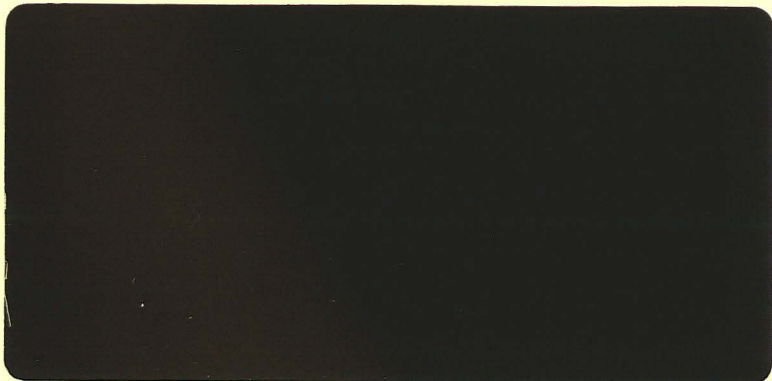


99/9

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE SHIP INN,
NORTH STREET,
HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HSI 98)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE SHIP INN,
NORTH STREET,
HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HSI 98)**

Work Undertaken For
J.J. and A.R. Jackson Ltd

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons), AIFA

March 1999

National Grid Reference: TF 2603 6957
City and County Museum Accession No: 217.98

A.P.S. Report No: 23/99



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a foundation trench on land to the rear of the Ship Inn, North Street, Horncastle.

The site lies close to a Romano-British (AD 50 - 410) stone-walled enclosure situated on a tongue of land between the rivers Waring and Bain. This enclosure was later the focus of a medieval (1066 - 1500) town. The Ship Inn dates to the 19th century and originated as a coaching inn.

Investigation of the site recorded layers of alluvium, derived from the nearby river. Above these were a series of deposits including a buried soil and a cobbled surface. Two clay pipe fragments were found and are likely to be locally made during the last century.

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 or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed'* (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

On the 6th August 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension on land adjoining the Ship Inn, North Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. Archaeological monitoring was recommended by the Archaeological

Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, in order to determine the presence of archaeological remains.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by J.J. and A.R. Jackson Ltd to undertake the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the requirements defined by the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCCAS 1997, 5.7).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness, in the valley of the Rivers Bain and Waring, in East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig 1).

The development site is located 170m east of Horncastle town centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary, at National Grid Reference TF 2603 6957 (Fig. 2). The Ship Inn is situated at a height of *c.* 29m OD on the north bank of the River Waring.

Local soils are of the Fladbury I Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils, developed on flat valley floors (Hodge *et. al.* 1984, 194). These soils overlie a drift geology of recent alluvium and lower terrace deposits which in turn overlie a solid geology of the Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Background

The Ship Inn is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

Prehistoric finds are limited, but are represented by Mesolithic flint tools found along the High Street and early Neolithic tools from Bridge Street. Neolithic polished stone axes have also been found to the northeast and northwest of the site. A Bronze Age perforated basalt hammer was found to the south of the River Waring.

During the 18th century, the antiquarian, William Stukeley identified Horncastle with the Roman settlement *Bannovallum*, and considered that the Roman name signified the fortification on the River Bain (Stukeley 1776, 30). The Roman place-name was recorded in the Ravenna Cosmography, an early 8th century geographical compilation. However, the identification of *Bannovallum* with Horncastle is disputed (Robinson 1983, 26). The Ship Inn lies 50m east of a stone-walled late Roman military enclosure. Remnants of the enclosure walls survive and excavations and watching briefs have accurately identified the circuit of the stone wall (Field and Hurst 1984, 49). The alignments of High Street, Manor House Street, Bridge Street and Chapel Lane suggest that these fossilize the pattern of the Roman road system through and exiting the stone-walled enclosure.

An Anglo-Saxon burial with grave goods and associated features have been found on the east side of the Romano-British stone-walled enclosure (Taylor 1993)

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Horncastle was owned by William the Conqueror from Queen Edith, the wife of Edward the Confessor. The survey states that there were two mills and 100 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Between 1135 and 1154 the manor of Horncastle was held by Adalias de Cundi who is recorded as having built a castle in the town. Adalias took part against Stephen during the anarchy and her estates were consequently confiscated, although were later restored on condition she demolished the castle (Walter 1908, 11).

