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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT ACRES MILL,
SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE
(SAM00)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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BRIEF AT ACRES MILL,
SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE
(SAM00)**

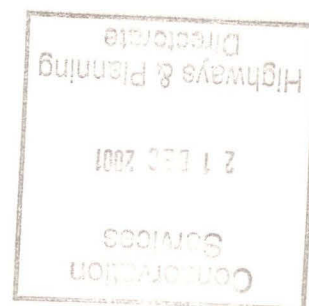
Work Undertaken For
Patterson Properties

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons) PIFA

December 2001

Planning Application No: H/16/0703/99
National Grid Reference: TF25002255
City and County Museum Accession No: 268.99

A.P.S. Report No: **80/01**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks associated with development at Old Acre's Mill, High Street, Spalding. The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area with evidence of medieval and post-medieval domestic occupation revealed during a previous archaeological evaluation.

Foundation trenches were monitored at Plot 2, with subsequent development involving the raising of the ground surface to provide stable footings obviating the need for a watching brief.

During the course of the investigation a post-medieval feature of indeterminate shape was identified together with natural and modern deposits. No evidence of medieval occupation was encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Archaeological Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 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*' (1997).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application was submitted by Patterson Homes Ltd. to South Holland District Council for construction of residential bungalows at the Old Acre's Mill site, Spalding. The application included a

proposal for the conversion of the mill building fronting onto High Street (planning application H16/0703/99). The archaeological advisor to the South Holland District Council deemed the site to be in an archaeologically sensitive area, and therefore advised that the developer should commission an archaeological desk-top assessment (Herbert 1998). This assessment indicated that the site lay in an area of considerable archaeological interest, and on behalf of the South Holland District Council the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken.

This evaluation was undertaken in November 1999, and revealed remains dating from the Medieval, post-Medieval, and the 18th - 19th centuries (Rayner & Trimble 1999). On behalf of the South Holland District Council the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer requested the completion of an archaeological impact assessment and mitigation strategy to be attached to the planning permission. The mitigation strategy (Appendix 1) proposed that a watching brief be undertaken during development.

Upon commencement of groundworks the soils on site were found to be unsuitable for foundation trenches and a decision was made to raise the ground level, to provide stable footings, by stoning. Patterson Homes advised APS that further archaeological work on the site would no longer be required.

This report presents the results of the watching brief undertaken at Plot 2 on the 7th September 2000 in accordance with the initial mitigation strategy.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston, and 30km southeast of Sleaford, in South Holland District, in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire (Figure 1). The Old Acre's Mill site is located on Spalding High Street, on the east bank of the River Welland; this is roughly 200m to the east of the town centre, centred on the Market Place.

The site comprises an irregular plot of land of approximately 0.75 hectares, located at the National Grid Reference TF 2500 2255 (Figure 2). The local ground surface is generally level, and lies at approximately 6.5m OD; however, on the Acre's Mill site itself, the elevation is 5.0m OD. As the site is situated in an urban environment, the soils have not been mapped in any satisfactory detail. Nevertheless, the local soils are likely to be of the Wisbech Series—typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils developed over marine alluvium (Robson 1990, 36). Such soils overlie a solid geology of Oxford Clay (British Geological Survey 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Background

Evidence of prehistoric settlement in the Spalding region is sparse. Two stone axe hammers were documented in 1733 (SMR TF 22 S.E. 7), but no information concerning their provenance was recorded. Any Neolithic deposits in the Spalding area are deeply buried beneath *c.* 5m of peat, clay and silt indicating that the hammers may not be of local origin.

Cropmarks indicative of Romano-British domestic occupation are present on the outskirts of the town and pottery of this period has been recovered approximately 550 metres south of the investigation area.

The first historical reference to Spalding occurs in a Tribal Hideage of the 7th century; therein a tribe known as the *Spaldas* is mentioned. The place name is derived from the Old English *Spaldingas*, 'descendants of *Spaldas*' (Ekwall 1974, 432). However, the first account of the town itself occurred in a charter to the monks of Crowland, written by King Ethelbald in AD 716 (Clark 1978). Although the name of Spalding is of Saxon origin, numerous street-names in the town are of Scandinavian derivation (Hallam 1954, 8).

Land in Spalding had purportedly been given to Crowland by Thorold of Buckenhale, Sheriff of Lincoln, in 1051. Funds were provided to construct a chapel, and for six brethren to maintain it (Page 1988, 118). The lands passed to Ivo Taillebois, the nephew of William the Conqueror, who forced the Crowland monks out of the town and subsequently invited the abbot of St. Nicholas of Angers to construct a monastery in its place (*ibid.*, 119).

The Domesday Book records that Spalding was owned principally by Ivo Taillebois, but some land belonged to Crowland Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster & Longley 1976). The existence in Spalding of a market, six fisheries, salt-pans, and a wood of alders, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The economy of Spalding has largely been dependent on the River Welland, as the town was the nearest port with trade routes to the southwest of Lincolnshire. Fishing and the exportation of salt were important elements of the local economy through the Medieval era. The river required maintenance resulting in the canalisation and deepening of the course in 1743—this was one of many drainage schemes undertaken during the 17th and 18th centuries that led to increasing local prosperity in the 18th century. This prosperity is indicated by the construction of

several large buildings on the High Street, including Yew Lodge, Holland House, and the Gamlyn's Almshouses.

Previous trial trenching at the corner of Spalding High Street and Church Street determined that archaeological remains of post-medieval date extended to approximately 1.0m below the present ground surface. These investigations did not reach any Medieval or earlier deposits (Dymond 1995; Herbert 1998). A desk-based assessment indicated that there were buildings on the High Street frontage in the 18th century, with other parts of the site developed through the 19th and 20th centuries. Saw mills and timber yards were on, or adjacent to the site. Moreover, Old Acre's Mill, on the High Street frontage, is a listed building.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at the site in November 1998 revealed the presence of Medieval layers sealed beneath a 1.4m thick sequence of 18th - 19th century, and modern deposits. The pottery was dated to the 10th and 13th centuries; furthermore, evidence of domestic food waste was recovered (Rayner & Trimble 1999). Conditions for the preservation for organic material were excellent. Overall, this site had a strong domestic character.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks and interpret those remains through the analysis of a completed record.

4. METHODS

Groundworks commenced on Plot 2 on the

27th September 2000. Foundation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator.

Sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned and rendered vertical to identify archaeological deposits. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and a representative section drawing completed at a scale of 1:20. An annotated sketch plan of the foundation trenches was produced showing the section location. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS practice.

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

A summary of all contexts, with interpretations, appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

Following post excavation analysis, three phases of deposits were identified;

- 5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits
- 5.3 Phase 3 Modern deposits

5.1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the course of the investigation was a mid-greenish grey silt (005) identified as an alluvial deposit.

5.2 Post-medieval deposits

An indeterminate shaped feature cutting the alluvium (006) (Figure 6) appeared to have an east-west orientation and was at least 3.30m long. The feature was interpreted as a possible pit. A moderately compact, dark grey silt containing occasional brick fragments, ash and twigs (004), formed the primary fill of the pit. A clay pipe bowl of late 17th century date and animal bone were recovered from the deposit. Overlying (004) was a moderately compact light grey silt containing occasional brick and mortar fragments (003). The final fill of the pit was a dark grey-black silt (002) which represented a dumped backfill.

5.3 Modern deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 alluvium was a moderately compact mid-brown silt (007) which was identified as a subsoil. Sealing (007) was a 0.55m thick multi-banded layer of silts, rubble and sands (001) which represents modern levelling and build up.

6. DISCUSSION

The Phase 1 alluvial deposit (005) cannot be dated, but is likely to be no older than the medieval era. During the archaeological evaluation at Old Acre's Mill, a thin peat deposit that antedated the medieval era was encountered at a minimum elevation of 2.28 metres OD (Rayner & Trimble 1999, 5). As the depth of the representative section was only roughly 3.50 metres OD, this layer was not encountered during the watching brief.

Post-medieval activity was evidenced in the form of a possible pit (006), which, from the artefacts retrieved, would suggest a refuse or midden function.

The final Phase 3 modern deposits related to

a developed subsoil (007) and levelling (001).

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Old Acre's Mill as the site is situated in an archaeologically sensitive locality and has afforded evidence of medieval and post-medieval domestic occupation. The presence of post-medieval activity was confirmed in the form of possible pit.

No medieval features were encountered during the course of the groundworks suggesting that these deposits may lie at greater depth.

The stoning of the site in order to raise the ground level for footing trenches negated the need for further archaeological work.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to thank Patterson Properties for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The project was coordinated by Dale Trimble, and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisors: Fiona Walker, Chris Moulis
Finds Processing : Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration : Steve Thomson
Photographic Reproduction : Sue Unsworth
Post Excavation Analyst : Steve Thomson

