ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT BLACKFRIARS STREET/WHARF ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE (STB00)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT BLACKFRIARS STREET/WHARF ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE (STB00)

Work Undertaken For P & P Build Ltd

April 2001

Report Compiled by James Snee BSc (Hons)

Planning Application No. SK99/0354/69 National Grid References: TF 0327 0706 City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2000.286

A.P.S. Report No. 53/01



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#### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of dwellings at Blackfriars Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Stamford is known to have been a Saxon Burgh and a walled medieval and post-medieval town. The site lies close to the line of the medieval town wall, immediately adjacent to the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road, believed to be the site of the Water Gate.

Although part of the site was disturbed by the basement of the former Fatboys public house, a large part of the site was shown to be relatively undisturbed. A stratigraphic sequence of urban deposits overlying natural clay was revealed. Within the sequence were individual mortar floors and a deposit possibly representing a build up of floor layers. Many of the layers of urban build up contained ash, cinder and slag and a substantial tip of ash and slag was recorded in the northwest of the site.

Unfortunately due to Health and Safety considerations the deposits could not be examined to retrieve finds and the necessity of removing the spoil from the site prevented the collection of unstratified finds.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

A 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

Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2001 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of dwellings at Blackfriars Street, near the junction with Wharf Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

A planning application (SK99/0354/69) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the proposed development. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by P & P Build Ltd undertake the archaeological watching brief. The investigation was carried out in accordance with a specification produced by APS and approved by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

#### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Stamford is located 63km south of Lincoln and 17km northwest of Peterborough, in the administrative district of South Kesteven (Fig. 1). The site of the investigation lies in the southeast part of the town on the north side of the River Welland. The development area is on the south side of Blackfriars Street, adjacent to the junction with Wharf Road, at National Grid Reference TF 0327 0706 (Fig. 2). The site lies on ground sloping southwards towards the river, at approximately 26m OD. Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban, but the site lies on the Lincolnshire Oolitic Limestone.

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified in Stamford itself, however in other areas along the valley of the River Welland prehistoric artefacts and sites are well documented (May 1976).

Evidence of Romano-British activity in the town is very limited. The major Roman road, Ermine Street, crosses the river Welland just west of the town. Within the town itself a Roman cemetery and possibly associated crematorium have been identified but general occupation debris is scarce (Tann 2000).

Saxon Stamford extended on both banks of the River Welland, but the nucleus of the settlement remained the north bank. Evidence of pottery manufacture, iron working and quarrying has been recorded. The historical records indicate that in the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD part of the northern bank was fortified by the Danes. In 918 Stamford submitted to Edward the Elder who ordered a new *burh* (fortified settlement)to be built south of the river (Sawyer 1998).

The entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086 refers to the town as the King's borough of Stamford and describes the town as having six wards, five in Lincolnshire and one in Northamptonshire 'across the bridge'. Following the conquest the king built a castle at Stamford in the Lincolnshire part of the town (Morris 1986).

During the medieval period, Stamford was a walled market town which prospered from traffic along the Welland and the medieval Great North Road (Smith 2000, Tann 2000). Early industry (11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century) has been recorded in the town, on sites close to St Paul' Gate and close to the town wall at Elm Street (Wilson & Hurst 1968)

The walled town of the medieval period lay on the north bank of the river. Part of the town wall ran along Wharf Road, immediately south of the development area. Additionally the Water Gate, one of the medieval entrance ways to the walled town, was located at the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road, immediately east of

the development area.

In 1600, John Speed's map included a representation of the water gate with the town wall to either side, an area of gardens and trees to the north and an open road to the south (Tann 2000).

The RCHME survey of Stamford notes that the rubble walled house on the opposite corner on the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road may be 18<sup>th</sup> century, but most of Blackfriars street is either 19<sup>th</sup> century or later (RCHME 1977). The development site was formerly occupied by Fatboys Public House.

#### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to complete a record, both written and photographic, of any archaeological contexts or artefacts exposed during the groundworks of the development.

#### 4. METHOD

Strip footings were machine excavated to a depth of up to 2.5m using a toothed bucket. The base and sides of the footing trench were inspected, although health and safety considerations prevented hand cleaning. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 and annotated sketch plans were produced. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded features and deposits.

