common Way, Tydd St. Mary, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The site is located in the centre of the medieval village, near to the 14th century and earlier parish church and 16th century Tysdale Manor, and close to the course of an ancient sea bank. Additionally, a Roman road is reported to pass through the area.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological remains exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a house and garage adjacent to the Five Bells Public House, Common Way, Tydd St. Mary. The site is located at national grid reference TF445186.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Tydd St. Mary is located approximately 10km southeast of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland. The site, adjacent to the Five Bells Public House, is situated near the village centre, approximately 100m northwest of the church at TF445186.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Full planning permission (application number H21/0544/97) for the construction of a house and double garage has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to conditions which include the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. Tydd St. Mary is situated in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is on fairly flat and level land and lies at approximately 3m OD. The site lies at the junction of Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils, to the east, and Wallasea 2 Association pebbly alluvial gley soils to the west, with both soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361; 338).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. A Roman road is reported to pass through Tydd St. Mary. The parish is recorded in the

Domesday Book of 1086 when it had a church and was in part a royal manor. The present parish church dates from the early 14th century, but incorporates pieces from the church noted in the Domesday Book, and is located only 100m to the southeast of the site. Additionally, the course of an ancient sea bank passes about 100m east of the site.

- b. Adjacent to the public house is Tysdale Manor, a building of 16th century origin.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour slides/prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
 - v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. **POST-EXCAVATION**

a. Stage 1

- i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides/prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered; separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10. **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to South Holland District Council Planning Department.

11. **ARCHIVE**

- a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. **PUBLICATION**

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. **VARIATIONS**

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15. **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16. **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid brown silt, with frequent brick, mortar, rounded pebbles, 0.5m thick	Topsoil, comprising former parking surface
002	Firm light to mid greenish brown silt, with frequent coal frags	Fill of 003
003	Feature, seen in section only, 0.3m wide by 0.25m deep, vertical sides with tapered point	Posthole
004	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Natural deposit
005	Friable gravel, brick etc. layer across much of site, 0.5m thick	Former parking surface

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All finds were recovered from the topsoil (001) except for a single sherd from an unstratified layer.

The individual artefacts are from separate manufacturing sources. The earthenware fragments are both typical of 18th and 19th century manufacture from the Midlands, most likely Staffordshire. The unidentified medieval sherd may come from an unknown source in Lincolnshire or, more probably, Cambridgeshire or Norfolk.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: The Artefacts

Context	Description	Latest date
Unstratified	1 medieval sherd,	12 th - 14 th century
001	1 White glazed earthenware 1 Midlands Purple type 1 Cattle rib, sawn	18 th - 19 th century

Condition

Although the unstratified medieval sherd is heavily abraded, the remainder of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblages from the county have previously been prepared and published.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 270.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TMC98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period from AD 43-410 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.