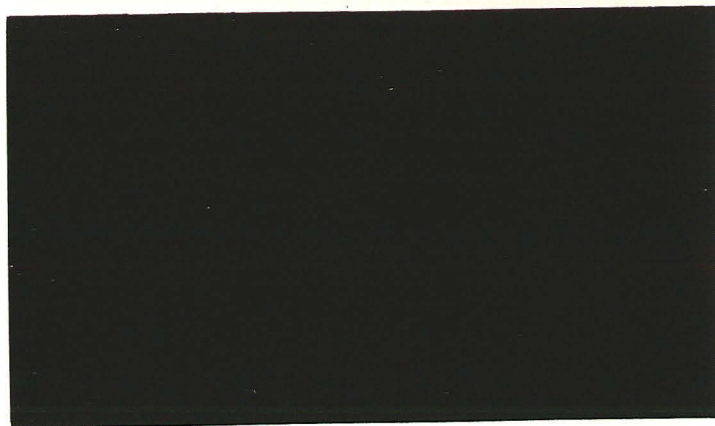


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT; MAIN STREET, DORRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: TF 0787 5286
SITE CODE: MSDN'00
LCNCC ACC. NO. 200.164
Planning ref: N25/0264/00





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Report prepared for
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by Chris Clay
November 2000

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place in July and October 2000 during the groundworks for a residential development on the south side of Main Street, Dorrington, Lincolnshire.
- The archaeological monitoring was deemed necessary, as the development was in the core of the medieval village and close to known remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date.
- Groundworks were monitored on five house plots. This revealed several medieval features, including pits and a probable boundary ditch. These features may have related to structural remains on the Main Street frontage, although the frontage itself was not affected by the development.



Fig.1: Site location (Scale 1:25000)
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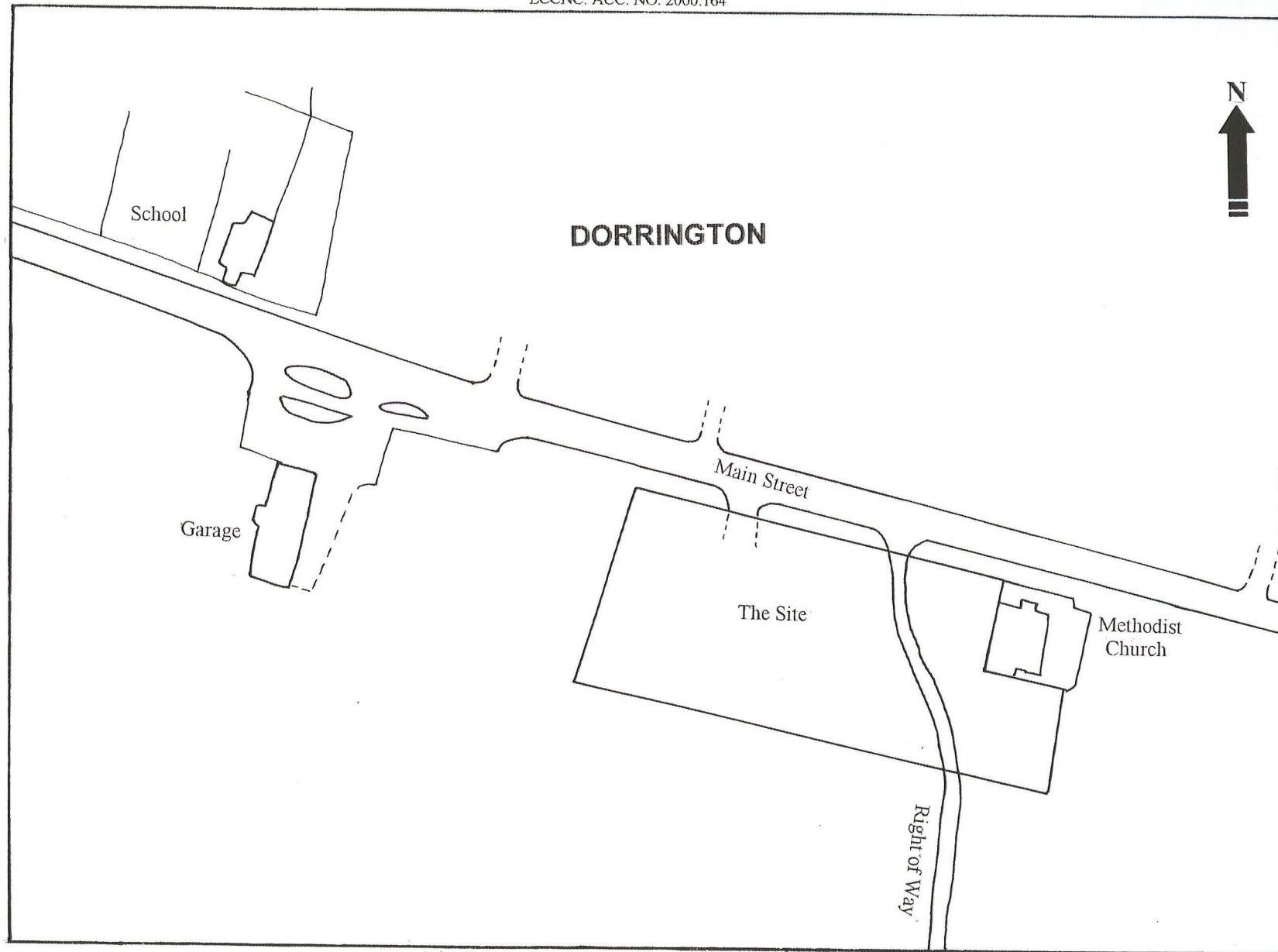


