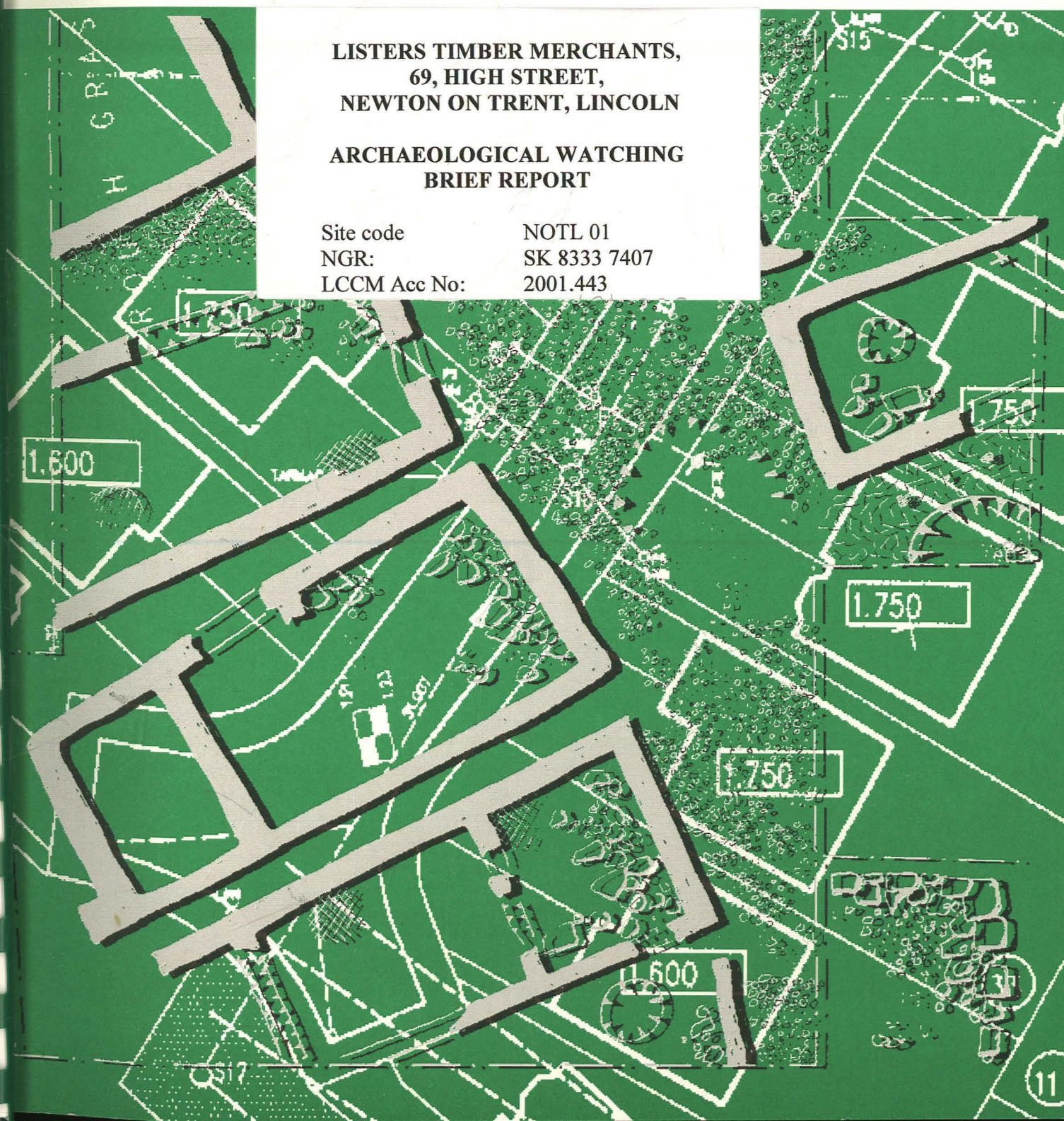




NOTL 01  
SK 8333 7407  
2001.443





Event L12848  
Sowca L17521  
L17522

negative

L17058

**LISTERS TIMBER MERCHANTS,  
69, HIGH STREET,  
NEWTON ON TRENT, LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code NOTL 01  
NGR: SK 8333 7407  
LCCM Acc No: 2001.443  
M01/P10823

Report prepared for Listers Timber and Builders Merchants  
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16 JAN 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

### Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks for an extension to an existing office building at Listers Timber Merchants, 69, High Street, Newton on Trent.
- The watching brief identified only modern features, none of which are of archaeological significance.

