

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

34 ST PETERS STREET, STAMFORD,

LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: SPSS01

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2001

Application Number: S00/1058/69

34 ST PETERS STREET, STAMFORD,

LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: SPSS01

Conservation
Services

21 DEC 2001

Highways & Planning
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Source 417321
417322

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35540

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34 ST PETER'S STREET, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OCTOBER 2001

Application Number: S00/1058/69

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during development at the rear of 34 St Peter's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. One undated ditch running parallel to the road was observed, the area appeared to have been built up by different phases of gardening activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief in October 2001 at the rear of 34 St Peter's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire (NGR: TF 0261 0707; Fig 1) prior to the construction of a house and garage.

The work was undertaken in order to meet the requirements for the Archaeological Watching Brief issued by South Kesteven District Council on 27th October 2000, Planning Application Number S00/1058/69.

The site is located in the southern part of the centre of town and comprises a garden. The area of development lies within an area known to include archaeological remains relating to the medieval town.

The object of the watching brief was to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

2 BACKGROUND

The brief states that the site lies within the limits of Speed's map of medieval Stamford made in AD1600. A number of sites of archaeological importance are located adjacent to the site including a medieval school to the south west, Sempringham Hall on the north side of St Peter's Street and a medieval monastery on the site of the existing parsonage of St Peter's to the east.

3 FIELDWORK

Monitoring took place for all phases of construction that disturbed the topsoil including service trenches, garden wall foundations, soak away and rear and front building foundation trenches.

Topsoil and subsoil depth varied due to landscaping of the site from c.1.0m to the north, c. 0.6m towards the middle and 0.9m to the south.

During service works to the north of the site a post-medieval pit was disturbed. It was cut through a layer of buried topsoil, 0.2m thick, and into the underlying natural limestone brash. The upcast limestone had been deposited on the buried soil adjacent to the pit. The pit was filled with brown loamy clay and contained modern glass and brick. The natural limestone descends to the north, but the pit was covered by c. 0.6m of buried topsoil and a further c. 0.3m of topsoil, which had been deposited to create a level terrace.

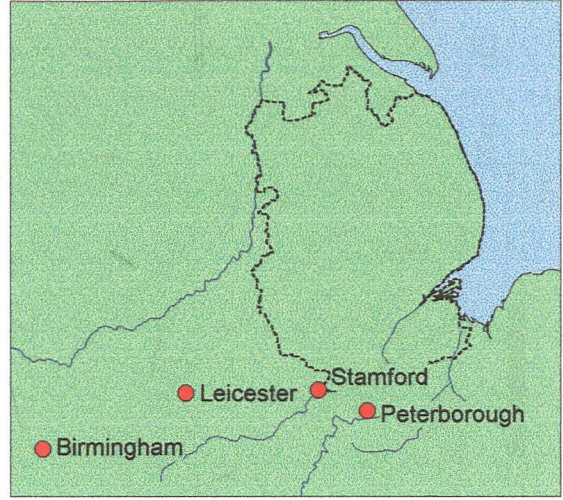
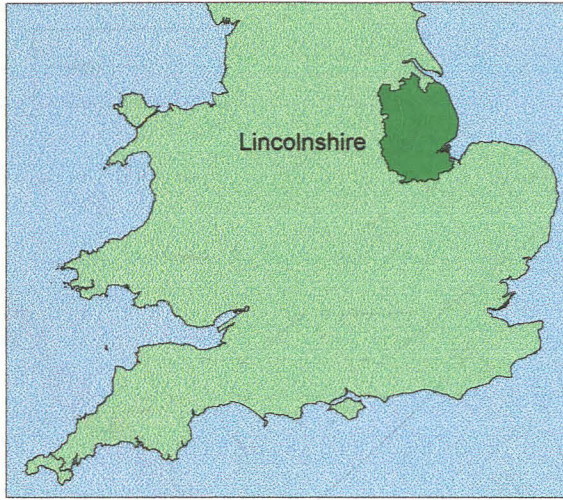
To the north of the site a ditch extended roughly parallel to the road (Fig 2). It was 1.6m wide, 0.6m deep and filled with greyish brown sandy clay (Fig 3). It was located under the former garage and was only visible in profile where it had been cut by the footing for the house. As it was visible in the footings for both sides of the house it is possible to project its direction. There was no dating material.

The City and County Museum, Lincoln was contacted and arrangements were made for the deposition of the archive, Accession No. 2001.436.

4 *CONCLUSIONS*

With the possible exception of the undated ditch, no pre-modern archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief. Due to the confined nature of the site, topsoil was dumped directly into a lorry for removal, so it was not possible to check it with a metal detector. The topsoil was unusually deep across the site and the footings were only cut to the depth of the natural limestone brash. The only pottery found on the site was post-medieval and this was not retained.

As the construction works primarily only disturbed the garden soils it is possible that archaeological remains are still present in this area. However, the area has been subjected to extensive build-up and any surviving archaeology would be well buried.