The present parish church of St. Mary was built in the 13th century (DoE 1987, 19). It is not known whether there was a church prior to St. Mary's, although the fact that Horncastle was a Royal estate centre would

suggest some ecclesiastical importance at the end of the Saxon period (Stocker 1993, 117).

Excavations in the vicinity have revealed posthole constructions of medieval date along the High Street and a ford was located on the site of the present bridge over the River Bain (Taylor 1993).

The Ship Inn dates to the early 19th century and retains a carriage arch, probably associated with the Horncastle horse races and fair (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 397). Across the road from the inn is the site of the Horncastle canal basin (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of *c.* 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 was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Records of the deposits recognised during the watching brief were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Two groups were identified:

Group 1: Undated deposits

Group 2: Recent deposits

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

Group 1: Undated deposits

Located at the base of the foundation trench (Fig. 4, Section 1) was a deposit of light brownish yellow sand (007) sealed by a 0.1m thick deposit of brownish grey clay (006). Both these layers were identified as alluvial deposits.

Overlying the alluvium was a brownish grey silt (004) that measured 0.55m thick. The boundary formed by its junction with the alluvium was mixed (005). Occasional fragments of charcoal and brick or tile were noted within this deposit, which is possibly a buried soil.

Above this deposit was a layer of brownish grey clayey silt (003) which was identified as a levelling deposit for a cobbled surface (002).

Group 2: Recent deposits

The cobbled surface (002) had been reused as a hardcore base for a tarmac surface (001), which constitutes the present ground surface,

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest layers of alluvium (Group 1) were probably formed during flooding of the River Waring, which runs adjacent to the site. Though of natural origin, it is feasible that these layers seal earlier, Roman and medieval, deposits.

Above the alluvium is a sequence of undated deposits which relate to the former use of the rear of the Ship Inn. The earliest of these may be a garden soil sealed by the construction of a cobbled yard, probably related to the coaching inn status of the Ship Inn. Recent deposits of tarmac indicate continued use of the investigation area as a rear yard to the inn.

Only two finds were made during the watching brief, both clay pipes. Both were unstratified but are 19th century in date and likely to be of local manufacture.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a foundation trench to the rear of the Ship Inn, North Street, Horncastle. The watching brief was undertaken because the site lay in close proximity to a late Romano-British stone walled enclosure and the medieval town.

Overlying alluvial deposits were a number of undated layers indicating past use of the investigation area. No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief, although these could be buried by the alluvial deposits encountered at the base of the trench.

Few finds were retrieved from the investigation and were all unstratified. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators

(seeds, wood, shells, *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Harris who commissioned the watching brief and post-excavation analysis on behalf of J.J. and A.R. Jackson Ltd. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Dave Start permitted access to the parish files maintained by the heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-Excavation Analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LCCAS Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

