

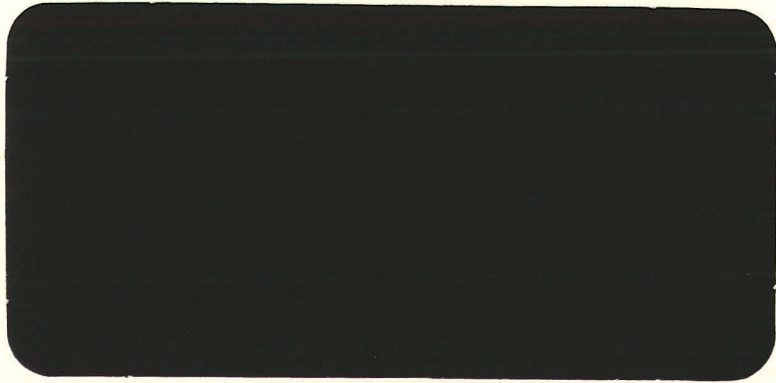
# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER EXETER SCHOOL,  
OFF EMPINGHAM ROAD, STAMFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE*

Communication  
Services

14 DEC 2001

Highways & Planning  
Directorate



Event L12665

Source U7288

U7289

Negative

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 2001**

*Application No. S00/0454/69*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER EXETER SCHOOL,  
OFF EMPINGHAM ROAD, STAMFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code SLE 01

**CREDITS**

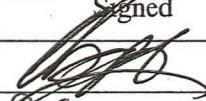
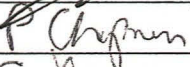
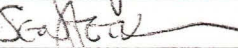
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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print Name	Signed	Date
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Checked by	Pat Chapman		14/11/01
Approved by	Sean Steadman		14/11/01

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
**ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER EXETER SCHOOL,**  
**OFF EMPINGHAM ROAD, STAMFORD,**  
**LINCOLNSHIRE**

***Abstract***

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site of the former Exeter School, off Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, during the excavation of footings and associated groundwork for a residential development. The site was heavily disturbed by modern building and demolition activity, and by landscaping of the former school grounds. The south-west corner of the site had been removed by a 19<sup>th</sup> century quarry. No archaeological features were recorded within the development area.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the site of the former Exeter School, off Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1; NGR TF 0139 0737). The work was carried out between June and September 2001, during the excavation of footings and associated groundwork for a residential development.
  
- 1.2 Alfred McAlpine Homes (East Midlands) Ltd have been granted outline planning permission (Application No. S00/0454/69) by South Kesteven District Council to develop the site of the former Exeter School. Given the archaeological potential of the site, Heritage Lincolnshire requested that a condition be placed on the consent which required the applicant to make provision for an archaeological watching brief during the groundwork phase. As the development was of a substantial size (forty-five houses), it was recommended that initially only selected building plots should be subject to the watching brief, in addition to the road corridors and service trenches. The twelve selected building plots were chosen by the South Kesteven District Council Community Archaeologist. These were plot numbers: 2, 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 27, 31, 35 and 43 (Fig. 2).

- 1.3 The development site lies immediately to the south of Ermine Street, the major Roman road that formerly linked London and York. A small excavation carried out in 1956 confirmed the position of the road and revealed its overall dimensions. Chance finds of objects dating from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods have also been made in the vicinity (Heritage Lincolnshire, 1999). The site of the Roman town at Great Casterton lies c.2km to the north-west.
- 1.4 The development site is situated on the western edge of Stamford, at approximately 64m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Upper Lincolnshire limestone, of the Inferior Oolite Series (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1978).

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

- 2.1 The works took the form of a watching brief carried out during the excavation of footings for the selected building plots, and the construction of road corridors and service trenches. This complied with the requirements of the specification issued by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA, 2001) and approved by Heritage Lincolnshire. The groundwork was carried out by various tracked 360° mechanical excavators, using 0.5m to 1.8m wide toothed and toothless ditching buckets (dependent on ground conditions), working under archaeological supervision.
- 2.2 A written record of all observations was compiled on pro-forma watching brief forms. The information recorded included the depth and nature of the deposits encountered, the extent of modern disturbance on the site, and a sketch plan of the site and works in progress. A photographic record was maintained in 35mm monochrome negative and colour positive film.
- 2.3 The site was scanned for finds and the topsoil bund on its southern edge was scanned with a metal detector. The occurrence of modern artefacts was recorded, but the material was not collected.
- 2.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 2.5 The City and County Museum, Lincoln was contacted and arrangements were made for the deposition of the archive, Accession No. 2001.148.