Fig.2: Site Location plan (scale 1:1250)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Jackson Homes (Scopwick) Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a residential development on land off Main Street, Dorrington, Lincolnshire. This was undertaken to fulfil a planning requirement issued by North Kesteven District Council, acting on the recommendations of the (former) Heritage Officer.

This report details the result of this work. It is written to conform to both national and local guidelines as set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Planning background

Planning consent was granted by North Kesteven District Council for the erection of five residential properties and ancillary services, access roads and garages (planning ref. N/25/0264/00). The planning consent stipulated an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the groundworks for these properties.

3.0 Location and description

Dorrington is situated within the administrative district of North Kesteven and is located approximately 21km south-south-east of Lincoln, between Digby and Ruskington. The village lies on a geological bed of Oxford Clay (BGS, 1972).

The development area is a rectangle measuring approximately 3600m², centred on NGR TF 0787 5286 and is bordered on the north side by Main Street, with the Dorrington Methodist Church on the north-east corner of the site. Prior to development this area was occupied by agricultural buildings, now demolished.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Records held by the Heritage Officer of North Kesteven indicate that the area was of some significance in prehistoric and Roman times. Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from land adjacent to the development site, and scatters of Romano-British pottery have been recovered to the north of the village (source: former North Kesteven Heritage Officer).

Dorrington is believed to have originated in the late Saxon period, as the village receives its first mention in the Domesday Book, where it is listed as a jurisdiction of the manor of Anwick (Morris 1986). The parish church of St. James and St. John, lying 500m to the north-west of the village, dates from the thirteenth century (Pevsner & Harris 1989), and the garden of no.73 Main Street contains a medieval stone cross.



Fig.3: Plan showing individual plots and location of drawings (Scale 1:400)

The area of the development is likely to be within the traditional (medieval) core of the village.

5.0 Methodology

The groundworks associated with each of the dwellings were monitored at all times by a member of staff.

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches, a JCB was used to remove all vegetation and a proportion of the topsoil. Following the excavation of construction trenches, all plan and section surfaces were scanned and intermittently cleaned, and archaeological features were drawn to scale, photographed and recorded using standard watching brief record sheets. This work was carried out on the 17th 18th and 19th of July and the 4th, 5th and 10th of October, 2000, by R Mouraille and M Allen.

Following completion of the fieldwork, all finds were washed and processed prior to specialist reporting (Appendix 3), and an archive of the documentary and physical remains commenced. This archive will be transferred to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

6.0 Results

6.1 Plot 1: Two features were recorded in this plot. In the south-west corner, a ditch, context [004] was noticed in the north facing section. This was interpreted as a robber trench for a north - south wall (drawing 1). There was no dating evidence from this feature. Also in the north facing section of the plot was a foundation trench [006] containing a Victorian brick wall with rubble infill (drawing 2). Local residents suggested this was possibly from a Victorian steamhouse which used to occupy the site.