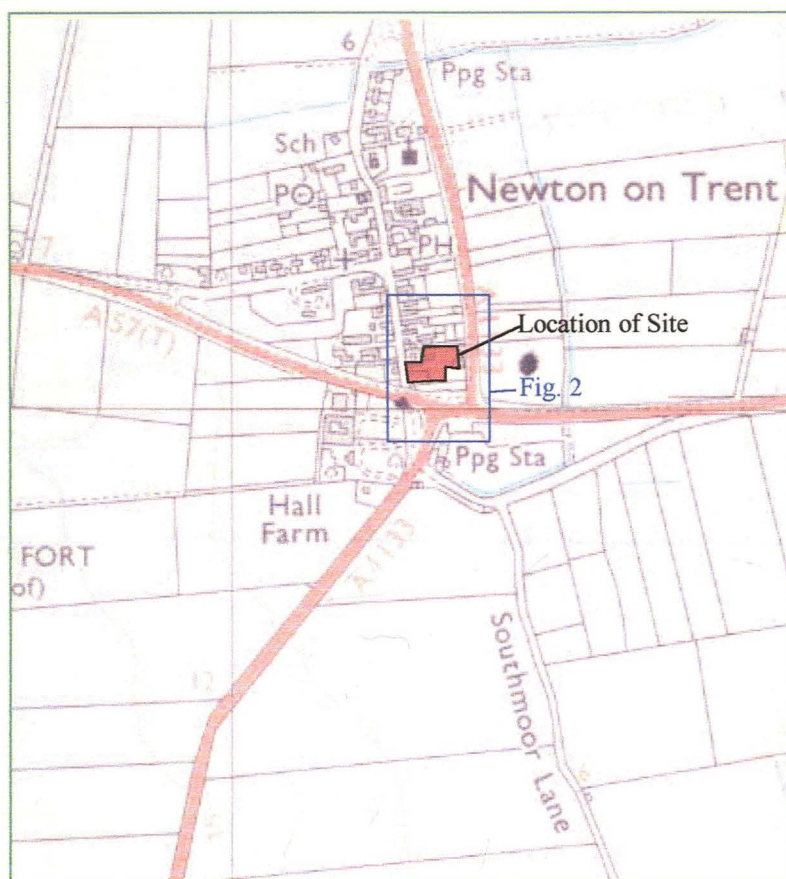


Fig. 1 Site location, area highlighted in red is the development plot, the blue square is that seen in fig. 2.  
(Scale 1:12500; OS copyright ref AL 515 021 A0001)