Due to the confined area of the site it was necessary for all spoil from the excavations to be removed from the site, preventing any systematic collection of unstratified finds.

#### 5. RESULTS

The records of deposits excavated during development were examined. A list of contexts appears as Appendix 3. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits
Phase 2 Undated Deposits
Phase 3 Modern Deposits

#### 5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposits recorded during the investigation were light to mid yellowish brown clays (009, 022 & 032), observed at the base of the footing trenches (Figures 4 & 5).

#### 5.2 Phase 2: Undated

In the west corner of the development, the natural clay (009) was overlain by c. 1.3m of loose, dark reddish brown silt (006) with clay lenses and occasional ironstone fragments (Figure 4; Section 1). Cutting this deposit was a steep irregular sided, flat based pit (008) filled with loose dark brown silt (007) containing occasional brick fragments. Sealing the pit fill was a possible surface or floor (005), composed of 40mm of compacted, mid greyish-yellow mortar with sand and gravel inclusions.

To the east (Figure 4; Section 2), close to Blackfriars Street, the natural (009) was sealed by 0.56m thick layer of firm, grey silt (019) with frequent angular and sub-angular gravel. Overlying (019) was 0.52m of firm, reddish brown silt (018) with frequent small angular and sub-angular stones. Lying over (018) was a possible surface or floor (017), comprising 20mm of compacted, creamy beige mortar and crushed limestone.

Deposited over (017) was 0.16m of firm, brownish red silt (016) with frequent small rounded and sub-rounded stones. A 20mm thick tip layer of coal fragments (015) lay over (016), which was in turn covered by 80mm of firm, dark brown silt (014) with frequent angular and sub-angular stones. A second tip layer of coal (013), 20mm thick, lay over this.

Further east (Figure 5; Section 3), the natural clay (022) was overlain by c. 1.6m of friable, banded dark grey to mid reddish brown gritty silt (021), with moderate stones. Sealing this was c. 0.3m of firm, dark grey gritty silt (020).

On the southeast side of the site (Figure 5; Section 4), the natural clay (022) was sealed below 0.33m of firm, dark grey-brown ashy silt (027) with occasional charcoal fragments. Above this was a 100mm band of firm, red-brown silt (026) sealed beneath 0.38m of firm, mid grey brown ashy silt (025). Built up over (025) was 0.52m of friable, yellow mortar (024) overlain by c. 0.5m of firm, mid grey brown ashy silt (023), with occasional stones.

To the northeast (Figure 5; Section 5), was a 0.7m deep deposit of firm, reddish purple-brown slag and ash (031), that lay over the natural clay (032). Above (031) was 0.75m of friable, dark grey sandy silt and ash (030) with common fragments of cinder, slag or fire debris. This was sealed by 0.25m of firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt (029) with occasional stones.

#### 5.3 Phase 3: Modern Deposits

Overlying possible floor (005) (Figure 4; Section 1) was 0.21m of loose, mid creamy white sand and rubble (004). Covering (004) was a 30mm thick band of black ash/cinder (002) on which a brick floor (002), two courses thick, was lain. The brick floor (002)

was sealed below a layer of modern concrete.

Lying over tip layer (013) (Figure 4; Section 2) was 100mm of firm, mid brownish red silt (012), with frequent inclusions of coal and tarmac. Over this was 0.26m of firm, dark brown silt (011), with frequent gravel and tarmac fragments. Silt (011) was sealed by 0.40m of crushed limestone hardcore (010) which also sealed silt layers (020) and (023) (Figure 5; Sections 3 & 4).

In the northeast side of the site, Clayey silt (029) was sealed below 0.40m of concrete, brick and tile (028) associated with the former public house.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

The natural (Phase 1) deposits indicated the presence of clayey soils overlying the Jurassic limestone. This could suggest that locals soils are of the Elmton 3 association, shallow loamy and clayey soils over limestone alternating with deeper slowly permeable clayey soils on clay-shale (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 181).