6.2 Plot 2: Directly beneath the topsoil, and spread across the whole of the plot were two layers, (026) and (027), both containing large amounts of ceramic building material. This suggests that a building once stood in the vicinity; possibly the Victorian steamhouse (drawing 8).

On the east side of the plot, (026) and (027) lay over a shallow sided feature [028] filled by a waterlogged deposit, (029). Visible only in the north facing section, the deposit contained freshwater mollusc shells and a single sherd of twelfth century Stamford ware pottery (Appendix 12.3). It is possible that this feature is a pond which was allowed to silt up prior to the deposition of (026) and (027) (drawing 9).

6.3 Plot 3: This plot was on slightly sloping ground, approximately 0.5m lower than plot 2, and dipping to the north-east. Accordingly, to level the new foundations, the footing trenches were excavated to 1.2m below ground surface in the south-west corner, and to 0.5m in the north-east corner.

The soil profile revealed considerable evidence of burning in deposits sealed by an overlying demolition layer (031). Pottery from this context suggests an eighteenth century date (Appendix 12.3). Deposits (032) and (034) were silty sands, both with abundant charcoal staining and fragments. The two were separated by a black silty layer, again, rich in charcoal (drawing 10). No dating evidence was recovered from these contexts.

6.4 Plot 4: This area had been exposed to considerable disturbance by building activity in the nineteenth/twentieth century, and yielded nothing of archaeological significance.

6.5 Plot 5: The area of plot 5 was characterised by substantial make-up activity, with deposits (014) to (017) being interpreted as modern (drawing 4). Feature [018] however, was the cut of a medieval feature, which contained pottery sherds of probable twelfth century date (Appendix 12.2). As this was only observed in section, facing south-west, it is impossible to say whether the feature was a pit or a ditch terminus (drawing 5).

To the north of the above feature, another pit, [020], and a north - south orientated ditch [022], were located. Pit [020] yielded five medieval pottery sherds from the eleventh to sixteenth centuries, and [022] contained one sherd of unglazed eleventh century pottery and one indeterminate Roman or medieval sherd (Appendix 12.3) (drawings 6 & 7).

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The watching brief identified widespread evidence of activity dating between the medieval and early modern periods. Some of this activity, in the form of construction and robber trenches, rubble spreads and levelling horizons, appears to have been associated with former agricultural buildings and a Victorian pumphouse.

In several of the plots, a series of earlier earth-cut features were identified: predominantly pits that appear to broadly span the eleventh to the sixteenth century. These features were recorded in relative isolation and could not be associated with any form of structural activity, although such activity was clearly taking place in the vicinity of the areas that were monitored. It is worth noting that the Main Street frontage area to the north was not affected by the current development. No monitoring work took place within eight metres of Main Street, and it is not inconceivable, therefore, that building remains of medieval date will survive (or were once present) in this area. If so, then the new house plots may lie within the garden areas of the former properties where, at least to some extent, these areas were associated with rubbish disposal. In this context, the north - south ditch [022], which is aligned broadly at right angles to Main Street, is likely to be a property boundary dividing two medieval properties fronting onto Main Street.

No prehistoric, Romano-British or Saxon activity was recorded at the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology was appropriate to the development. The brief of the former North Kesteven Heritage Officer indicated the possibility of encountering prehistoric to medieval settlement evidence. Although no earlier archaeology was exposed, an outline model of the medieval settlement in the area has emerged from this work. The presence of a property boundary at right angles to Main Street suggests that the course of this road remains relatively unchanged since the early medieval period, and indicates the possibility of further medieval settlement evidence to the east and west along Main Street.

The presence of the rubbish pits on plot 5 is another locally significant factor. Logic suggests that these would be located close to the medieval houses for easy access but obviously not on the very doorstep. It is possible that the location of the pits delineates the extent of the medieval properties on Main Street.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Jackson Homes (Scopwick) Ltd. for this commission and for their co-operation during this watching brief.