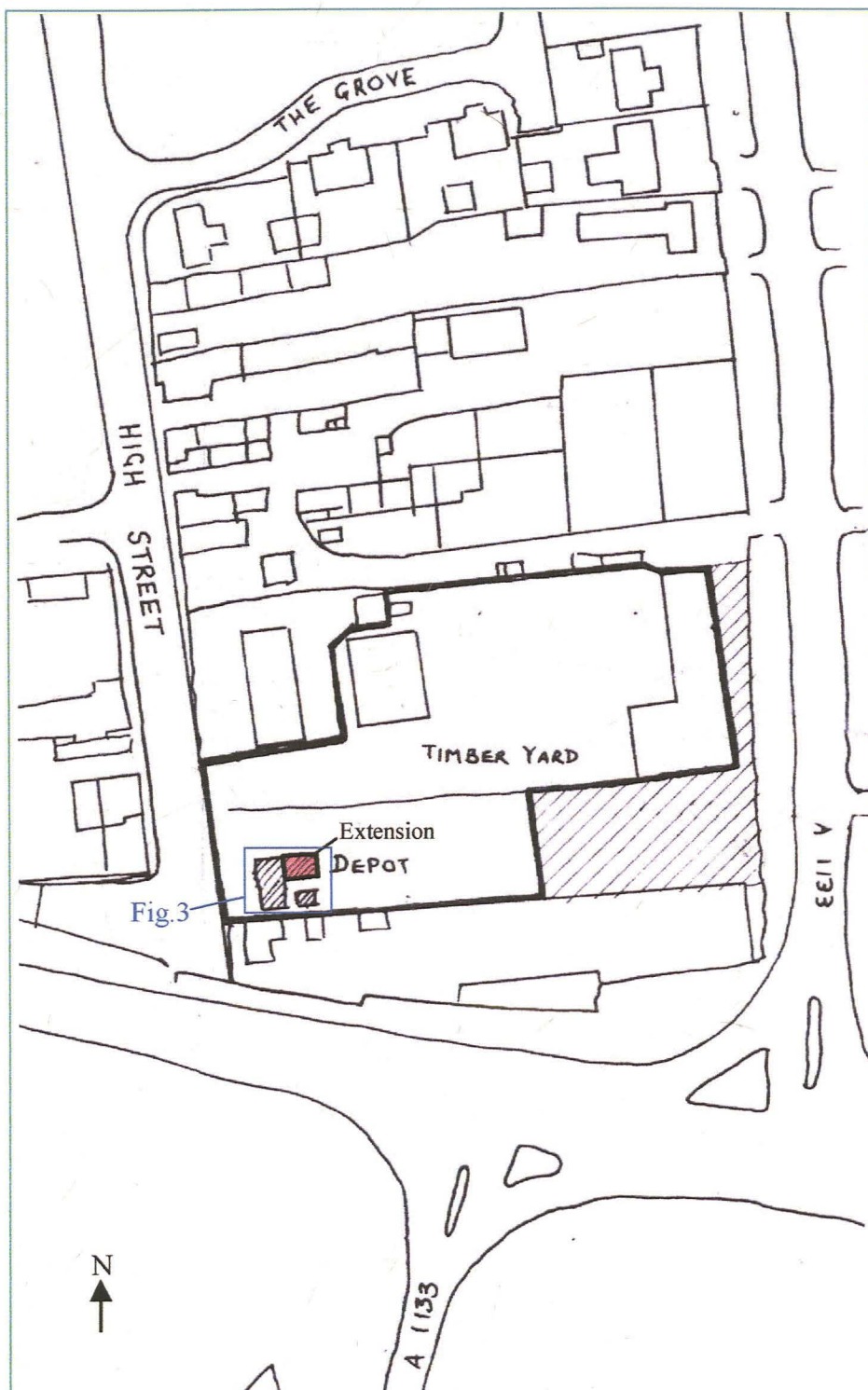


Fig.2 Plan of Newton on Trent. Listers Timber yard is shown with a bold outline, the office extension is highlighted in red. (Scale 1:1250)



## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place during the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to an existing office building at Listers Timber Merchants, 69, High Street, Newton on Trent. (National Grid Reference SK 8333 7407). The work was commissioned by Listers Timber and Builders Merchants, to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission (Ref. M01/P/0823).

This report documents the results of the archaeological observation and recording undertaken on 17.12.2001. It has been prepared to meet the requirements of current local guidelines (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998); and a formal project specification prepared by this company.

Copies of this report will be deposited with Listers Timber and Builders Merchants, the Assistant Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council / the County SMR. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

## 2.0 Location and Description

Newton On Trent is approximately 14 kilometres west of Lincoln, 12 kilometres south of Gainsborough, within the administrative district of West Lindsey. The village is situated on the east bank of the River Trent, and the site of development lies on the south side of the village, on the east side of High Street (fig.1), at National Grid Reference SK 8333 7407

The local geology is complex with Pleistocene river sands and gravels over Mercia Mudstone. Local drift deposits also include pockets of aeolian sand. These mantle Triassic mudstones (BGS 1979)

Prior to this development, the site comprised part of a car park to the rear of the existing prefabricated office building, the remainder of the property consists of the buildings and storage area of the active Timber and builders merchants (fig. 2). The plot itself is defined by a 2m wooden fence to the south, a concrete post and paling fence to the north, and the existing prefabricated office building to the west, and is presently open to the timber yard to the east. The ground slopes slightly downwards to the west and High Street.