Due to the limitations imposed upon the investigation by the depth of the footings and the necessity of removing all spoil from the site, many deposits fall into the category of undated (Phase 2). With the exception of an area below the former Fatboys public house, which was greatly disturbed by a basement, the site showed a sequence of stratigraphic build up that appears largely intact. It is therefore possible that some of the layers in this sequence represent medieval and post medieval activity on the site. Some of the lower layers may have dated to the Saxon or Roman periods. The presence of two possible floor layers (005) and (017) may indicate structures or dwellings of medieval or post-medieval date. The thick mortar. deposit (024) may represent a build up of floor deposits resulting from a long period of

occupation on this part of the site which is significantly closer to Wharf Road and the line of the medieval town wall. Ash and cinder have been noted in many deposits on the site and in the northwest of the site was a thick deposit of ash, cinder and slag (031) lying directly over the natural. This strongly suggests industrial activity on the site, possibly medieval or post-medieval.

The final phase (Phase 3) represents the presence of the Fatboys public house and its subsequent demolition and the levelling of the site prior to construction.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of dwellings at Blackfriars Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Stamford is known to have been a Saxon Burgh and a walled medieval and post-medieval town. The site lies close to the line of the medieval town wall, immediately adjacent to the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road, believed to be the site of the Water Gate.

Although part of the site was disturbed by the basement of the former Fatboys public house, a large part of the site was shown to be relatively undisturbed, demonstrated by the recovery of a stratigraphic sequence of urban deposits overlying the natural clay. Within the sequence were individual mortar floors and a deposit possibly representing a build up of floor layers. Many of the layers of urban build up contained ash, cinder and slag and a substantial tip of ash and slag was recorded in the northwest of the site. It is possible that these represent industrial activity. Early industry (11th to 13th century) has been recorded on sites close to St Paul' Gate and close to the town wall at Elm Street (Wilson & Hurst 1968) and it has been suggested that medieval and post medieval industry was at the periphery of residential

areas and clustered around transport routes.

Unfortunately due to health and safety considerations the deposits could not be examined to retrieve finds and the necessity of removing the spoil from the site prevented the collection of unstratified finds. However the absence of finds should not diminish the importance attached to the stratigraphy revealed during this investigation.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Ben Aitchison of P&P Build Limited who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Gail Smith, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Site Supervisors: Rachael Hall & Fiona

Walker

Cad Illustration: James Snee

Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Post Excavation Analyst: James Snee

#### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

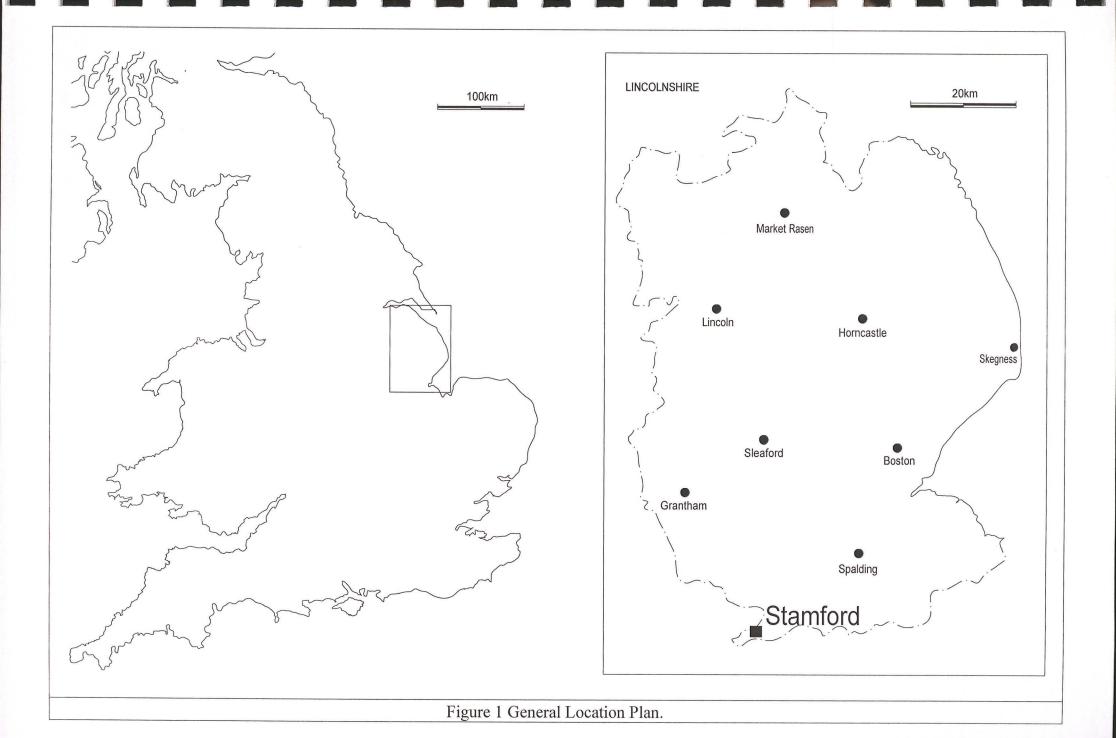
APS	Archaeological Services		Project
IFA	Institute	of	Field