10.0 References

- British Geological Survey, 1972. *Grantham. England and Wales Sheet 127. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey
- Morris J. (ed.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester
- Pevsner N. & Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, Penguin, Lincolnshire

11.0 Site archive

The primary records for the site are currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. The paper and photographic element of this report will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months.

12.1 Colour plates



Plate 1: General working shot on plot one, looking west

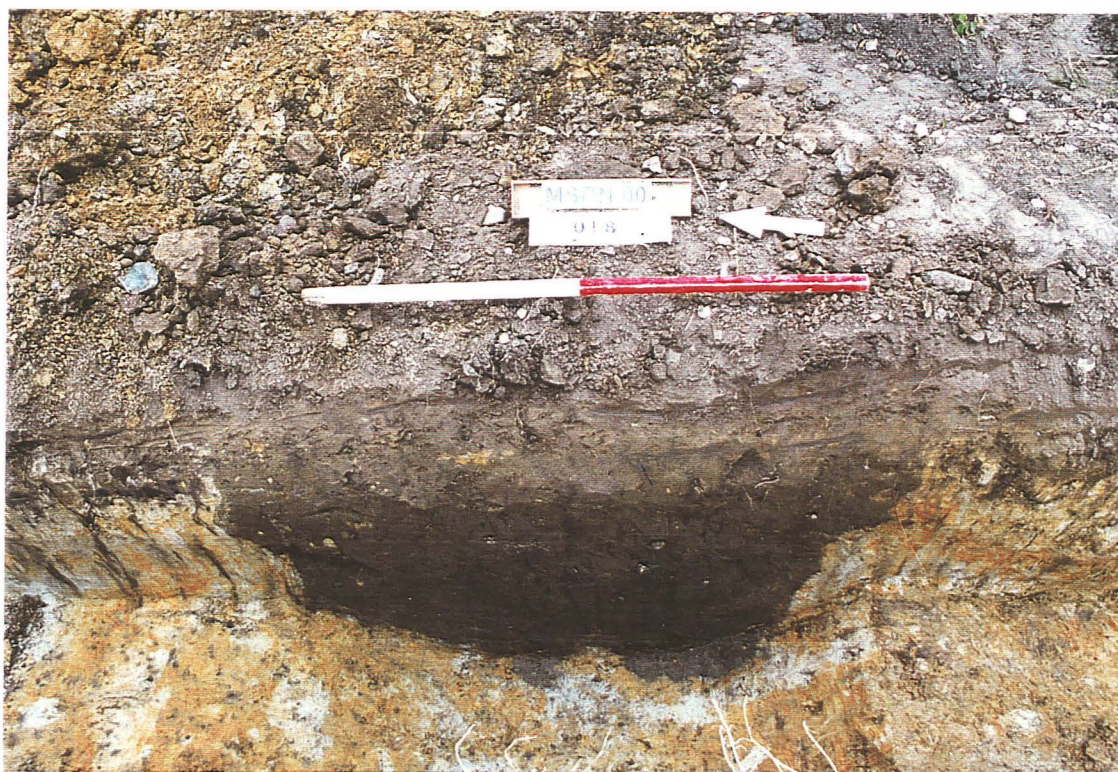


Plate 2: Section showing ditch terminus/pit [018], looking east



Plate 3: Section showing pit [020], looking north



Plate 4: Section showing ditch [022], looking south

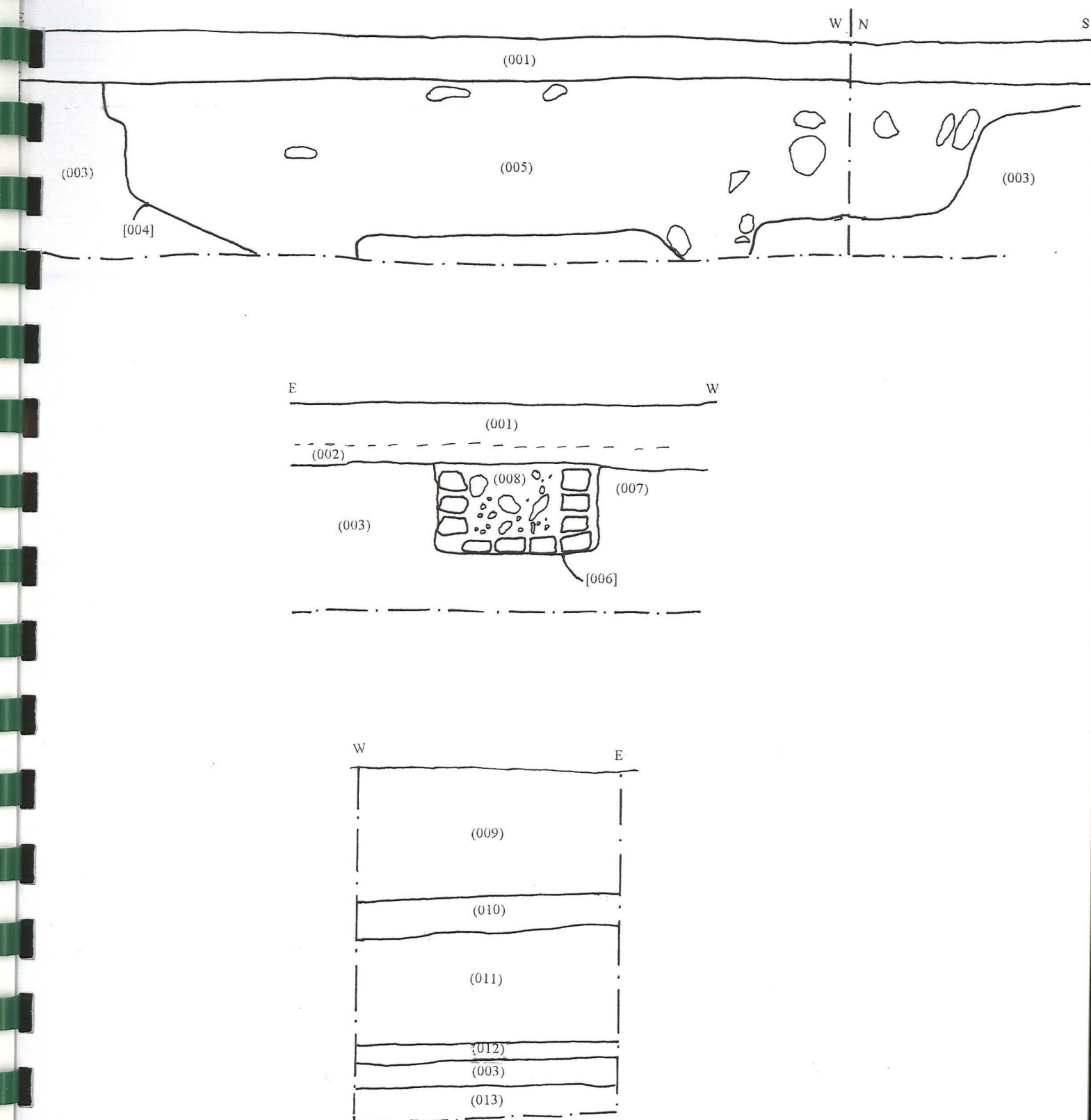


Plate 5: Section showing trench [004], looking south



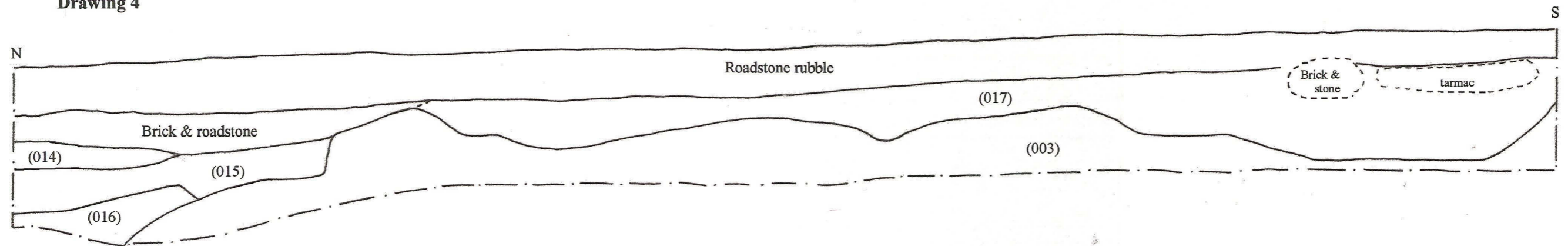
Plate 6: Section showing wall foundation trench [006], looking south