When the watching brief was undertaken, the area of the site was completely covered by tarmac car park surface

Planning permission was granted to extend the existing office into a sales area and office (fig. 3). The permission was granted subject to an archaeological watching brief being undertaken on all groundworks.

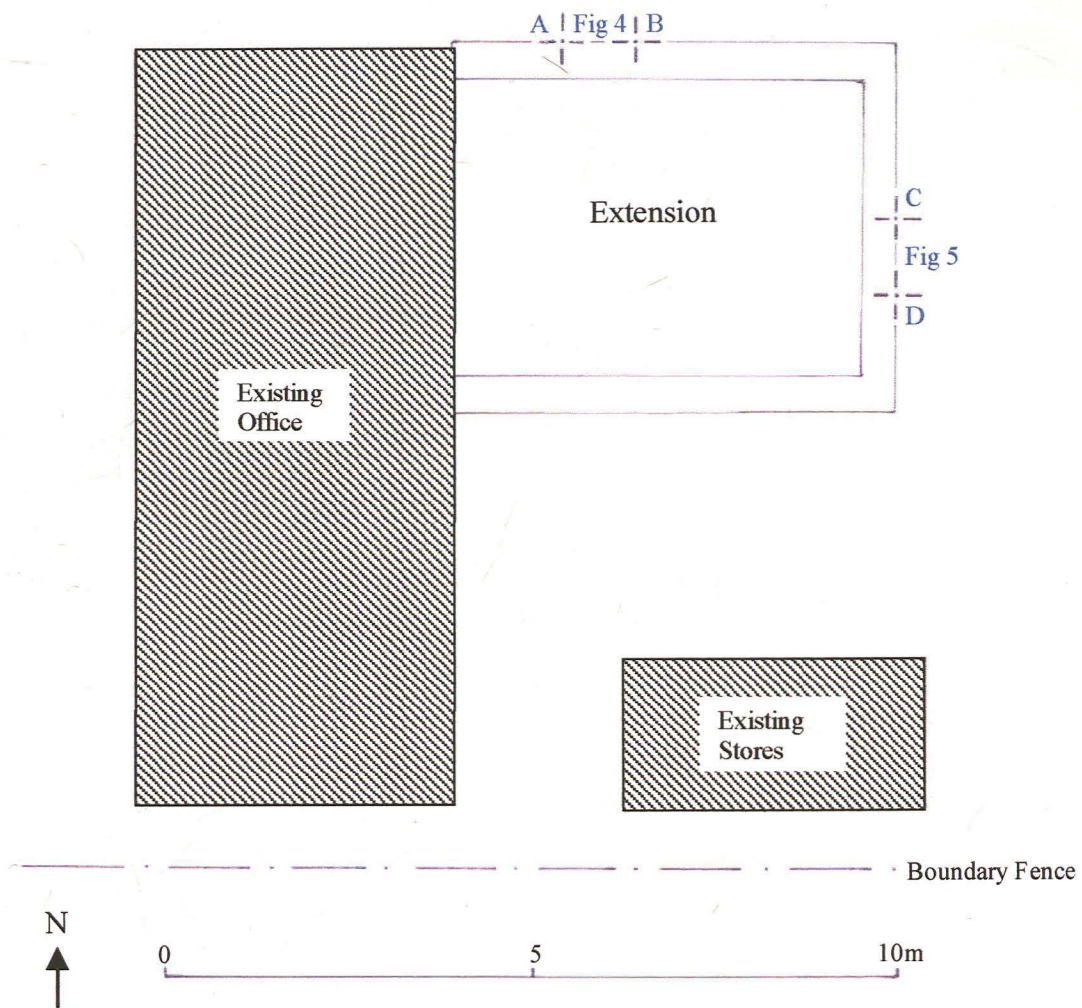


Fig. 3 Plan of foundation trenches for extension showing locations of recorded sections (Figs. 4 and 5). Scale 1:100



### 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Newton (on Trent) was one of the settlements listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (*Neutone*), where the landholder was the Archbishop of York, the land belonging to Laneham. (Morgan & Thorn 1986). The existing church, St Peter's, contains some Norman fabric.