### 3 *RESULTS*

- 3.1 No archaeological remains were encountered during the course of the watching brief. The central part of the site was heavily disturbed by the construction and subsequent demolition of the school buildings, and the area to the north appears to have been graded to provide a level surface for tennis courts and other sports activities. The south-west corner of the site had been removed by a quarry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.2 The only part of the site to have suffered minimal disturbance was in the south-east corner. Here, a mid-greyish brown sandy loam (c.0.3m thick) overlay a thin subsoil (c.0.05m thick), which comprised a mid orangey brown sandy silt. Beneath this was limestone regolith.
- 3.3 Nine of the twelve selected building plots were examined for archaeological remains. At the time of the site visits, the areas of two of the remaining plots (27 and 43) were being used to stockpile rubble and metal waste, and the third (35) lay under the site compound. In addition to the selected building plots, plot numbers 1, 3 to 5, 7 to 13, 18, 20, 21, 23 to 25, and 32 were examined for archaeological remains, either during or shortly after the excavation of the footings for the buildings.
- 3.4 The construction of the access roads and the eastern half of the main service trench were monitored. The length of road from the entrance to the new development as far as plot 26 ran through the area formerly occupied by the main school buildings, and the ground was consequently heavily truncated. The service trench, which was approximately 1.5m wide and 3m deep, was cut through a layer of demolition rubble, which lay directly over limestone regolith. No archaeological deposits were observed.
- 3.5 No artefacts pre-dating the 19th century were found on the site. Due to the large quantity of metal debris from the former school buildings scattered across the main part of the site, the metal detector was only used on the topsoil bund on its southern edge.

### 4 *CONCLUSION*

- 4.1 No archaeological remains were observed during the course of the watching brief. Given the extent of the modern disturbance and the severe truncation of the site, any archaeological

remains, had they existed, are likely to have been destroyed when the school was constructed and its grounds prepared.

5 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Heritage Lincolnshire, 1999 *Initial assessment; residential development (outline), former Exeter School, off Empingham Road, Stamford*. Heritage Lincolnshire Report

NA, 2001 *Specification for archaeological watching brief; residential development, former Exeter School, off Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

MAPS

Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 157 (1978 edition), 1: 50,000

6 **ILLUSTRATIONS**

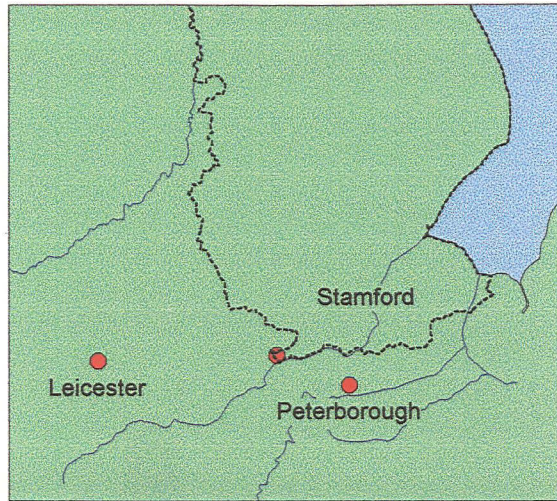
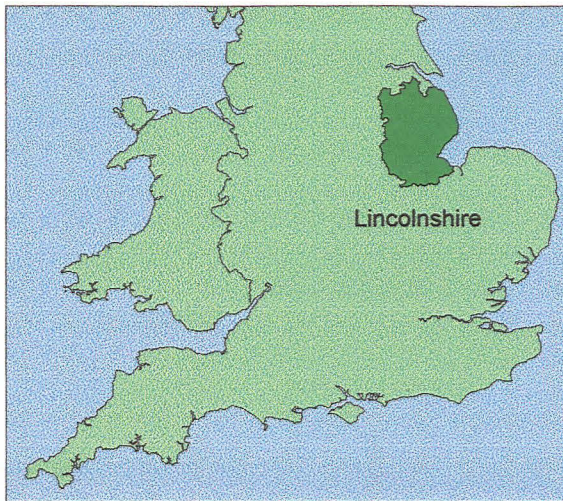
Fig. 1 Site Location 1:5000