12.2 Section drawings

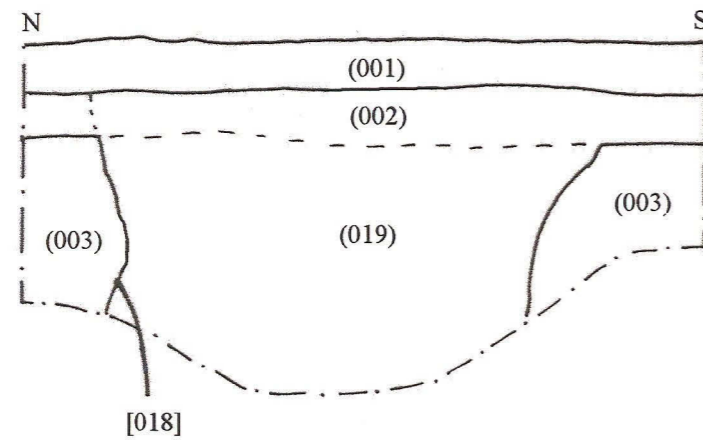


Drawing nos. 1, 2, 3: Plot 1 (Scale 1:20) - see fig.2

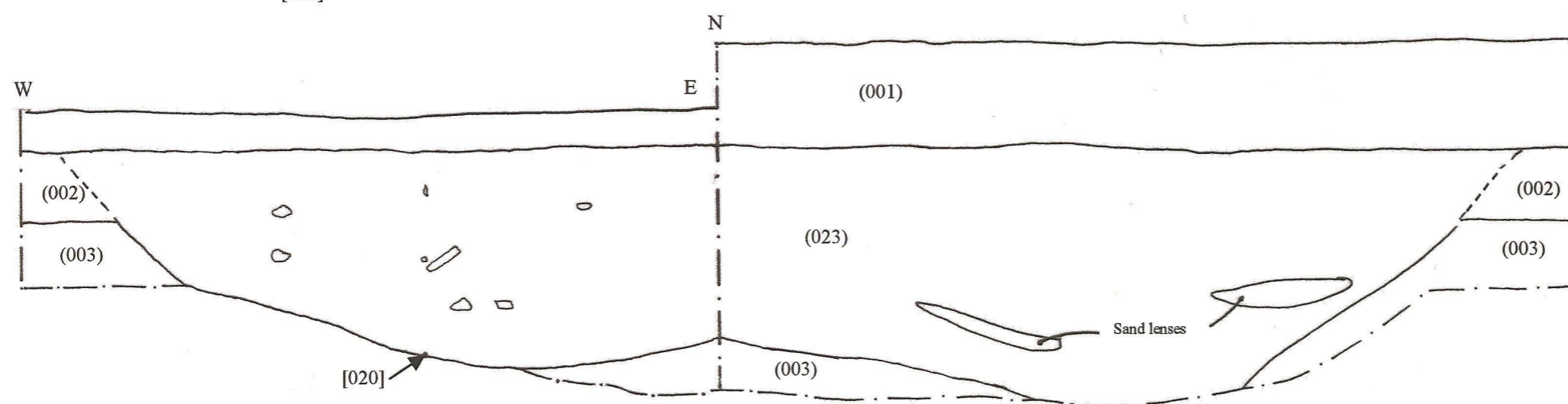
Drawing 4



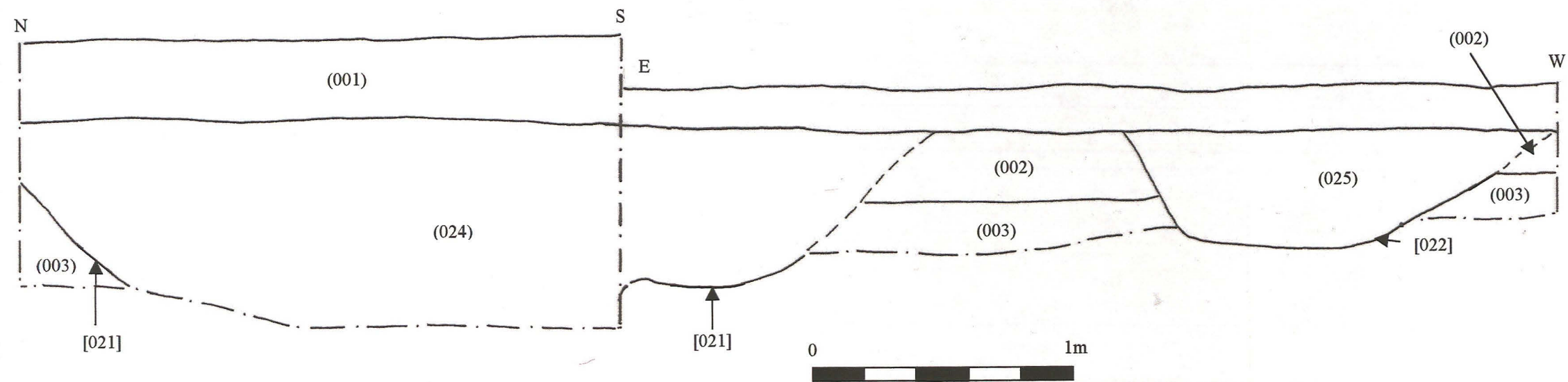
Drawing 5



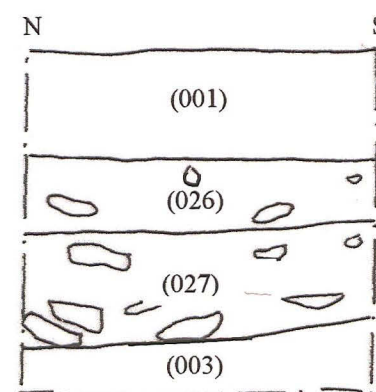
Drawing 6



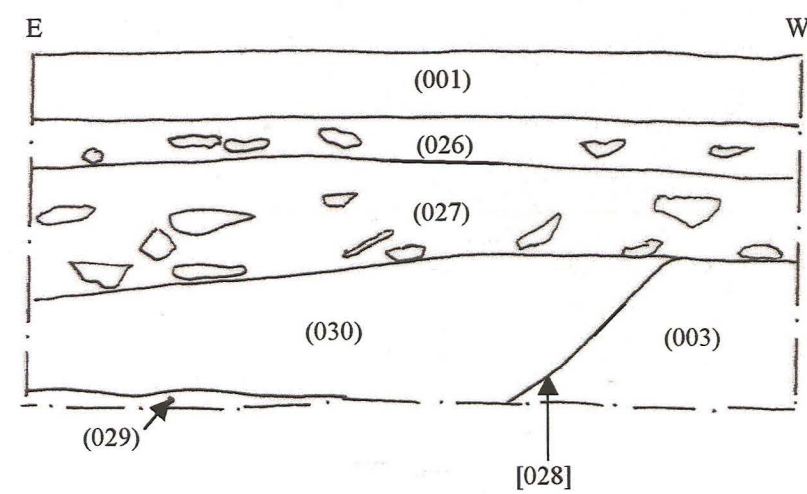
Drawing 7



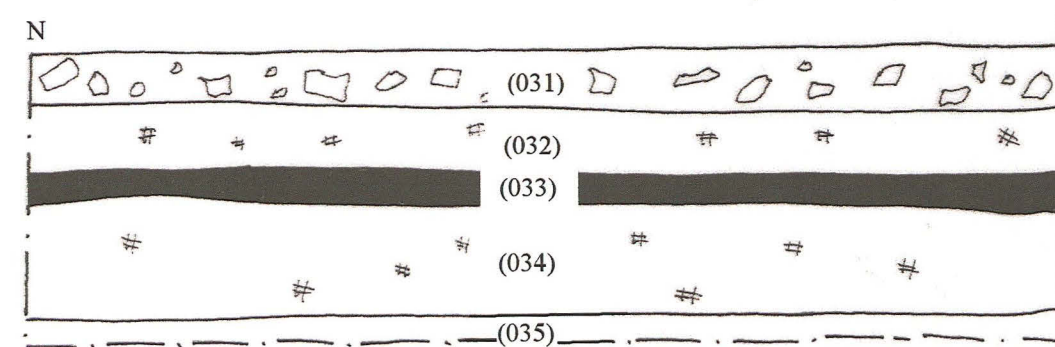
Drawing 8



Drawing 9



Drawing 10



Pottery Archive MSDN00

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
002	NSP	jug	1	1	BS	? ID	12th
011	BL	jar	1	1	BS		17th to 18th
011	BS	?	1	1	BS		18th to 19th
011	BS	?	1	1	BS		18th to 19th
019	EMLOC	jug/pitcher	1	1	BS	very abraded; splash glazed	12th
019	SLST	jar	1	1	BS	soot	late 12th to 15th
019	SLST	?	1	1	base	soot	late 12th to 15th
019	ST	jar/pitcher	1	1	BS	glaze	mid 11th to 12th
019	ST	jar/pitcher	1	1	BS	glaze	late 11th to 12th
023	HUM	jug	1	1	BS	interior deposit	14 to 16th
023	LFS	?	1	1	BS	tiny leached frag	11th to 12th
023	LMLOC	jug	1	1	BS	LHJ; hard orange sandy fabric with lighter ext skin	late 14th to 16th
023	MISC	?	1	1	BS	leached quartz & shell tempered	12th to 13th
023	ST	jar/pitcher	1	1	BS	glaze	late 11th to 12th
025	MISC	?	1	1	BS	very abraded grey fabric; minute traces of glaze/fuel ash	Roman or Medieval
025	ST	jar	1	1	BS	unglaze; thick ext soot; Fabric G?	11th

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
029	DST	jug/pitcher	1	1	base	large frag	mid 12th to early 13th
031	BL	bowl	2	1	rim		18th
031	BL	bowl	1	1	rim		18th to 19th
031	BL	bowl	1	1	BS		17th to 18th
031	LSTON		1	1	base		mid 18th to 19th

Ceramic Codenames MSDN00

cname	full name	period	sherds	vessels
BL	Black-glazed wares	pmed	5	4
BS	Brown stoneware	emod	2	2
DST	Developed Stamford ware	emed	1	1
EMLOC	Local Early Medieval fabrics	emed	1	1
HUM	Humberware	med-pmed	1	1
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	sn-emed	1	1
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	lmed	1	1
LSTON	Late stoneware	emod	1	1
MISC	Unidentified types	nk	2	2
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	emed	1	1
SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered	med	2	2
ST	Stamford Ware	lsax-emed	4	4

12.4 List of archaeological contexts

Context	Plot	Description
001	1-5	Topsoil
002	1-5	Subsoil
003	1-5	Natural sand
004	1	Cut for possible foundation trench
005	1	Fill of [004]
006	1	Cut for wall foundation
007	1	Brick wall in [006]
008	1	Rubble infill of wall (007)
009	1	Nineteenth century/modern topsoil deposit
010	1	Nineteenth century/modern topsoil deposit
011	1	Build up deposit
012	1	Former buried topsoil
013	1	Layer of natural silt
014	5	Modern build up layer
015	5	Modern build up layer
016	5	Modern build up layer
017	5	Levelling deposit
018	5	Cut for medieval pit/ditch terminus
019	5	Fill of [018], containing medieval pot sherds
020	5	Cut for medieval pit
021	5	Cut for modern drain
022	5	Cut for medieval ditch (property boundary?)
023	5	Fill of [020], containing medieval pot and slate
024	5	Backfill of modern drain [021]
025	5	Fill of [022], containing medieval pot sherds
026	2	Demolition layer, containing medieval building material
027	2	Demolition layer, containing medieval building material
028	2	Cut for pond (?)
029	2	Waterlogged deposit in [028], containing abundant mollusc shells
030	2	Silting deposit in [028]
031	3	Modern demolition deposit
032	3	Sandy silt deposit with charcoal staining
033	3	Black charcoal rich silt deposit
034	3	Sandy silt deposit with charcoal staining
035	3	Waterlogged silting deposit