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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
47 HIGH STREET,
DONINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DHS 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event L12756
Source L17390
L17391
Negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
47 HIGH STREET,
DONINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DHS 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Barnsdale Construction

Report Compiled by
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November 2001

Planning Application No: H04/1269/00
National Grid Reference: TF 2111 3564
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.57

A.P.S. Report No: 164/01



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of two dwellings on land adjacent to 47 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

Donington lies at the eastern end of the Romano-British (AD 50-410) thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, although no settlement has yet been found associated with this. The site lies on the western fringe of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) town.

The investigations revealed a sizeable modern pit cut into natural alluvial deposits. Recent levelling and hardstanding were also recorded. No artefacts were retrieved.

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

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Barnsdale Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of two attached dwellings on land adjacent to 47 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H04/1269/00. Permission was granted

subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 14th February 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Donington is situated 13km north of Spalding and 13km southwest of Boston, in the civil parish of Donington, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 300m east of the village centre as defined by the Market Place at National Grid Reference TF 2111 3564 (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 4.5m OD with land dropping in height to the south.

Donington is located on soils of the Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine silts and clays (BGS 1995). These in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (*ibid.*).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Donington lies at the eastern end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the Salter's Way. Romano-British finds within the village are sparse, but a Roman coin has been found near to the parish church and pottery of the period has been identified southeast of the village (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 6).

Donington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Donninctune* or *Duninctune* the name is derived from Old English and means the 'homestead (*tūn*) of *Dunn(a)*'s people'

(Cameron 1998, 38).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was owned by the Abbot of Peterborough and Count Alan and contained c. 22 saltpans and 54 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Domesday also records that the Abbot of Peterborough held a manor in Gosberton (Hallam 1965, 199). The entry for this manor is under the record for Donington as that town lay partly in the Danelaw Hundred of Surfleet and Gosberton and partly in the Hundred of Quadring in Donington.

The parish church at Donington is dedicated to St. Mary and the Holy Rood and dates from the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 255). Medieval pottery has been found at a variety of locations around the town (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 5).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of c. 1.8m as required by the development. Excavation of the trenches, below the 1.2m safe depth, meant that the sides of the trenches could not be cleaned and selected deposits were not excavated. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as

Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Two phases of activity were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a mid brown silt (005). This was overlain by a 1.15m thick layer of greyish brown silt (004). These deposits represent the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Modern deposits

Cut into the natural deposits was a large pit (007). This measured over 4m long and 2.8m wide and was at least 1.6m deep (Fig. 3). This contained a single fill of blackish brown silt (006) that contained quantities of modern brick.

Sealing the pit and visible across the site were two levelling deposits, a lower of dark brown silt (003) overlain by a dark yellow sand (002). These were in turn sealed by a

deposit of light brown stone fragments (001) which is recent hardstanding placed prior to the development.

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural silts (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and can be identified as marine alluvium.

A large pit (Phase 2) filled with modern refuse was the only feature identified during this investigation. No trace of former buildings that stood on the site were identified and no archaeological remains encountered. No artefacts were retrieved during this work.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at High Street, Donington, because the site lies close to the core of the medieval settlement.

A modern pit and recent levelling and hardstanding deposits were encountered during this watching brief. No archaeological remains were recorded and no artefacts were recovered. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A. Brotherton of Barnsdale Construction who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was

coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of Lincolnshire County Council permitted examination of the Sites and Monuments Record. David Start kindly permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Supervisor: Rachael Hall
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

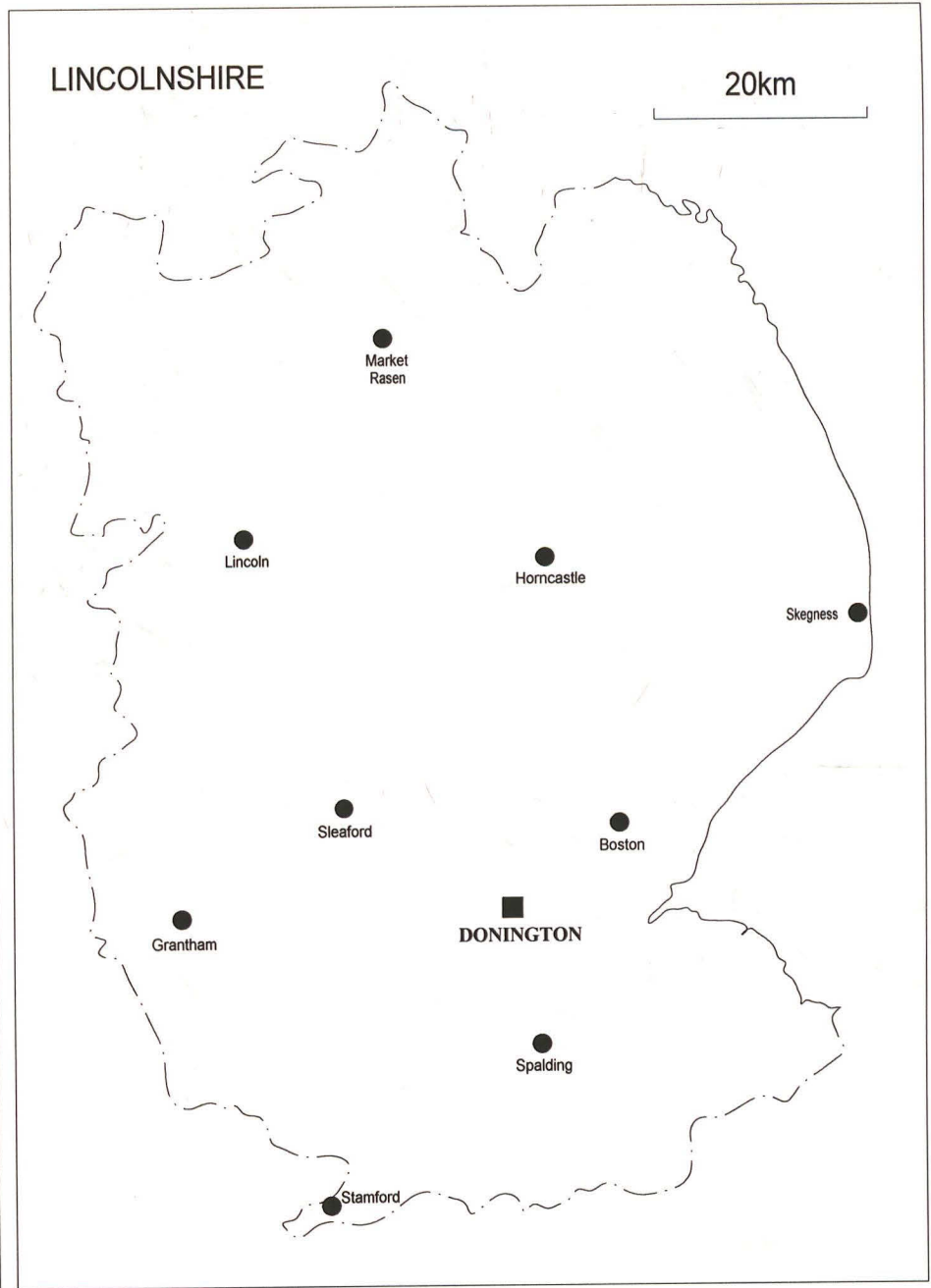


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

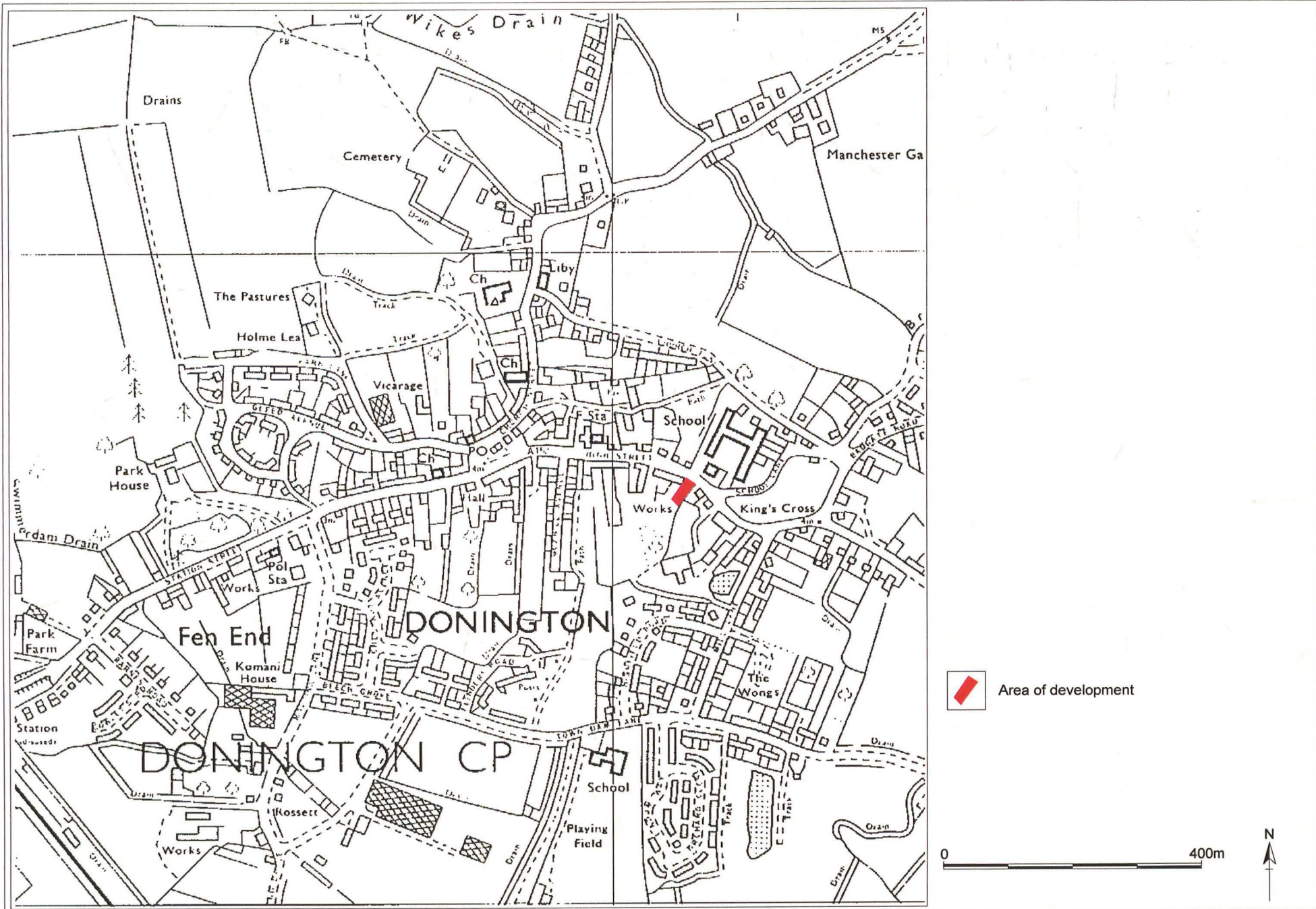


Figure 2 - Site location plan

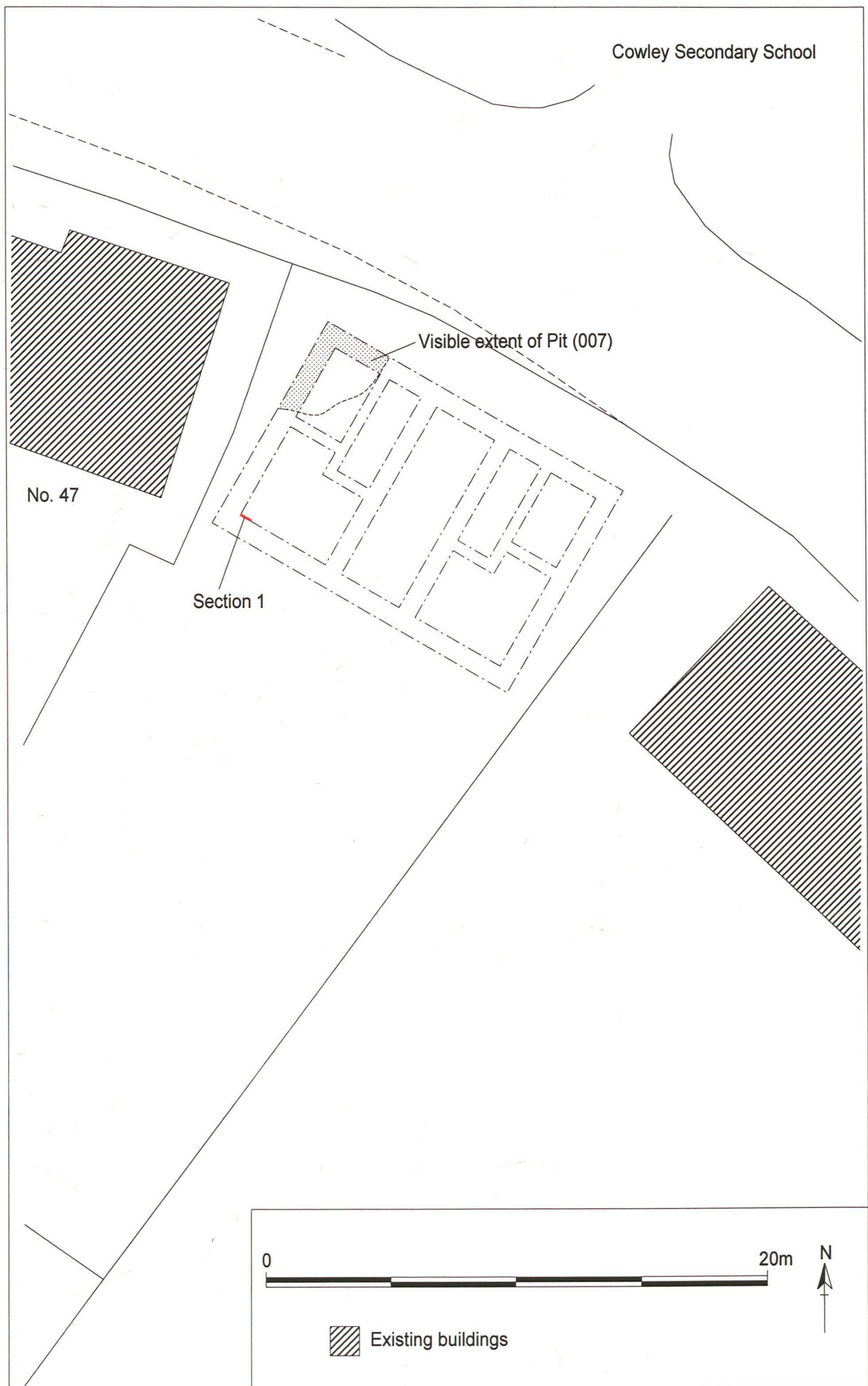
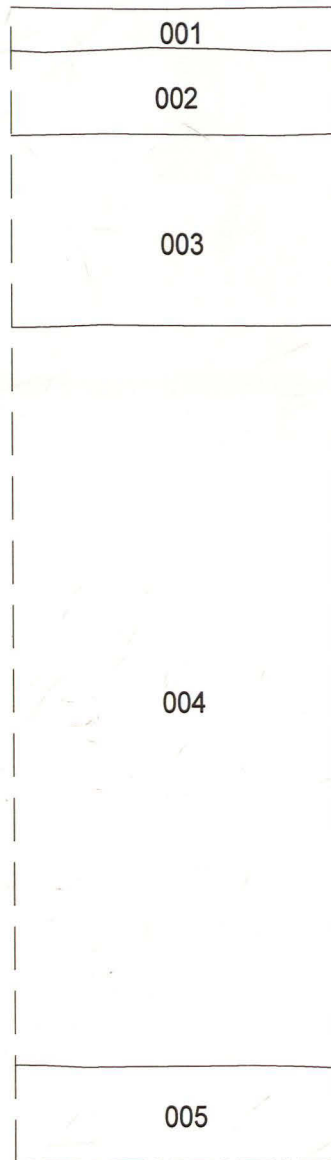


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section

NW

SE



Section 1



Figure 4 - Section 1



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

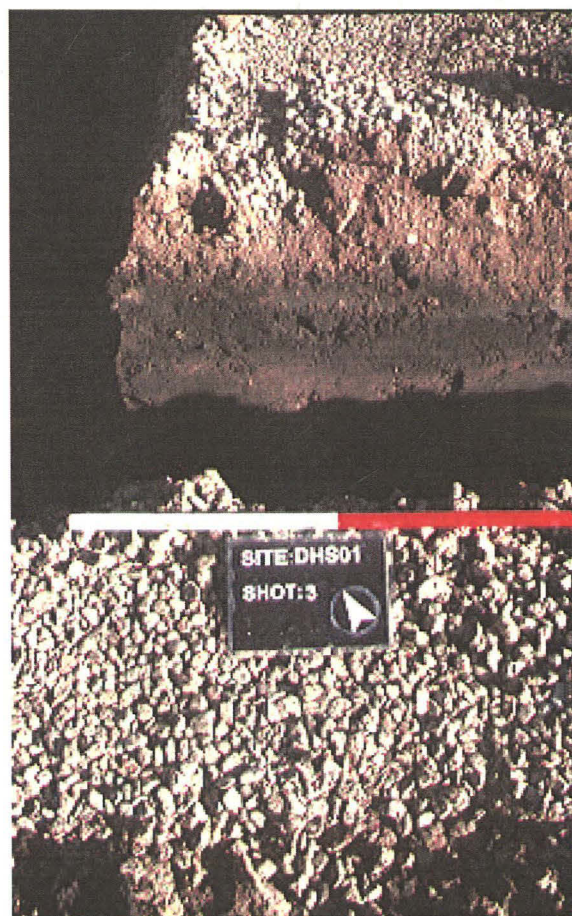


Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northeast

Appendix 1

LAND ADJACENT TO 47 HIGH STREET, DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during residential development on land adjacent to 47 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The development lies within the Donington Conservation Area on the eastern edge of the medieval village. Medieval and later artefacts have previously been recovered in the village and Roman material is also known in the area.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *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

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during residential development on land adjacent to 47 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Donington is located approximately 15km southwest of Boston and 17km southeast of Sleaford in South Holland district, Lincolnshire. The site is located on the south side of High Street toward the eastern end of the village, at National Grid Reference TF 2111 3564.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Planning permission (Application No. H04/1269/00) has been granted by South Holland District Council for the construction of a pair of semi-detached houses on the site. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies at approximately 5m OD on fairly flat and level land. Soils of the area are Agney Association calcareous alluvial gleys developed in marine alluvium on reclaimed land (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 87).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. Donington is located at the eastern end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the Salter's Way. Romano-British finds within the village are sparse, but a Roman coin has been found near to the parish church and Romano-British pottery has been found to the south-east of the village (Archaeological Project Services 1999).

- b. Donington is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 indicating the existence of a settlement from at least the late Saxon period. In 1086 it comprised two manors which contained almost 30 salt pans between them. The parish church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood dates from the 13th century. Later-Medieval pottery and a coin, together with post-medieval thimbles and lead seals have previously been found immediately west of the church (*ibid.* 1999).

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The building is to be constructed on strip foundations. Watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important

- v. 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

a. Stage 1

- i. 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: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

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

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer;

South Holland District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note 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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer. They will be given written notification of the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
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 - G Taylor (APS) in consultation with H Healey,
Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. INSURANCES

- a. 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 insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18. COPYRIGHT

- a. 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.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. 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.
- d. 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

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose light brown stone, 70mm thick	Hardstanding
002	Loose dark yellow sand, 0.13m thick	Levelling deposit
003	Soft dark brown silt, 0.3m thick	Levelling deposit
004	Soft mid greyish brown silt, 1.15m thick	Natural deposit
005	Soft to firm mid brown silt, >0.14m thick	Natural deposit
006	Soft dark blackish brown silt with modern brick	Fill of (007)
007	Feature, >4m wide by >1.6m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 3

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.
Fill	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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Scale drawings (sections)
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
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 Museum Accession Number: 2001.57

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DHS 01

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.

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.