Fig. 2 Building Plot Location 1:1000

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Planning, Transport and Environment

27th November 2001





Scale 1:5000

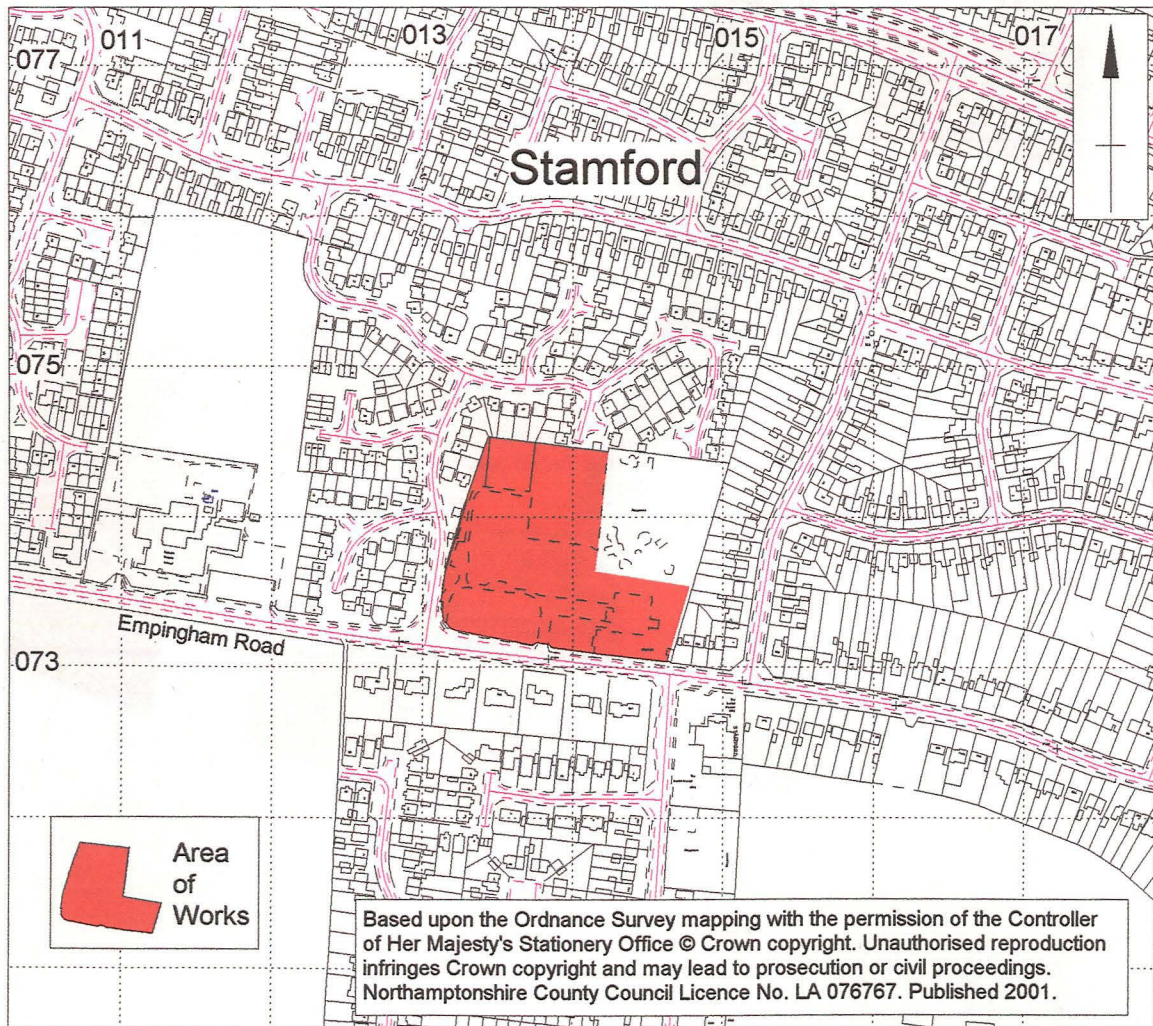
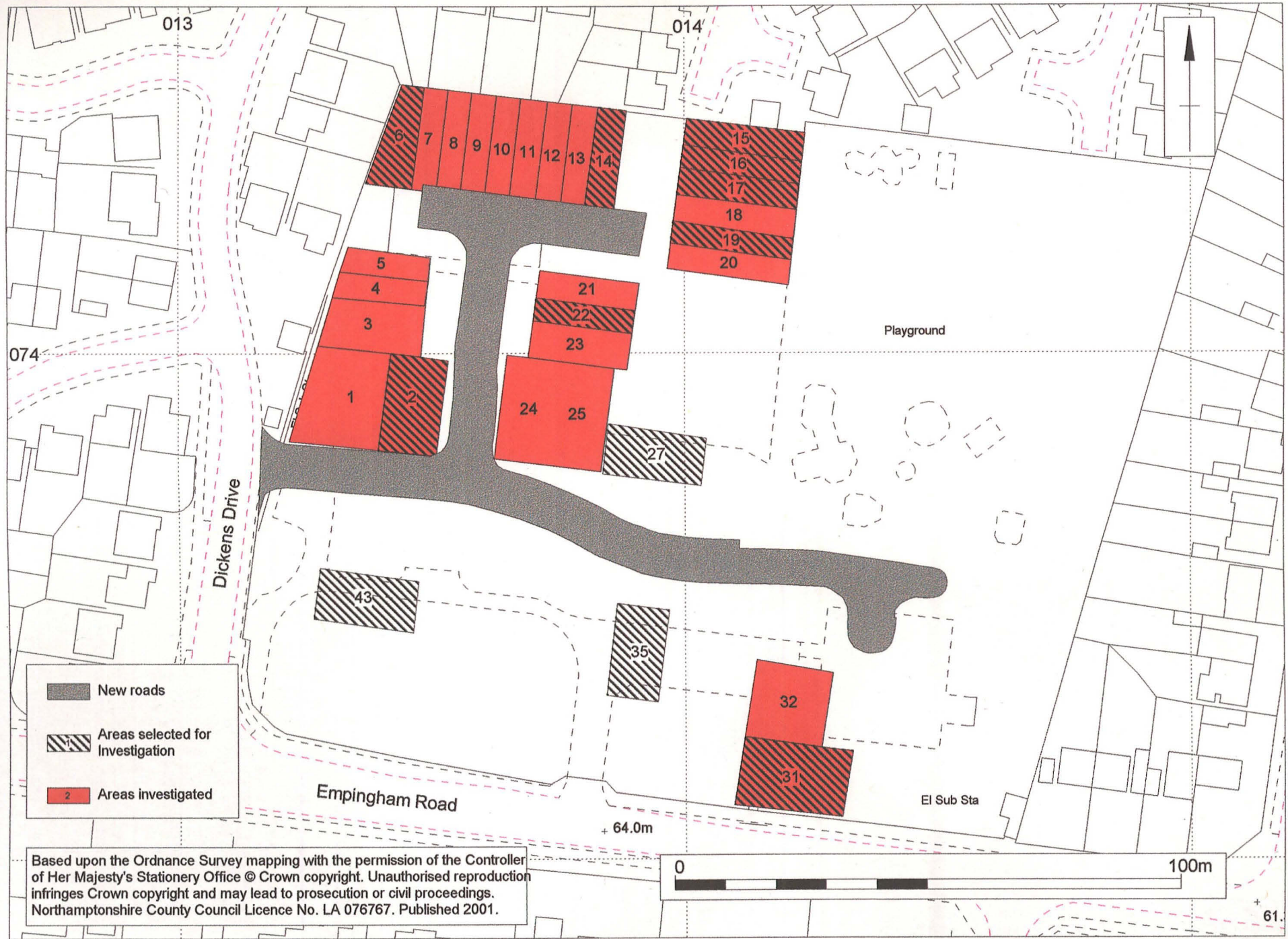


Fig 1



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Fig 2



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Lincolnshire County Council  
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City Hall  
Lincoln LN1 1DN



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Please ask for	Tel (01604)	Our ref	Your ref	Date
Simon Carlyle-Lancaster		01/1159		12 December 2001

Dear Louise

Please find enclosed a revised copy of the report of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the development site off Empingham Road, **Stamford**. This is to replace the copy previously sent to you (our ref: **01/1065**). Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you last week and for any inconvenience caused regarding the unrevised copy of the report being sent to you. The site code is SRE 01 and the accession code is 2001.148.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Simon Carlyle-Lancaster  
for Head of Northamptonshire Archaeology



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