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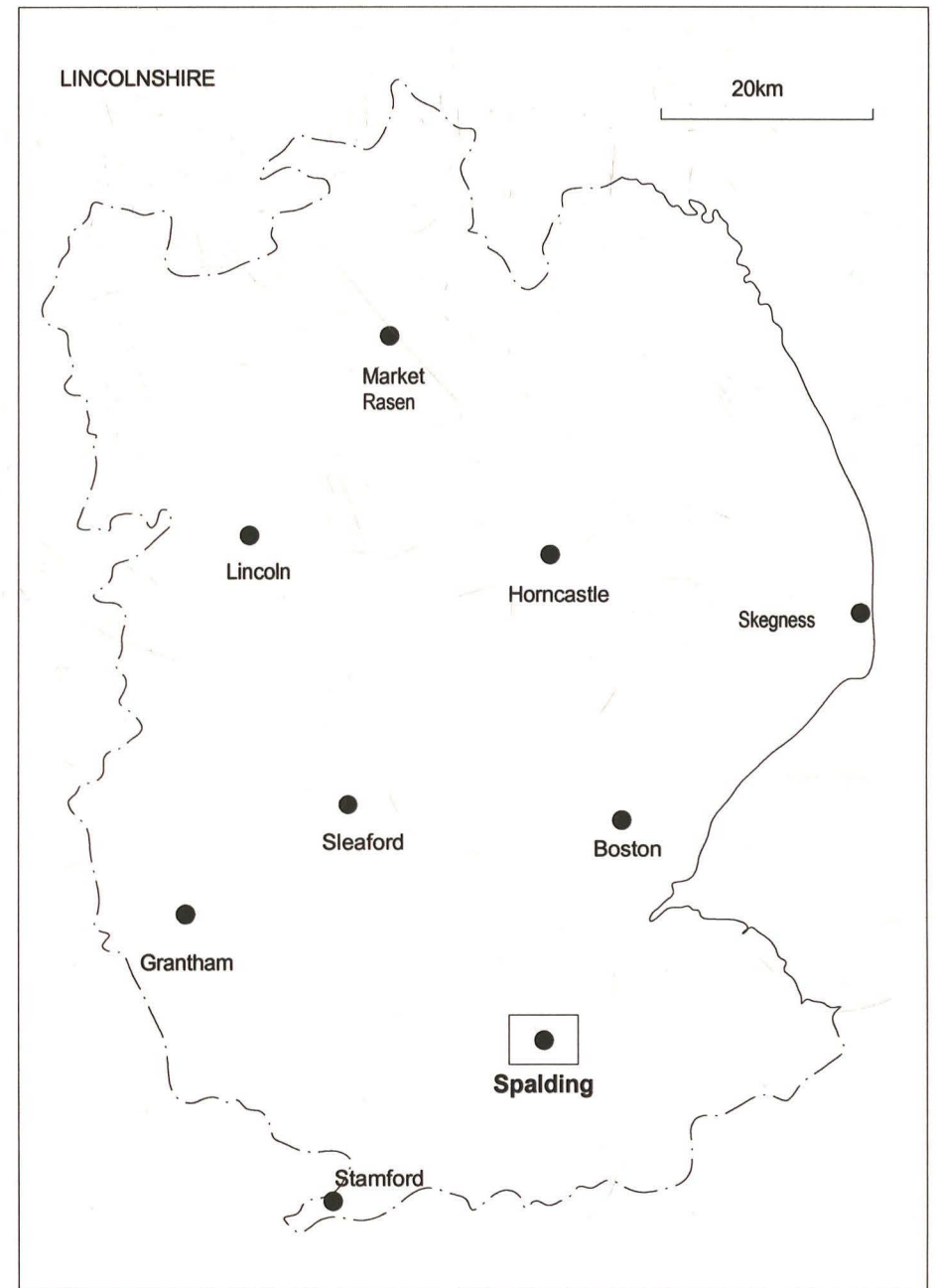
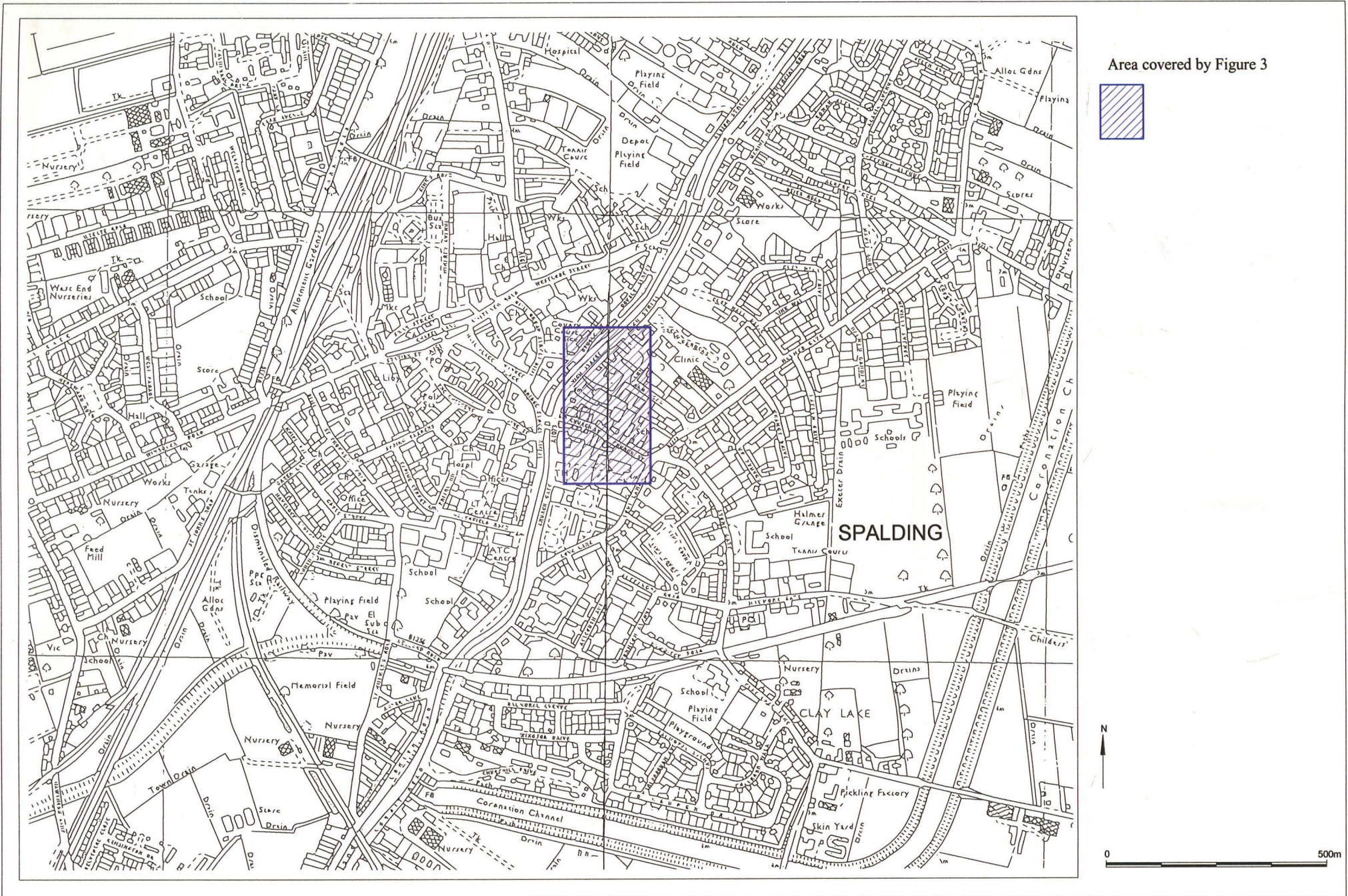


Figure 1 General Location Plan



Area covered by Figure 3



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

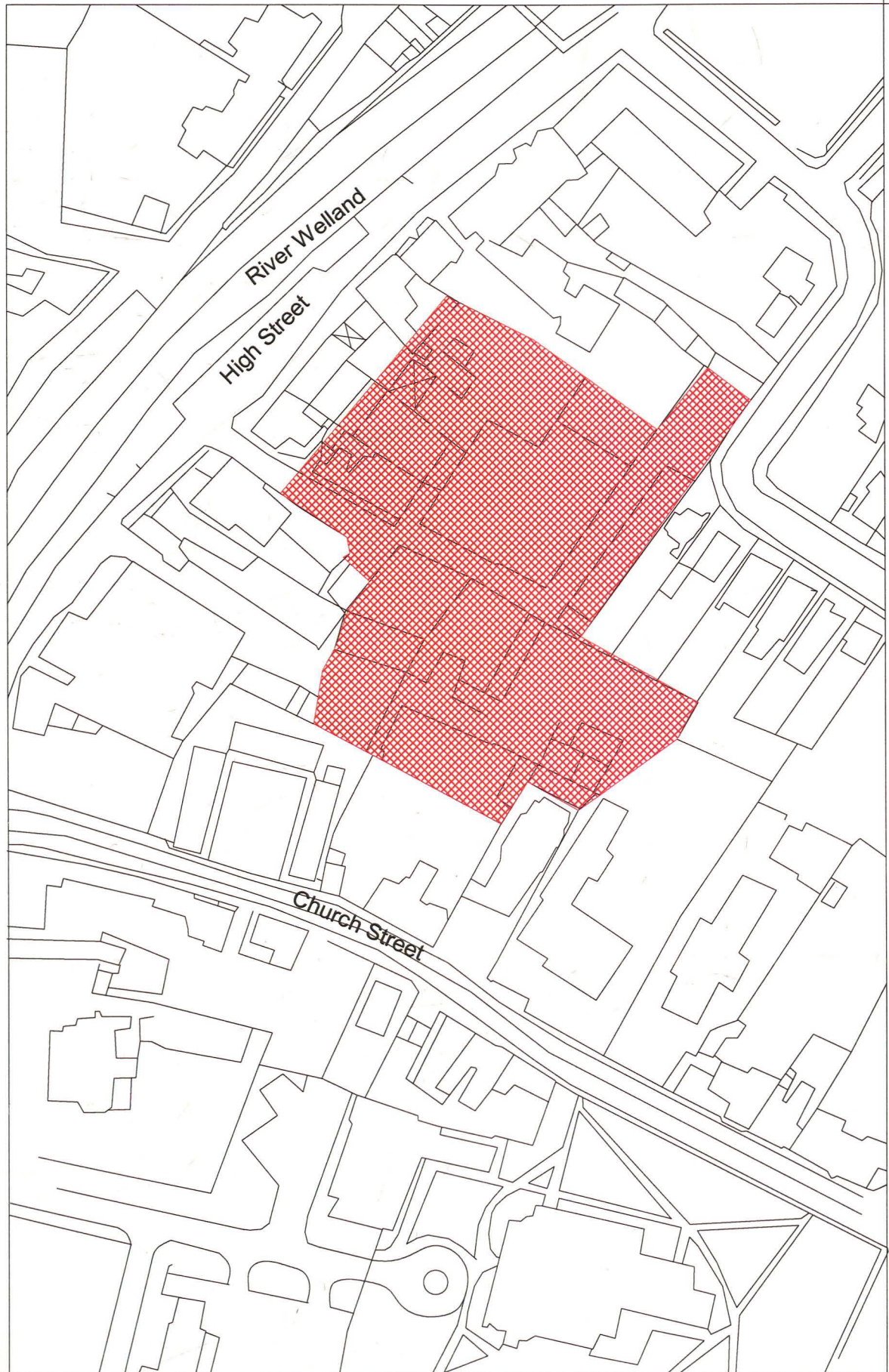
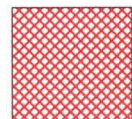


Figure 3 Area of Investigatoin



Area of Investigation

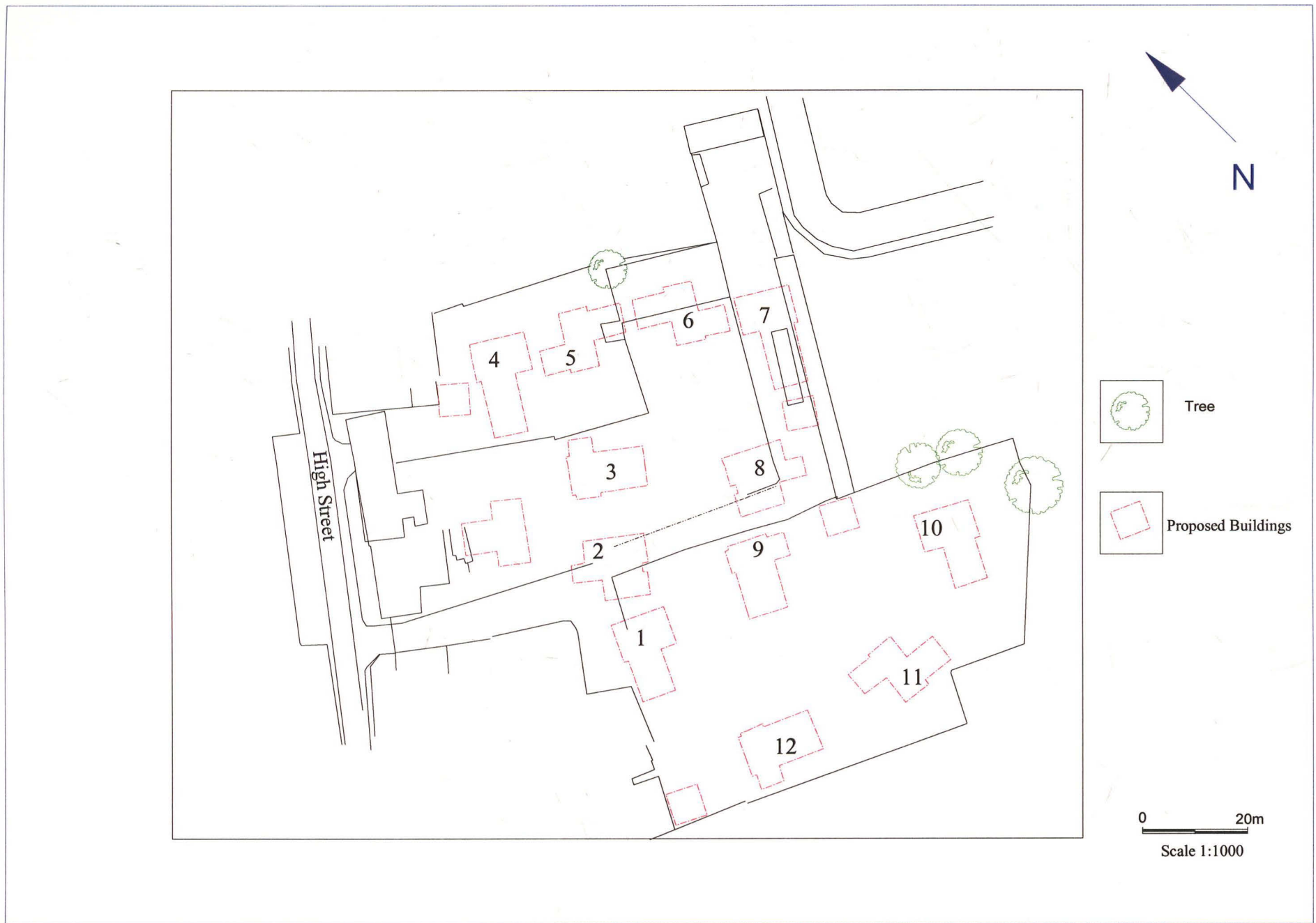


Figure 4 - Plan of development showing plot locations

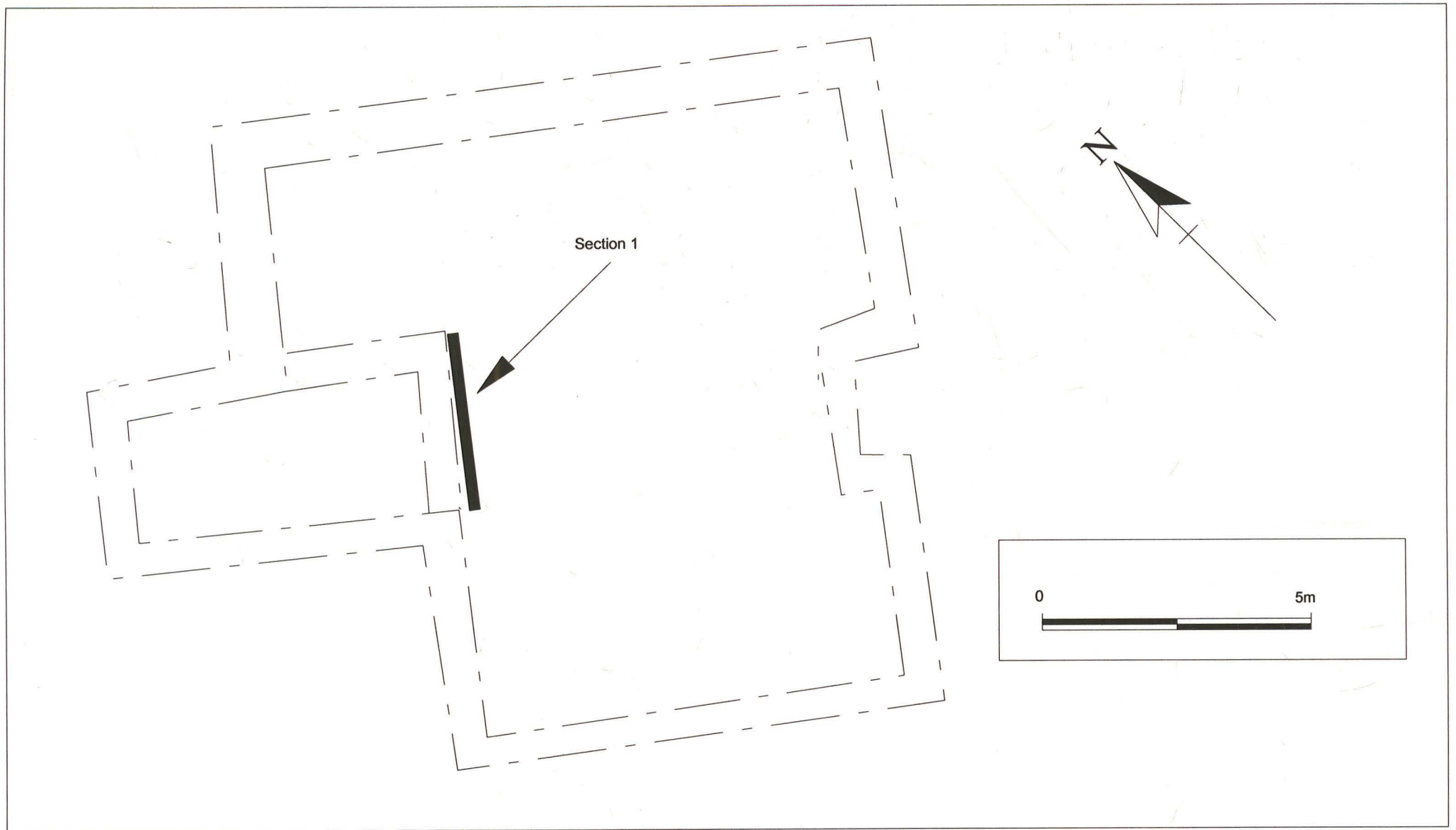


Figure 5 - Plot 2 - Section drawing location

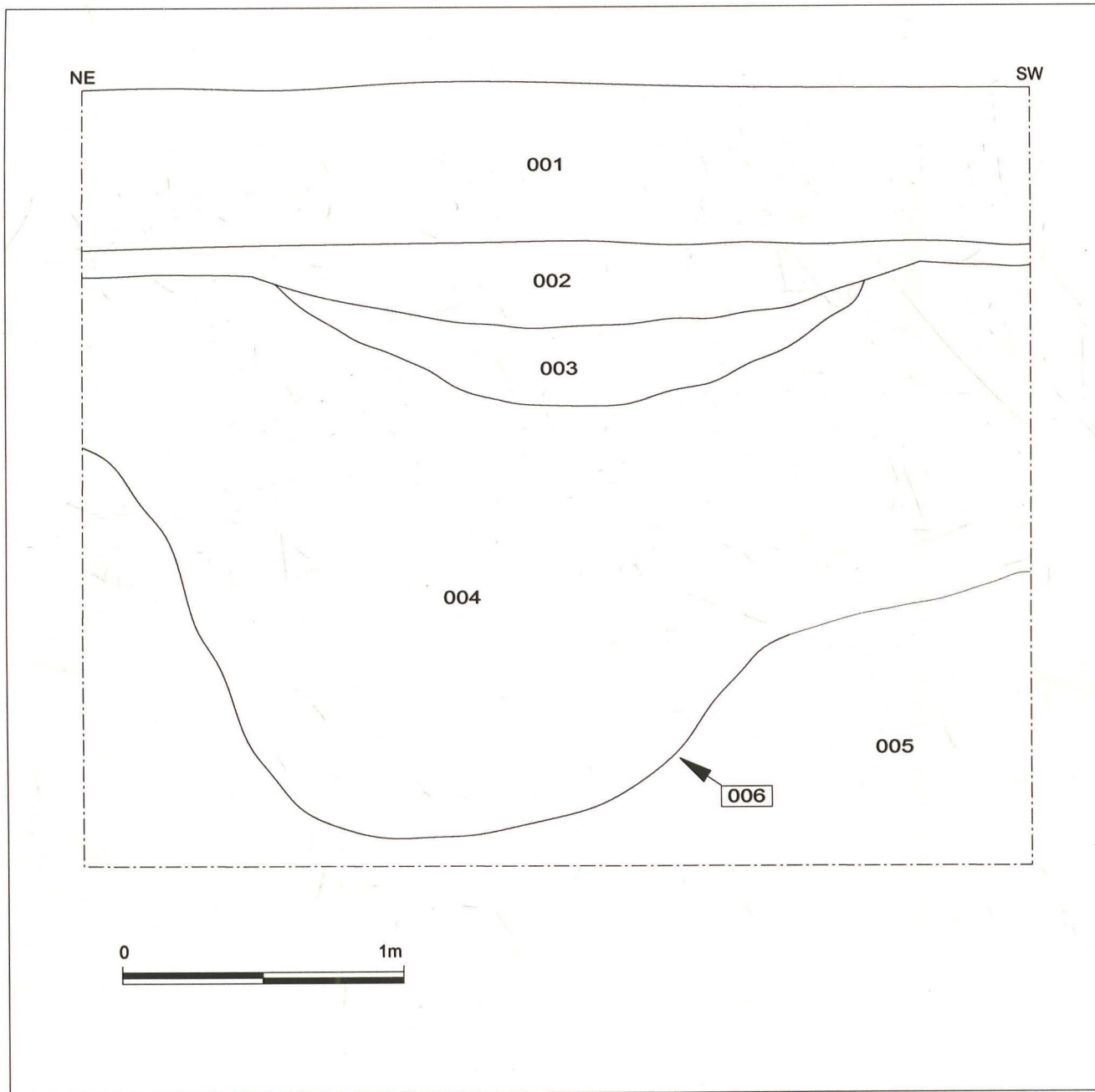


Figure 6 - Section Drawing



Plate 1 General view of site



Plate 2 Section 1

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
THE FORMER ACRE'S MILL SITE,
HIGH STREET,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
PATTERSON PROPERTIES**

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

DECEMBER 1999

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at Acre's Mill, High Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Previous investigations at the site revealed medieval and later remains across the southern part of the area. The medieval remains, dating from perhaps as early as the 10th century, were revealed about 1.2m-1.4m below the present ground surface. These medieval and later remains contained well-preserved environmental remains.*
- 1.3 *A comprehensive watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks for Plots 3-8 of the development. The results of the monitoring of the first two plots (Plots 5 and 6) will be reviewed and guide the level of further monitoring. Plots 1, 2, 9, 11 and 12 will be examined after the excavation of the trenches and prior to concreting. All archaeological remains 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 development on land at the former Acre's Mill site, High Street, Spalding. The site is located at national grid reference TF 2500 2255.
- 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 Spalding lies 23km southwest of Boston in the fenlands of south Lincolnshire. The proposed development at Old Acre's Mill is located on Spalding High Street on the east bank of the river Welland, c. 200m to the east of the town centre as defined by the Market Place.
- 3.2 The site is situated at a height of around 5 metres at TF 2500 2255 and comprises an irregular block of land, approximately 0.75 hectares in area. The area of the proposed development includes the plot currently occupied by Old Acre's Mill and an adjacent area of open ground to the south of the mill site.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Patterson Homes Ltd has submitted a planning application to SHDC for the construction of residential bungalows at the site and the conversion of the mill building currently fronting onto High Street (planning application H16/0703/99). The archaeological advisor to SHDC deemed the site to be in an archaeologically sensitive area and advised that the developer should commission an archaeological desk-top assessment (Herbert, 1998). The desk-top assessment indicated that the site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest and on behalf of SHDC the LCC Archaeological Officer advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken.
- 4.2 In November 1999 the archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by

Archaeological Project Services. Archaeological remains dating from the medieval, post-medieval and 18th and 19th centuries were recorded at the site (Rayner and Trimble 1999). Subsequently, on the behalf of SHDC the Archaeological Officer of LCC requested the submission of an archaeological impact assessment and mitigation strategy for the development in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permission. The mitigation strategy proposed a watching brief during development and the present document is the specification for such a programme of investigation.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils have not been mapped as the site lies in an urban area. The surrounding soils comprise the Wallasea 2 Association, peloalluvial gley soils developed on young marine alluvium, usually salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits, overlying a solid geology of Oxford Clay (Hodge *et al.* 1984). The site slopes gently to the southeast and has a height of approximately 5m OD.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The Domesday Book of 1086 AD records that Spalding was principally owned by Ivo Taillebois with some land also belonging to *Croyland* (Crowland) Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976, 60, 89 and 194).
- 6.2 During the medieval period Spalding was an important fishing centre and was also involved in the export of salt, the town declined in the 15th and 16th century due to the silting up of Bicker Haven. The river required regular maintenance resulting in the canalisation and deepening of the course in 1743. This was one of a number of drainage schemes during the 17th and 18th century which led to increasing prosperity in the 18th century. This is represented by the construction of several large buildings on the High Street, including Yew Lodge, Holland House and the Gamlyn's Almshouses.
- 6.3 Previous trial trenching in the vicinity and desk-based assessment of the area indicated that archaeological remains of post-medieval date extended to approximately 1m below the present ground surface, though those investigations did not reach the levels of medieval or earlier deposits (Dymond, 1995, Herbert 1998). The assessment also indicated that there were buildings on the High Street frontage in the 18th century, with other parts of the site developed through the 19th and into the 20th century, with saw mills and timber yards on, or adjacent to, the site. Old Acre's Mill, on the High Street frontage, is a listed building.
- 6.4 Excavations in Spalding have shown that waterlogged layers and artefacts are present in the town. Waterlogging results in enhanced preservation of wood, leather and other organic materials.
- 6.5 Recent excavations on the site revealed medieval, perhaps Saxo-Norman, remains about 1.2m below the present ground surface. These, and the later post-medieval deposits, contained well-preserved and diverse environmental remains. Indication of late post-medieval industrial activity were also revealed.

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 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development. All building foundations, bar plot 10, will be examined. Examination of house plots 5 and 6 will commence the investigation and the watching brief will be undertaken during groundwork. If archaeological remains of medieval date are revealed during these examinations, plots 3, 4, 7 and 8 will also be examined during groundwork. If medieval remains are not clearly revealed during the examination of plots 5 and 6 it is expected that the level of watching brief will be reduced to examination of the plots after excavation and prior to concreting. This method will apply to plots 1, 2, 9, 11 and 12 from the outset.
- 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 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.7 Sections of the archaeological features.

9.3.2.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.10 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 Holland 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 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

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the County Archaeological Officer. 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 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 - 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

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 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

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Specification: Version 1, 10th December 1999

Appendix 1

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AND MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS**

**AT
FORMER ACRE'S MILL SITE,
HIGH STREET
SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**PREPARED FOR
PATTERSON PROPERTIES**

NOVEMBER 1999

VERSION 3

National Grid Reference TF 2500 2255

**PREPARED BY
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No 21)**

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises an impact assessment and mitigation strategy for archaeological remains likely to be disturbed by proposed development at the former Old Acre's Mill site on High Street, Spalding.*
- 1.2 *The site is located in Spalding town centre, on the east side of the River Welland, opposite the parish church.*
- 1.3 *The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest. Late Iron Age and Roman settlements are known from the Spalding area and a number of Roman coins have been found in the River Welland close to the development area. Little is known of the Saxon town although a market is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The town grew in importance during the medieval period becoming one of the wealthiest settlements in the Lincolnshire fens. The town's importance declined during the 15th and 16th centuries but increased during the 17th and 18th centuries and the town remains an important local centre. Old Acre's Mill, on the site frontage, is a listed building.*
- 1.4 *A desk-top assessment of the likely impact of the development was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in 1998. The assessment demonstrated that buildings fronted onto the High Street during the eighteenth century and noted that previous excavations in the area had recorded post-medieval deposits.*
- 1.5 *An archaeological evaluation of the site in November 1999 identified medieval, post-medieval, 18th - 19th century and modern remains at the site. It is thought that these remains are probably associated with domestic occupation, possibly connected with buildings which fronted onto High Street and the river Welland. There is also some evidence for industrial activity at the site in the 18th and 19th centuries.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document sets out in detail an archaeological impact assessment and mitigation strategy for the archaeological deposits discovered at the former Old Acre's Mill site on High Street, Spalding. The strategy is based on communications between Archaeological Project Services and the Archaeological Officer of the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Archaeology Section acting on behalf of South Holland District Council (SHDC).

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 Spalding lies 23km southwest of Boston in the fenlands of south Lincolnshire. The proposed development at Old Acre's Mill is located on Spalding High Street on the east bank of the river Welland, c. 200m to the east of the town centre as defined by the Market Place.

- 3.2 The site is situated at a height of around 5 metres at TF 2500 2255 and comprises an irregular block of land, approximately 0.75 hectares in area. The area of the proposed development includes the plot currently occupied by Old Acre's Mill and an adjacent area of open ground to the south of the mill site.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Patterson Homes Ltd has submitted a planning application to SHDC for the construction of residential bungalows at the site and the conversion of the mill building currently fronting onto High Street (planning application H16/0703/99). The archaeological advisor to SHDC deemed the site to be in an archaeologically sensitive area and advised that the developer should commission an archaeological desk-top assessment (Herbert, 1998). The desk-top assessment indicated that the site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest and on behalf of SHDC the LCC Archaeological Officer advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken.
- 4.2 In November 1999 the archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services. Archaeological remains dating from the medieval, post-medieval and 18th and 19th centuries were recorded at the site (Rayner and Trimble 1999). Subsequently, on the behalf of SHDC the Archaeological Officer of LCC requested the submission of an archaeological impact assessment and mitigation strategy for the development in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permission.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils have not been mapped as the site lies in an urban area. The surrounding soils comprise the Wallasea 2 Association, peat alluvial gley soils developed on young marine alluvium, usually salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits, overlying a solid geology of Oxford Clay (Hodge *et al.* 1984). The site slopes gently to the southeast and has a height of approximately 5m OD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest.
- 6.2 Iron Age sites have been identified from fieldwalking in the surrounding area.
- 6.3 A number of Roman coins have been found in the River Welland at Spalding and it is possible that Spalding was the site of a small Roman settlement, perhaps the *Salinae Gyrviorum* mentioned by Ptolemy (Clark 1978, 2).
- 6.4 It is likely that the present town originated in the Anglo Saxon period. The settlement may be implied by a reference in the Tribal Hideage of the 7th Century where the *Spaldas* are mentioned. Spalding appears in a number of charters from the 8th Century onwards.

- 6.5 The Domesday Book of 1086 AD records that Spalding was principally owned by Ivo Taillebois with some land also belonging to *Croyland* (Crowland) Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976, 60, 89 and 194).
- 6.6 During the medieval period Spalding was an important fishing centre and was also involved in the export of salt, the town declined in the 15th and 16th century due to the silting up of Bicker Haven. The river required regular maintenance resulting in the canalisation and deepening of the course in 1743. This was one of a number of drainage schemes during the 17th and 18th century which led to increasing prosperity in the 18th century. This is represented by the construction of several large buildings on the High Street, including Yew Lodge, Holland House and the Gamlyn's Almshouses.
- 6.7 Previous trial trenching in the vicinity and desk-based assessment of the area indicated that archaeological remains of post-medieval date extended to approximately 1m below the present ground surface, though those investigations did not reach the levels of medieval or earlier deposits (Dymond, 1995, Herbert 1998). The assessment also indicated that there were buildings on the High Street frontage in the 18th century, with other parts of the site developed through the 19th and into the 20th century, with saw mills and timber yards on, or adjacent to, the site. Old Acre's Mill, on the High Street frontage, is a listed building.
- 6.8 Excavations in Spalding have shown that waterlogged layers and artefacts are present in the town. Waterlogging results in enhanced preservation of wood, leather and other organic materials.
- 6.9 Archaeological evaluation of the site in November 1999 identified medieval, post-medieval and 18th and 19th century deposits. The medieval remains comprised mainly ditches, gullies, pits and their associated fills. Pottery recovered from the fills of these features suggested that occupation at the site may have started in the 10th century and continued through the medieval period. Processing of environmental samples from these features recovered a range of waste food items including charred cereal grains, cockle and mussel shell fragments, eggshell, fragmented domestic animal bone and eel vertebrae. It is thought that these remains represent the disposal of domestic food waste at the site.
- 6.10 Fragments of vitrified brick found in association with a brick surface in Trench 3 at the west end of the site suggest that some kind of industrial activity was undertaken at the site at some stage during the 18th - 19th centuries. These deposits were sealed by a 0.4m thick layer of flood deposits.

7.0

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The impact of the proposed development on possible archaeological deposits on the north side of the site is unknown because it was not possible to locate any trenches in this area during the evaluation.

- 7.2 Towards the south side of the site archaeological deposits were recorded in all three trenches excavated during the evaluation (Fig. 1). Therefore, it is possible that archaeological remains extend over much of this area of the site and will be impacted on by the proposed development.
- 7.3 Deposits dating to the medieval period were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 at approximately 1.2m and 1.4m below current ground level at around 3.4m and 3.9m OD respectively. These remains would be vulnerable to any disturbance beneath these depths. It is possible that a buried topsoil recorded at 0.6m below current ground level in Trench 1 represents the former medieval ground surface. However, transformation of deposits through subsoil formation in this trench has effectively reduced the visibility of these potential medieval remains above 1.0 metre below ground level.
- 7.4 A sequence of undated deposits truncated by a cess pit in Trench 2 might be of medieval date. The surface of this undated sequence was recorded at a depth of 1.2m below current ground level at around 3.55m OD. Excavations which exceed this depth would threaten the survival of the remains of the cesspit and the underlying undated deposits.
- 7.4 It is also possible that the medieval deposits recorded in Trench 3 at the west end of the site have been truncated by later activity. Any medieval remains surviving as 'islands' within later deposits would possibly be within range of building foundation trenches.
- 7.5 Deposits of 18th and 19th century date were recorded 0.9m below the current ground surface in Trench 1, at around 4.3m OD. These comprise ditch fills, a brick surface possibly associated with industrial activity and layers rich in charcoal and fragmentary building material. Although sealed beneath nearly one metre of flood silts and modern overburden, these deposits would be vulnerable to disturbance during the excavation of foundation trenches.
- 7.6 Widening or deepening of foundation trenches, or the removal of areas of 'made ground' thought unsuitable for construction would be destructive of archaeological deposits.
- 7.7 The survival of organic remains would be threatened by any measures leading to the dehydration of buried deposits.
- 7.8 Demolition of the standing buildings at the site will not impact on archaeological deposits.
- 7.9 Construction of roadways or the excavation of service trenches will not penetrate to a depth which is likely to impact on significant archaeological deposits as defined in 8.1.

8 MITIGATION MEASURES

- 8.1 A strategy has been devised within which significant archaeological deposits at

the Old Acre's Mill site are either preserved, or, if this is not feasible within the needs of the proposed development, adequately recorded in advance of their destruction.

Recording will be restricted to:

- deposits of medieval or earlier date
- structural or industrial deposits predating 1700
- sequences which may significantly enhance the current understanding of the site.

8.2 The mitigation will comprise:

- 8.2.1 provision of a comprehensive archaeological watching brief as defined in 5.7.1 of the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook during the cutting of foundation trenches for house plots 3-8 towards the north side of the site (Fig 1). Plot numbers on figure one refer to those represented on architectural block plan 9872:4A. The watching brief will commence with plots 5 and 6. The results of the observations on plots 5 and 6 will form the basis of a review of the watching brief.
- 8.2.2 the limiting of the depth of trenches to one metre below current ground level and the width of all trenches to 450mm unless in the presence of an archaeologist to undertake a watching brief and any necessary recording in accordance with the criteria outlined in 8.1. These restrictions do not apply to plot 10 where no archaeological input is required.
- 8.2.3 inspection of trenches on plots 1,2, 9, 11 and 12 prior to concreting will be undertaken by an archaeologist and any deposits meeting the criteria in 8.1 recorded. Reasonable time will be allowed for the archaeological recording to take place. The presence of an archaeologist is not required during the cutting of these trenches to a depth of one metre. The observations of these trenches will be undertaken as an 'intermittent watching brief' as specified in 5.7.3 of the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook.
- 8.2.4 referral to SHDC through the LCC Archaeological Officer should a need arise to extend the width of foundation trenches beyond the agreed width of 450mm.
- 8.2.5 referral to SHDC through the LCC Archaeological Officer of any proposal to reduce areas of 'made ground' outside the agreed width of foundation trenches. In the event of either of the circumstances stated in 8.2.4 or 8.2.5, the Archaeological Officer may request that adequate provision is made for the recording of threatened archaeological deposits. The referral should be made prior to the commencement of the works.

- 8.2.5 no archaeological input during the construction of roadways or the cutting of trenches for services across the site as these will not disturb significant archaeological deposits as defined in 8.1.
- 8.2.6 no archaeological input during the demolition of standing buildings site as this will not disturb buried remains.

9 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER

- 9.1 The Archaeological Officer will require at least 14 days notice of the excavation of foundation trenches at the site. Any significant alteration to the groundworks currently proposed will be referred to SHDC through the LCC Archaeological Officer, particularly under the circumstances outlined in 8.2.5.

10 SPECIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 10.1 The watching brief on plots 3-8 will be undertaken as a 'comprehensive watching brief' as specified in section 5.7.1 of the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook. Observations on plots 1,2,9,11 and 12 will be undertaken as an 'intermittent watching brief' as defined in section 5.7.3 of the handbook.
- 10.2 A detailed specification describing proposed archaeological excavation and recording techniques and methodologies will form a separate document. This document will also detail staffing levels, time scales, specialists to be used and any specific requirements of the project. The specification will be submitted and approved by South Holland District Council before commencement of the development apart from demolition of standing buildings to ground level.
- 10.2 All archaeological works will be undertaken to current IFA standards and guidance. The IFA defines a watching brief as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

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12. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LCC Lincolnshire County Council

SHDC South Holland District Council

Document Version 3

Appendix 2

Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm, multi banded horizon consisting of Silts, sands and rubble, 0.55m thick	Modern Levelling
002	1	Moderately compact, dark-black grey silt, 0.20m thick	Fill of 006
003	1	Moderately compact light grey silt and mortar, c. 0.30m thick	Fill of 006
004	1	Moderately compact dark-black grey silt,	Primary fill of 006
005	1	Moderately compact mid-greenish grey silt	Natural, alluvial deposit
006	1	Indeterminate shape cut , greater than 3m long, c.1.6m deep	Possible pit
007	-	Moderately compact mi-brown silt	Subsoil

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor

Provenance

Artefacts were recovered from a levelling deposit (004). The clay pipe may be a local Spalding product.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Weight (g)	Context Date
004	1x clay pipe bowl, 1660-90	11g	1660-90
	1x horse scapula	184g	

The pipe bowl from (004) is a Lincoln Type B dating from the period c. 1660-90 (Mann 1977, 17-8). It has 40% rim rouletting on the rear of the bowl. Although very similar to Spalding types of bowl it differs in the shape of the heel and the form of the heel-stem junction. However, there is evidence of reforming, perhaps knife-smoothing, at this location, which has altered the original characteristics of the pipe.

The shoulder blade fragment from a horse displays numerous parallel scratches indicating that the meat was stripped from the carcass. The bone has also been smashed along either side of the central spine and some rodent gnawing is also evident.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The collection is stored by material class.

Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations in Spalding, including at the present examination site, which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small post-medieval assemblage, the collection has limited potential. However, the absence of any artefacts datable before the 17th century would suggest that early post-medieval or earlier deposits were not revealed or disturbed by the development.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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.
Early Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 410-650
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Late Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 850-1066
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.
Middle Saxon	Pertaining to the period AD 650-850
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.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 7 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 2 Bags of finds

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: LCNCC : 268.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SAM00

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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