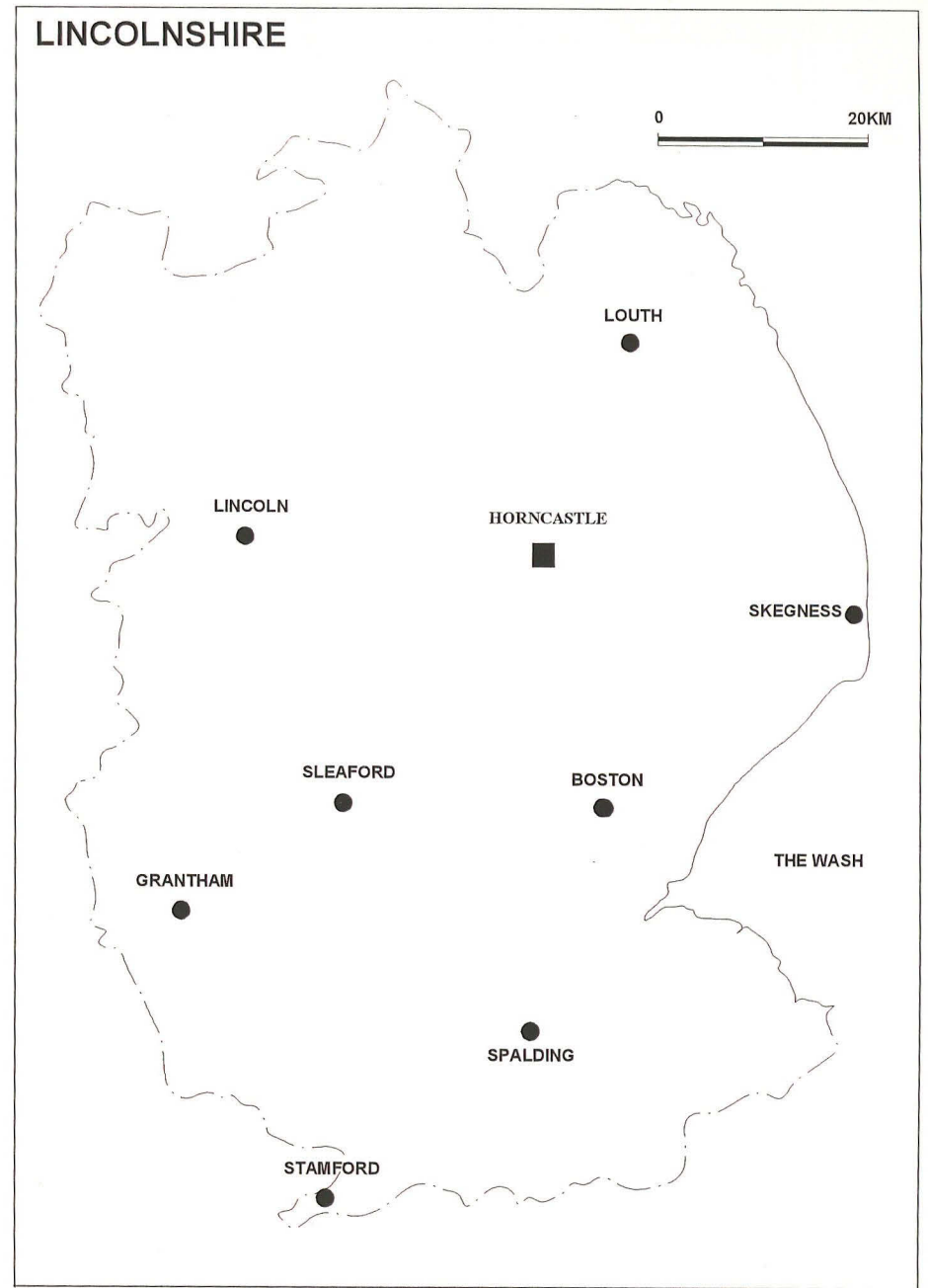


Figure 1: General location map

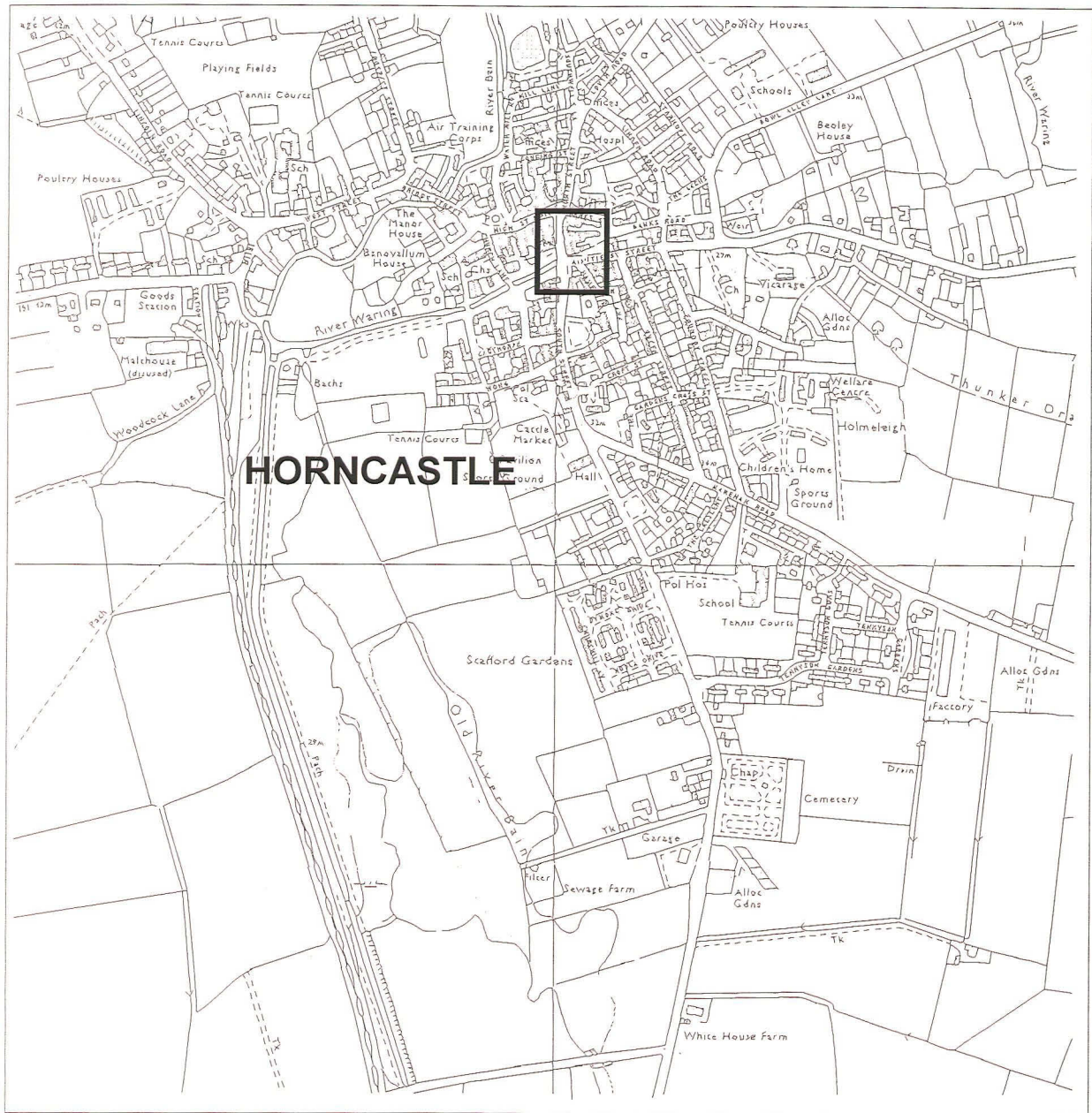


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