Archaeologists

LAS Lindsey Archaeological

Services

RCHME Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England



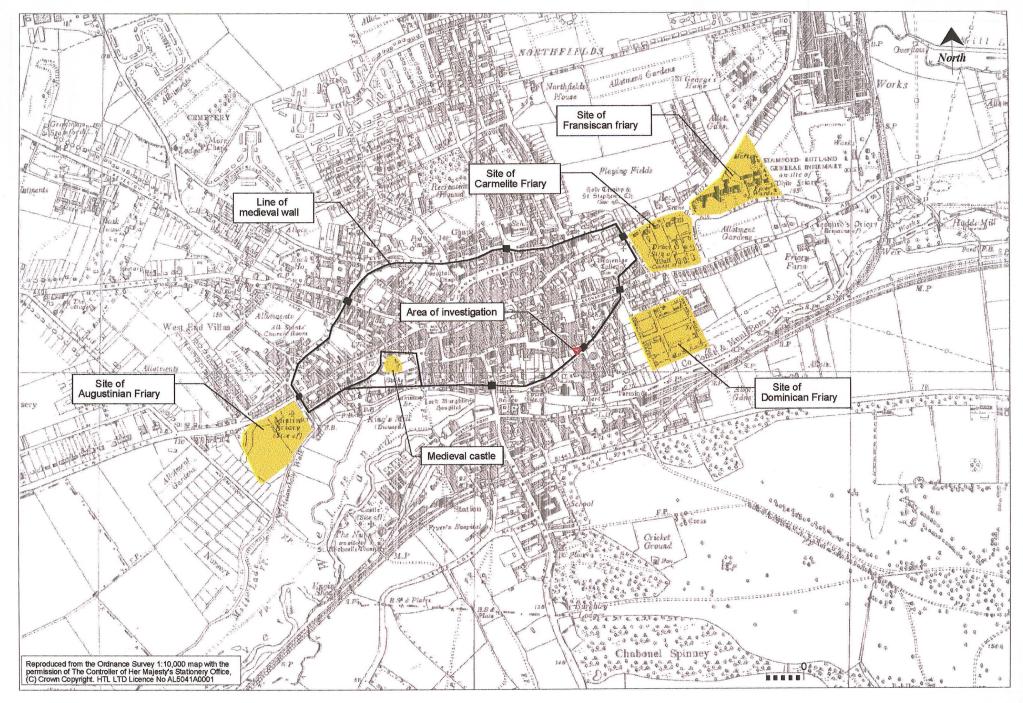
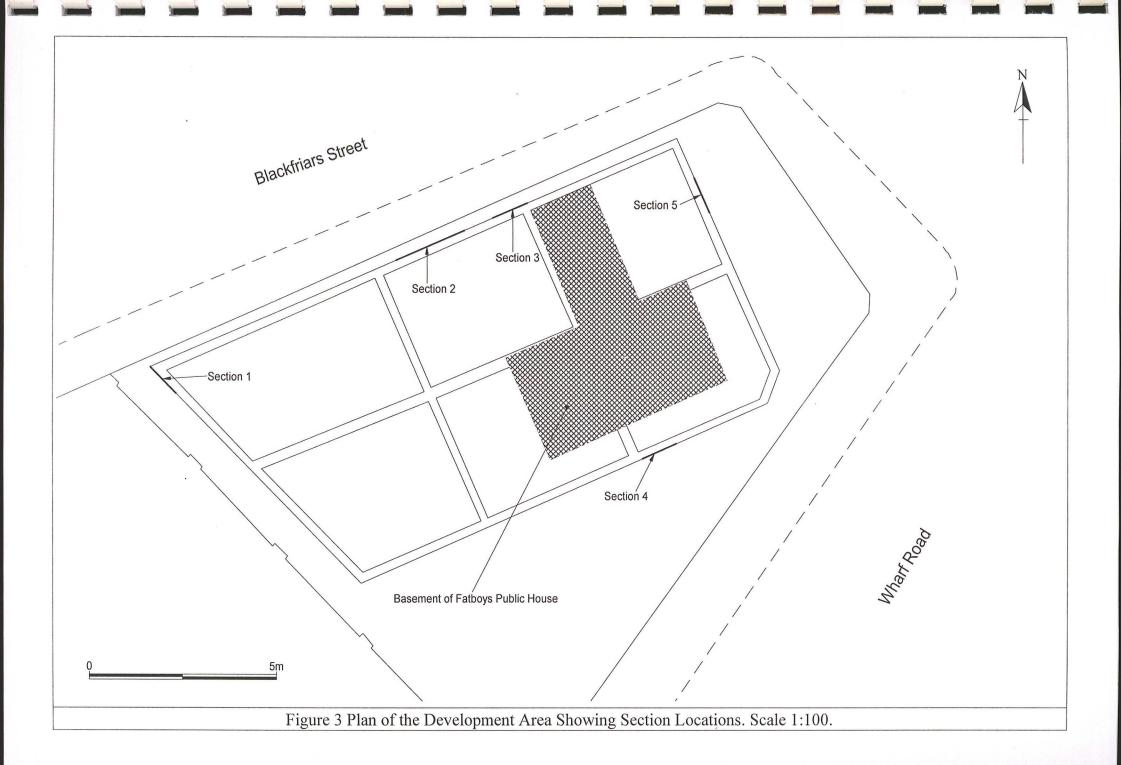
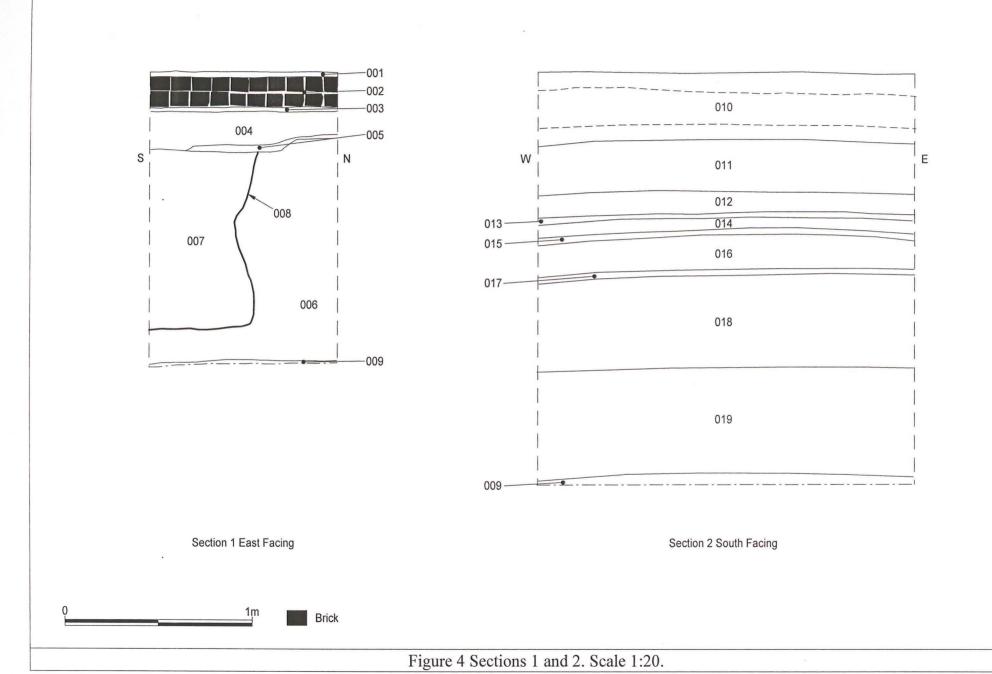