Scale 1:5000

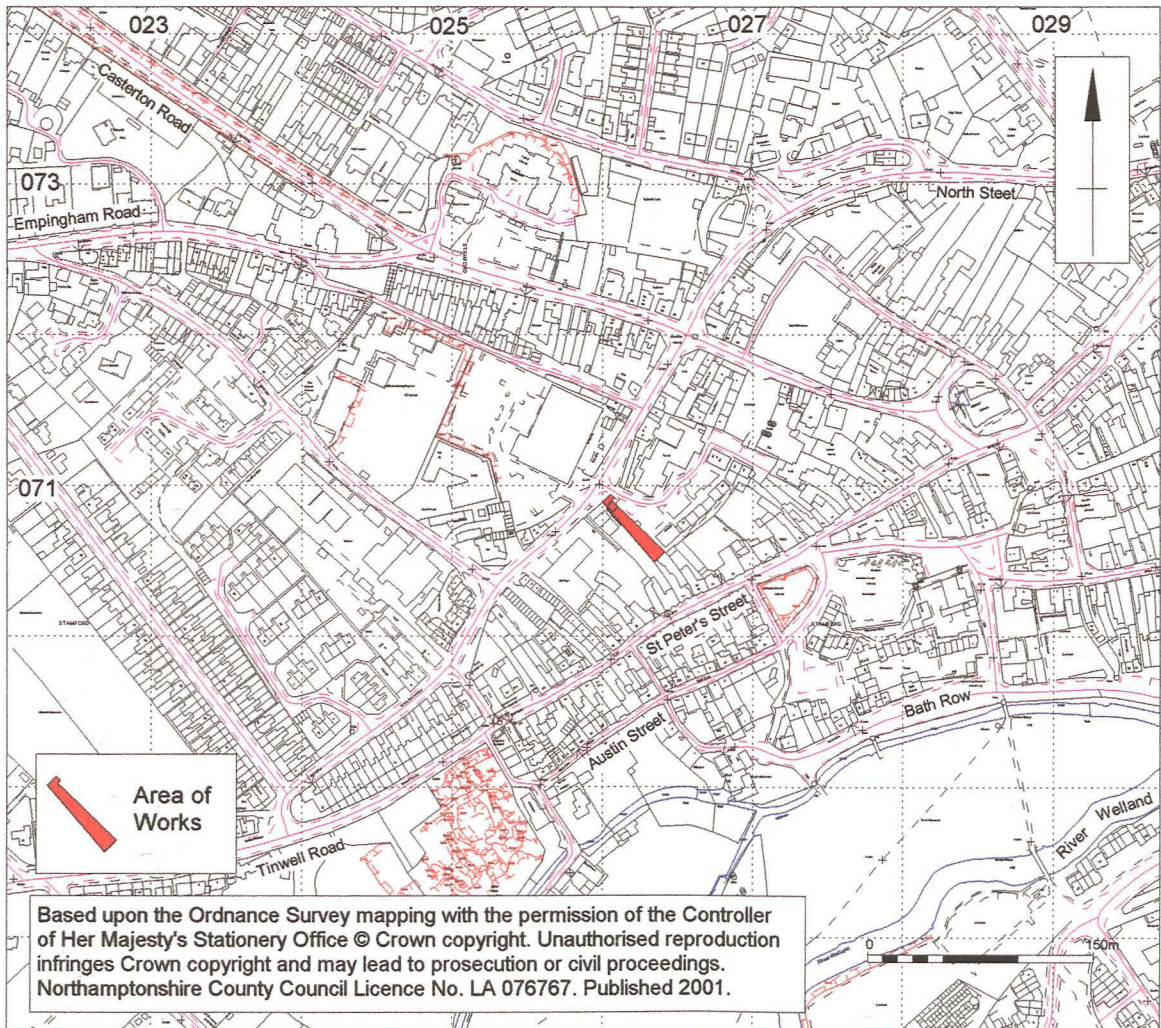
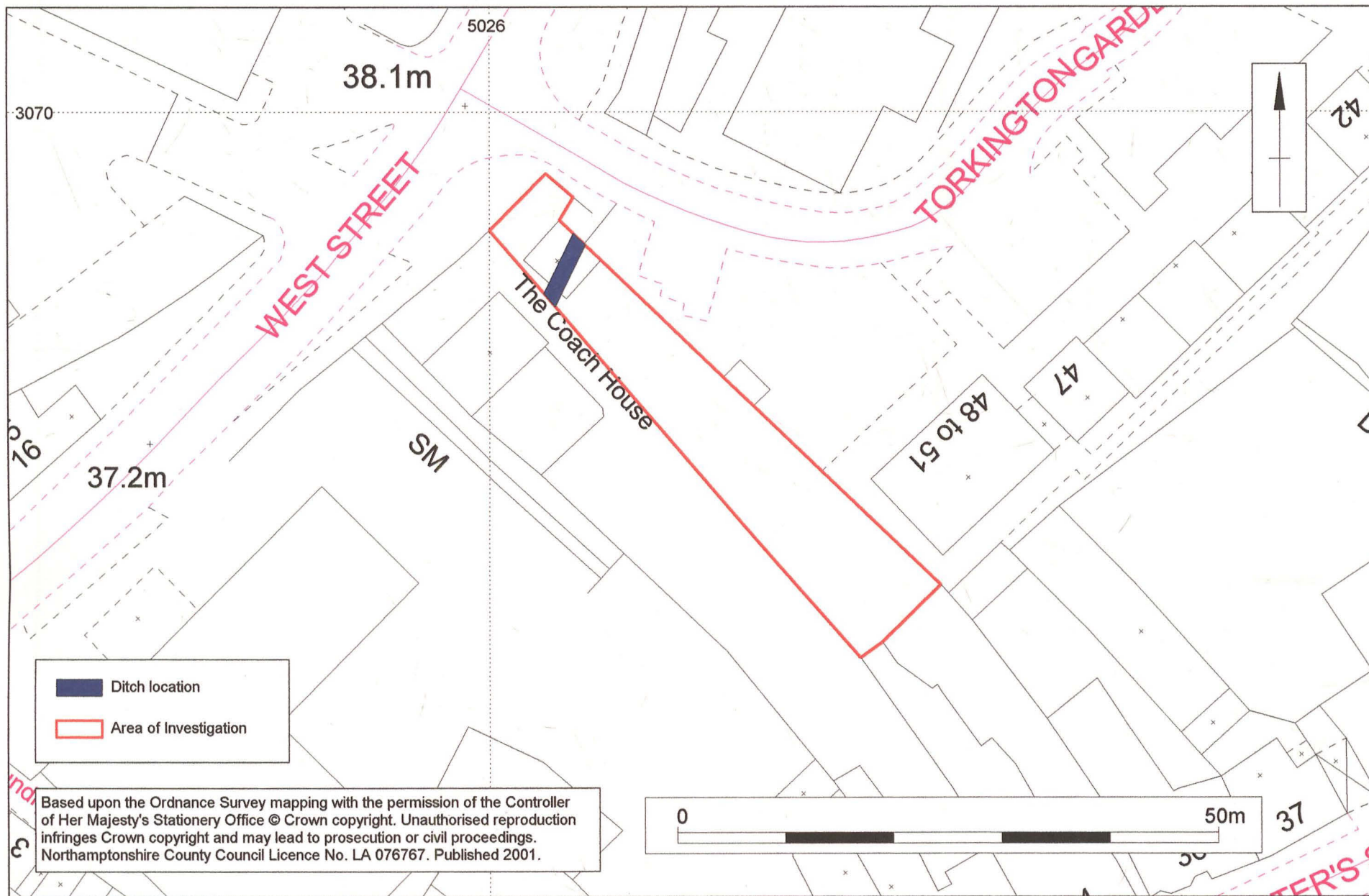


Fig 1



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Fig. 2

Section 1

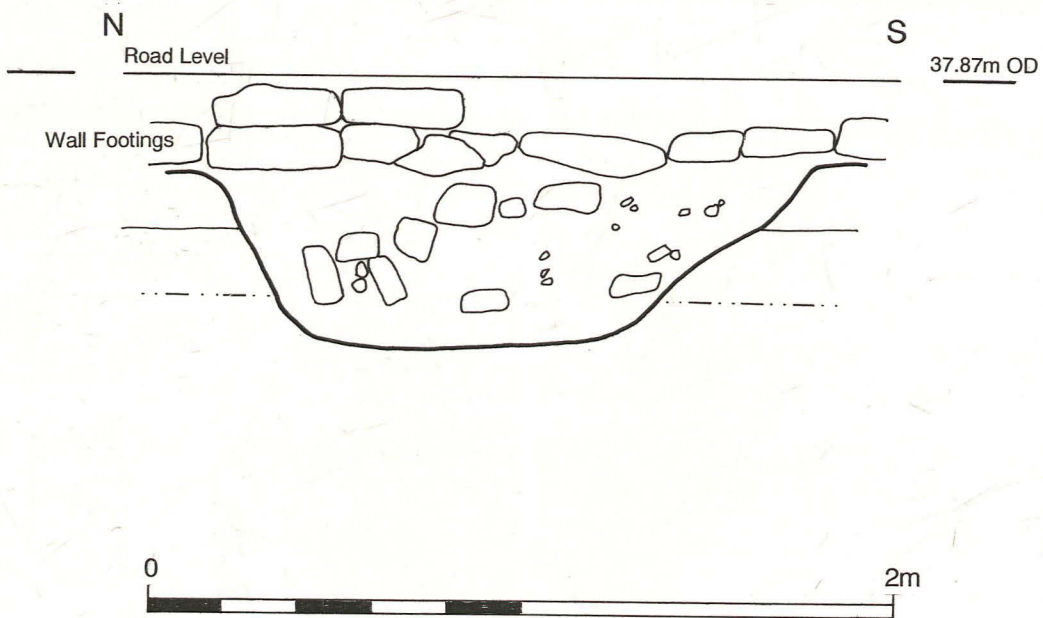


Fig. 3



Plate 1: Photograph showing topsoil build-up