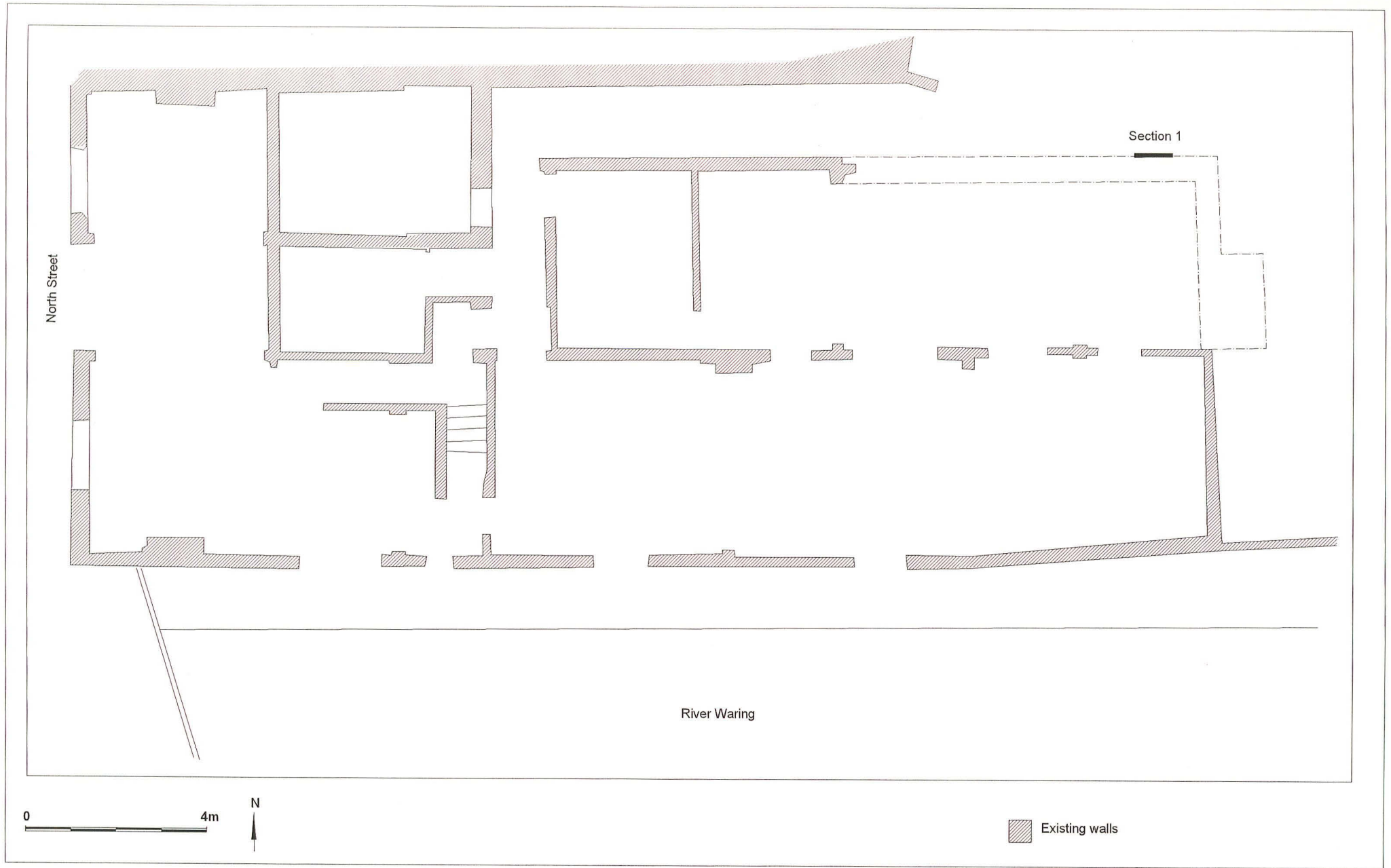
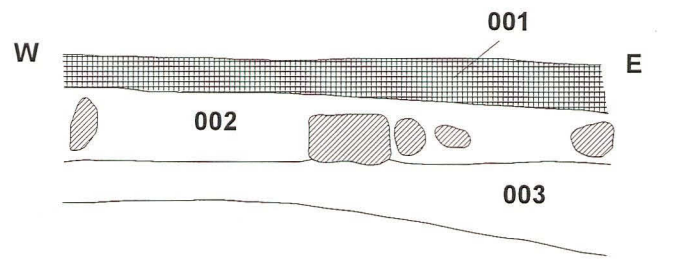
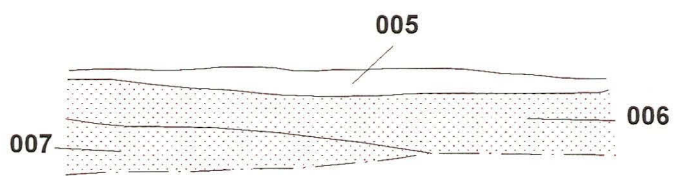