An important early Roman vexillation fortress lies to the southwest of the village. Other Roman remains have been recorded closer to the village when pottery kilns were exposed in 1983 during bypass construction (Field and Palmer-Brown 1991).

Newton is a common name, meaning 'the new farmstead, estate or village' deriving from the Old English *nīwe* + *tūn* (Mills 1996).

The site is located to the south of what would have been the traditional medieval core of the village.

### 4.0 Methodology

The site was visited on 17.12.2001, when the foundation trenches were cut for the building extension. This work was undertaken with a JCB excavator employing a 0.5m wide flat-bladed bucket. The foundation trenches were generally 0.6 – 0.7m wide and a minimum of 1m deep. Due to the lay of the land, this resulted in trenches up to 1.2m deep in the east part of the site. This work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded.

The archaeological fieldwork entailed the cleaning by hand of all exposed surfaces, followed by a thorough inspection. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each layer on standard watching brief context recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings compliment these accounts.

### 5.0 Results (figs. 4 and 5)

As stated above, the area of development was completely covered by a tarmac car park surface (001). Immediately below this was a layer of grey chippings, approx. 0.2m thick, which can be associated with the construction of the modern car park. This car park phase also appeared to be associated with a layer of crushed limestone make-up (003) which was seen as a very thin layer of material in the west 3m of the site, but as a more significant levelling layer above a concrete ?floor (007) in the east part of the site.

Below this was a layer of compact, very dark grey, silty sand (004). This material contained no inclusions and probably represents the remains of a garden topsoil. Below 004, was a dark brown sandy clay containing occasional small and medium rounded pebbles (005). This was probably a buried subsoil below the buried garden soil 004. Layer 005 also yielded the only find from the watching brief – a complete salt glazed stoneware storage jar of Victorian date, which was retained by the developer.

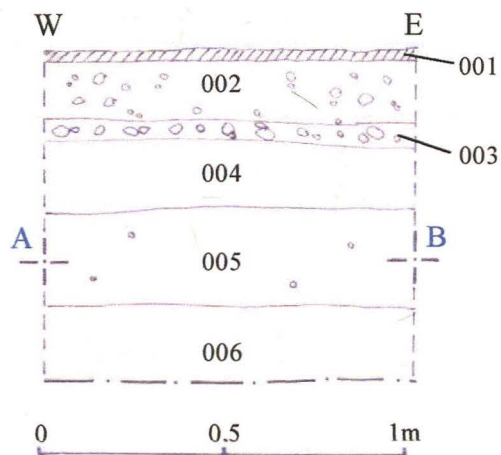


Fig. 4 Sample section, south facing, in trench for north wall of extension. Scale 1:20

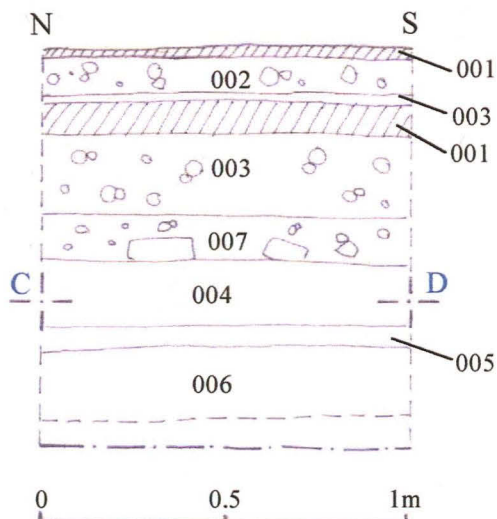


Fig. 5 Sample section, west facing, in trench for east wall of extension. Scale 1:20



Beneath this material lay a mottled blue-grey/red clay containing occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular siltstone pebbles. This material (006) represents the natural geology of the area – Mercia Mudstone

In the eastern 3m of the site, below the crushed limestone layer (003), and above the buried topsoil (004) was a layer of brick and concrete (007). During excavation, the upper surface of this material was seen to be quite smooth and weathered, which suggests that at some point it was exposed to the elements. No foundations were seen in association with this surface, suggesting that it represents the remains of a path or yard to the rear of a property.

## **6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Despite previous finds of Romano-British pottery during construction of the bypass to the south of the site, no finds of this date were exposed during the present watching brief.

According to employees of the timber yard, a building of probable Victorian date stood in this area until perhaps thirty years ago, prior to construction of the timber yard in the late 1970s.

## **7.0 Bibliography**

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Pevsner, N. & Harris, J. 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition revised by N. Antram). London, Penguin.

Mills, A. D., 1996 *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford University Press.

Field, F. N. and Palmer-Brown, C. 1991 New evidence for a Romano-British greyware pottery industry in the Trent Valley. *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, XXVI: (40-56).



8.0 Appendix 1 – Colour plates



Plate 1. General view of the site from the NW



Plate 2. Foundation trench for the north wall of the extension, looking NW.





Plate 3. Foundation trench for the south wall of the extension, looking NW.

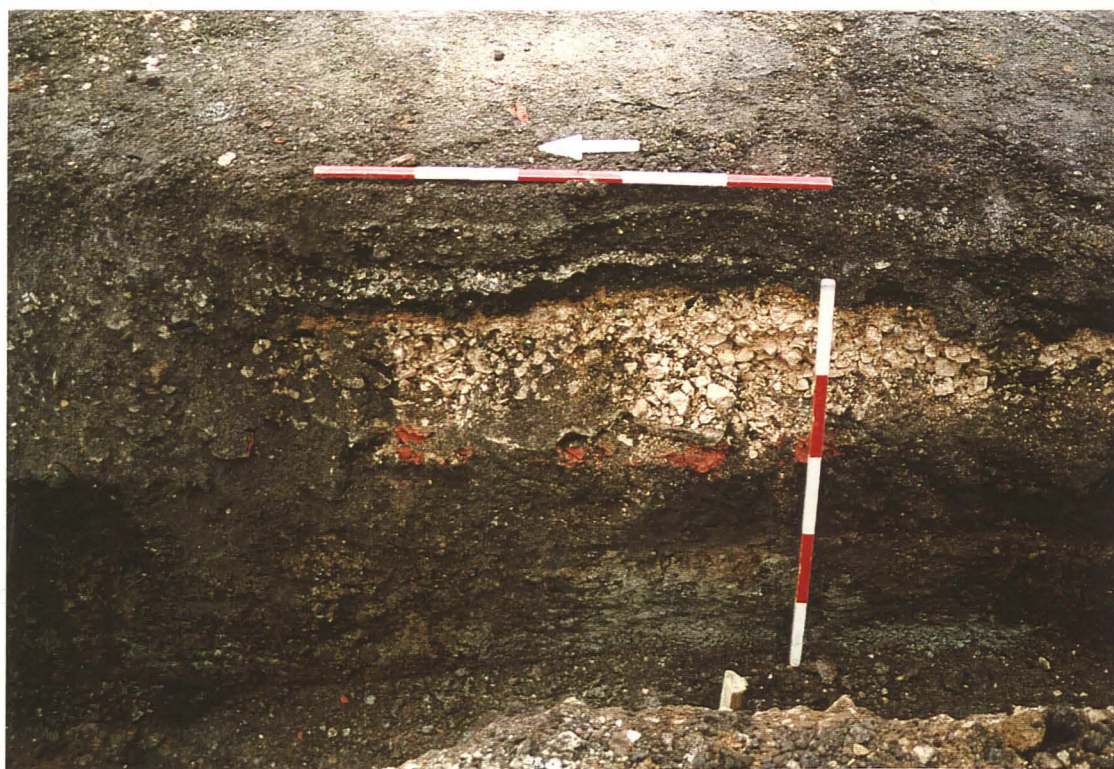


Plate 4. Typical section of foundation trench, in this case for the east wall, looking east – see also fig.5