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological





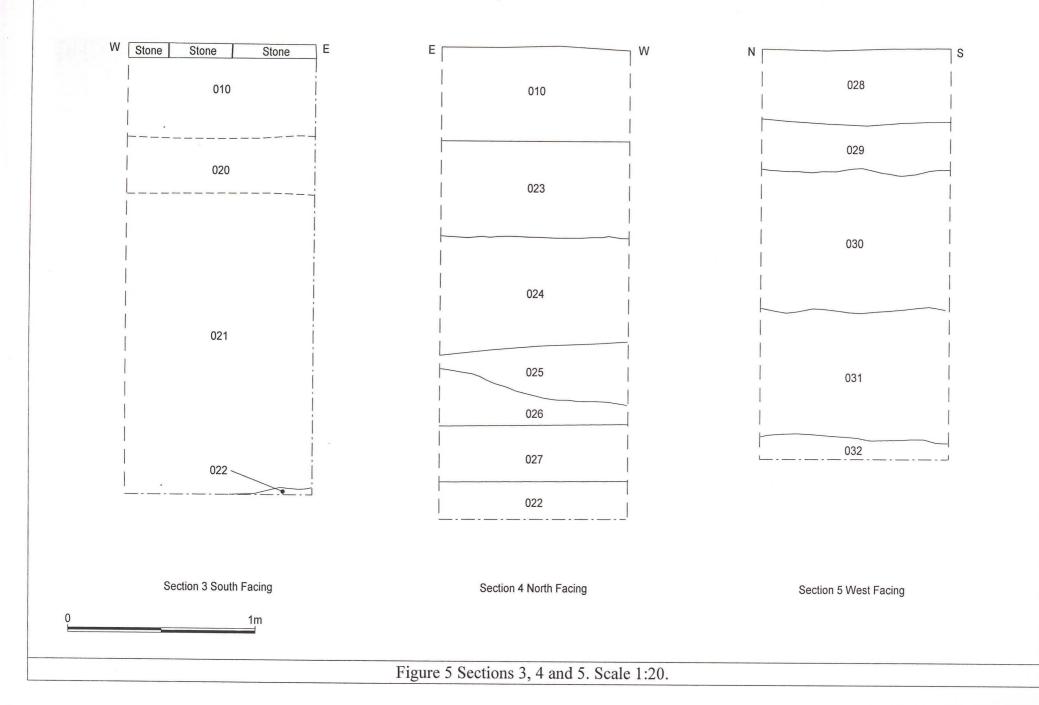




Plate 1 Working shot of excavation of footings, looking southeast.



Plate 2 Section 4 (soil profile), looking south.



Plate 3 Section 5 (soil profile), looking east.

# LAND AT BLACKFRIARS STREET/WHARF ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

# PREPARED FOR P & P BUILD LTD

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

**NOVEMBER 2000** 

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#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during development works at Blackfriars Street, near the junction with Wharf Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, with Wharf Road marking the line of the medieval town wall. The Water Gate, one of the medieval entrances to the town, was located at the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with development at Blackfriars Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 0327 0706.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Stamford is located 63km south of Lincoln and 17km northwest of Peterborough in the southwest corner of Lincolnshire. The site is just east of the town centre, north of the River Welland. The development area is on the south side of Blackfriars Street, adjacent to the junction with Wharf Road, at national grid reference TF 0327 0706.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the proposed development. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at about 26m OD on a slope down southeastward to the river. As an urban area the soils have not been mapped but are likely to be Elmton 3 Association brown rendzinas developed on Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 181).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The major Roman road, Ermine Street, crosses the River Welland approximately to the west of the town. Roman artefacts and remains have been found in Stamford, though the nature of the use of the area in thenRoman period is unclear.
- 6.2 In the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD part of the northern bank of Stamford was fortified by the Danes. It is likely that the Danish burh was located immediatelyto the northwest of the development site.
- 6.3 In the medieval period Stamford was encircled with a wall. Part of this town wall runs aong Wharf Road, immediately south of the development area. Additionally, the Water Gate, one of the medieval entranceways to the walled town, was located at the junction of Blackfriars Street and Wharf Road, immediately east of the development area.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 8 SITE OPERATIONS

#### 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

# 8.2 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - 8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 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**

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 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 and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 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.

#### 9.2 Stage 2

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

#### 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
  - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - 9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
  - 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their

chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

- 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

#### 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 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**

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *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

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

#### 14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

#### 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

#### 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle 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>	Body to be undertaking the work		
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln		
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust		
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist		
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist		
	Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist		
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist		
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy		

#### 17 INSURANCES

Environmental Analysis

Human Remains Analysis

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of

J Rackham, Independent Specialist

R Gowland, Independent Specialist

insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

#### 19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 08-11-00

# Context Summary

Context Number	Section Number	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Indurate, pale grey concrete.	Concrete surface.
002	1	Two courses of machine made red brick covering an sub-rectangular area.	Brick floor.
003	1	Compacted, black ash/cinder, up to 30mm thick.	Levelling deposit/bedding for (002).
004	1	Loose, mid creamy grey sand and rubble, c. 0.21m thick.	Make-up layer.
005	1	Compacted, mid greyish-yellow mortar with sand and gravel, 40mm thick.	Possible surface.
006	1	Loose, dark raddish brown silt, with clay lenses and occasional ironstone fragments, <i>c</i> .1.3m thick.	Subsoil.
007	1	Loose, dark brown silt, with occasional brick fragments.	Fill of (008).
008	1	Cut, c. 1m deep and 2m wide, irregular steep sides and flat base.	Pit.
009	1	Soft, mid yellowish brown clay.	Natural.
010	2	Compacted bands of crushed limestone, total thickness 0.40m.	Hardcore.
011	2	Firm, dark brown silt, with frequent gravel and tarmac fragments, <i>c</i> . 0.26m thick.	Make-up layer.
012	2	Firm, mid brownish red silt, with frequent coal and tarmac fragments, c. 0.1m thick.	Make-up layer.
013	2	Compacted, black coal dust/fragments, 20mm thick.	Tip layer.
014	2	Firm, dark brown silt, with frequent and angular and sub-rounded stones, <i>c</i> . 80mm thick.	Tip layer.

015	2	Compacted, black coal dust/fragments, 20mm thick.	Tip layer.
016	2	Firm, brownish red silt with frequent small rounded and sub-rounded stones, <i>c</i> .0.16m thick.	Make-up layer.
017	2	Compacted, creamy beige mortar and crushed limestone, 20mm thick.	Possible surface.
018	2	Firm, dark reddish brown silt, frequent small angular and subangular stones, 0.52m thick.	Make-up layer.
019	2	Firm, dark grey silt with frequent angular and sub-angular gravel, 0.56m thick.	Make-up layer.
020	3	Firm, dark grey gritty silt, c. 0.3m thick.	Levelling deposit.
021	3	Friable, banded dark grey to mid reddish brown gritty silt, with common stones, c. 1.6m thick.	Make-up layer.
022	3	Firm, light yellow brown clay.	Natural.
023	4	Firm, mid grey brown ashy silt, with occasional stones, c. 0.5m thick.	Make-up layer.
024	4	Friable, yellow mortar, c. 0.52m thick.	Make-up layer.
025	4	Firm, mid grey brown ashy silt, c. 0.38m thick.	Make-up layer.
026	4	Firm, mid red-brown silt, 0.1m thick.	Make-up layer.
027	4	Firm, dark grey brown ashy silt, with charcoal fragments, 0.33m thick.	Make-up layer.
028	5	Firm light yellow-grey, brick tile and concrete, 0.40m thick.	Floor.
029	5	Firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt, with occasional stones, 0.25m thick.	Make-up layer.
030	5	Friable, dark grey sandy silt and ash, with common fragments of cinder, slag or fire rubbish, 0.75m thick.	Make-up layer.
031	5	Firm, reddish purple-brown slag and ash, 0.7m thick.	Make-up layer.
032	5	Firm, light yellow brown clay.	Natural.

#### **GLOSSARY**

Anglo-Saxon Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.

Context

Cut

Fill

Iron Age

Layer

Medieval

Transformed

**Domesday Survey** 

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, e.g. [004].

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.

A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

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

Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

32 - Context records

1 - Photographic record sheet

4 - Drawing sheets 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: LCNCC: 2000.286

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SBF00

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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