Figure 3 - Development Plan, showing location of drawn section



004



Section 1






-  Tarmac
-  Cobbled surface
-  Alluvial deposits

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking east



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm black tarmac, 80mm thick	Yard surface
002	Moderately firm blackish grey cobbles and limestone with ash and silty sand, 0.12m thick	Hardcore base for 001
003	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt, with ash, charcoal and brick/tile fragments, 0.15m thick	Levelling deposit
004	Firm light brownish grey silt, 0.55m thick	Buried soil
005	Firm brownish yellow sand with clay and silt, 40mm thick	Mixed 004 and 006
006	Firm brownish grey clay, 0.1m thick	Alluvial deposit
007	Soft light brownish yellow sand, 80mm thickness visible	Alluvial deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

All of the material was recovered as unstratified objects. Both of the objects, clay pipe fragments, are likely to have been made in the vicinity, probably Horncastle itself.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Only clay pipe fragments were recovered. No other artefacts or environmental remains were retrieved, though small fragments of brick/tile and granite setts were observed in the trench section. On the basis of bore diameter, which is known to reduce in size through time, the earlier artefact is the clay pipe bowl which is probably early-mid 19th century in date. The pipe stem has a narrower bore and is later, probably late 19th-early 20th century.

A clay pipe maker is recorded in Horncastle as early as 1685, though the period of greatest manufacture appears to have been the middle 19th century when there were at least two kilns operating (Wells 1979, 145). The Overton family appear to have been the most prolific producers, with various members of the family involved in clay pipe manufacture from at least as early as 1826, to 1876 (*ibid.*, 146).

Context	Description	Date
unstratified	1 clay pipe bowl, decorated	early-mid 19 th century
	1 clay pipe stem	late 19 th - 20 th century

Condition

Both clay pipe fragments are in good condition and present no long-term storage problems.

Documentation

Clay pipe makers in Horncastle have been studied (Wells 1979, 145-6), though their products have not been defined. Various archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken and reported in Horncastle.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential.

Reference

Wells, P.K., 1979, The Pipemakers of Lincolnshire, in P. Davey (ed), *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe I*, BAR British Series 63

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section drawing
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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: 217.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HSI 98

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 4

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 interpretations 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).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany