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FORMER TYRE DEPOT, SWAN STREET, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site code	FTSS 03
NGR:	TF 2461 2275
Planning Ref:	H16/1011/02
LCCM Acc No:	2003.240

Report prepared for
Thistlemoor Estates Ltd
by

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September 2003

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EVENT LI4508 SOURCE LI 9096
LI 9097

PRN - 23602 - C MEDIEVAL
23604 POSTMEDIEVAL / MODERN

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Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks of a redevelopment at the former Tyre Depot, Swan Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*

- *The watching brief identified several archaeological features, mostly of medieval and post-medieval date.*

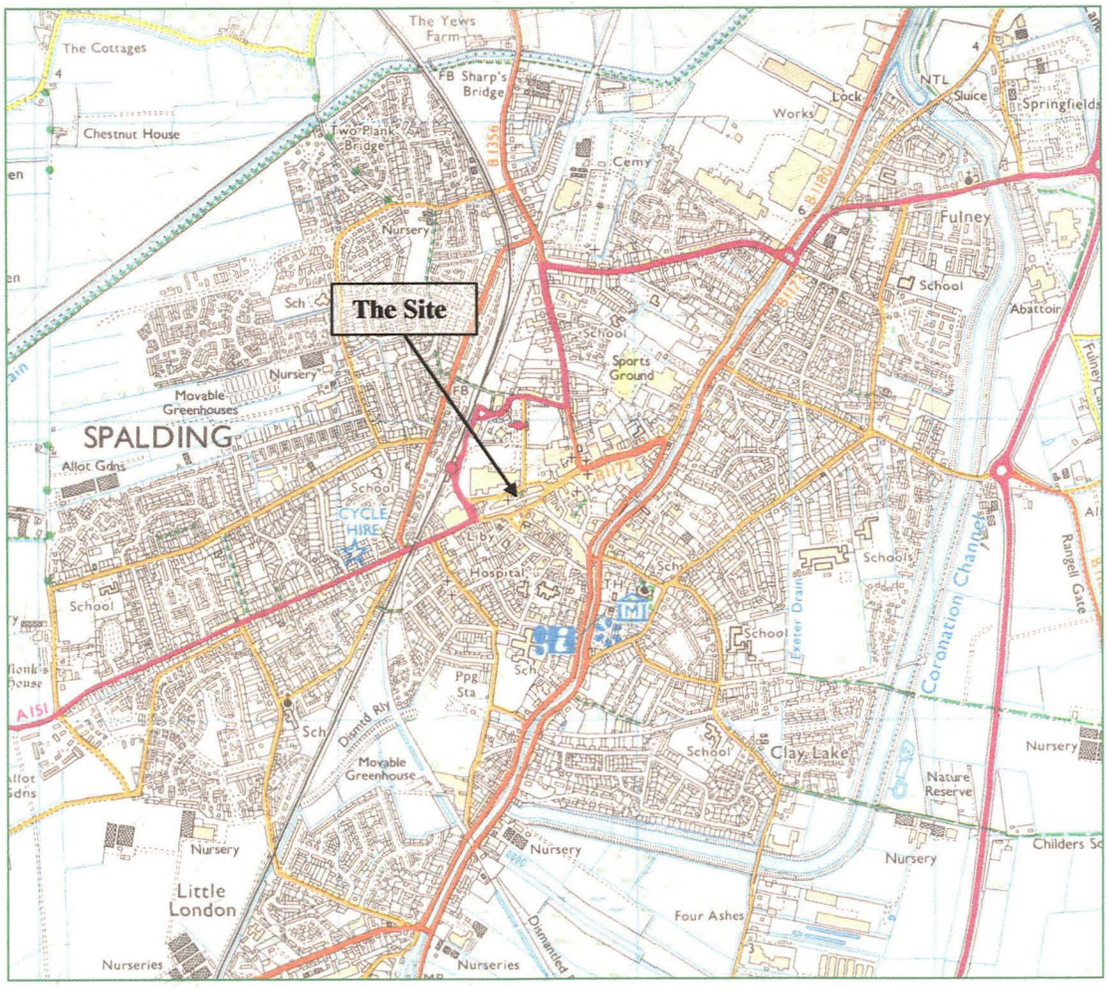

Fig.1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for a new building on the site of the former Tyre Depot, Swan Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire. (National Grid Reference TF 2461 2275). The work was commissioned by Thistlemoor Estates Ltd to fulfil a recommendation to an outline planning application for commercial redevelopment of the site (Ref. H16/1011/02).

This report documents the results of the watching brief undertaken on 25/26.6.2003 and 30.6.2003. 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. This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, (IFA, 1999).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning body, the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council, the County Sites and Monuments Record, and South Holland District Council. A summary will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description (Figs 1 and 2)

Spalding lies in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 22km south-west of Boston and 25km north-east of Peterborough. The development site is located within the traditional core of the town, immediately north of the historic Sheep Market. (National Grid Reference: TF 2461 2275). The former tyre depot comprised a rectangular unit 25m x 9m in area. The proposed new building is located on the same lines as its precursor.

The site lies at an altitude approximately 6m above modern sea level. The soils of the area are permeable silty loams and silty clay soils of the Wisbech and Wallasea/Pepperthorne Associations (Hodge et.al., 1984). These overlie a series of Quaternary drift deposits, which can be up to 20m in depth. The uppermost of these are the Terrington Beds, a series of sandy silts, sands and clays, which were deposited in a range of wetland environments, including tidal creeks, salt marshes, rivers and by marine inundation (BGS, 1992). Beneath the Terrington Beds are further drift deposits, possibly including Devensian Abbey Sand and Gravel, and beds of Glacial Sand and Gravel of Anglian age. These cover the uppermost formations of the solid geology, which consist of the mudstones of the Oxford Clay Series, deposited during the Upper Jurassic period.

The redevelopment site comprises the former National Tyre Depot: an open-plan, corrugated asbestos-roofed building, already demolished when the watching brief was undertaken.

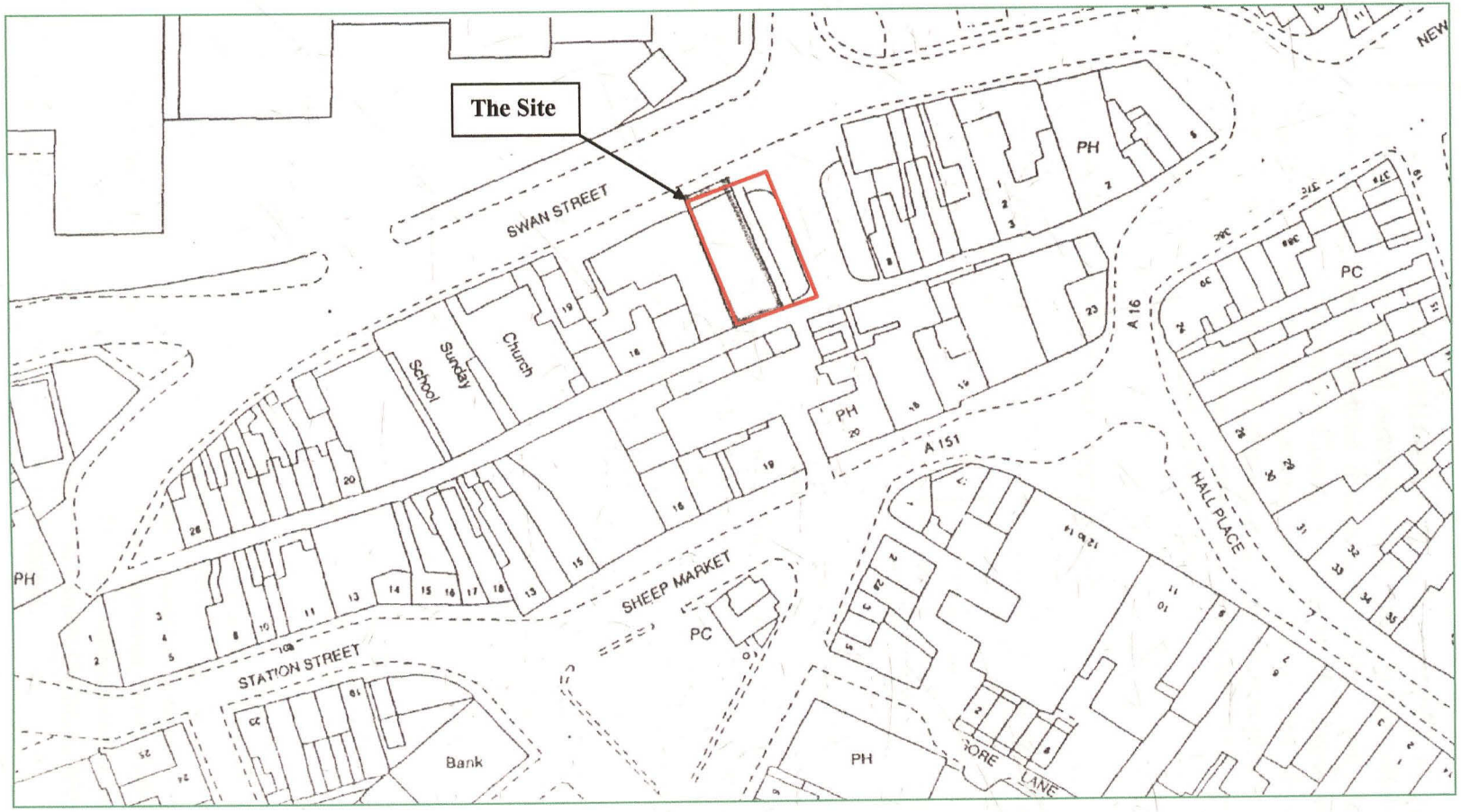


Fig. 2: Location of development area (outlined in red). Scale 1:1250

3.0 Planning Background

An outline planning application (H16/1011/02) was submitted to South Holland District Council for a commercial redevelopment over approximately 25m x 9m. Because of the archaeological potential of this area of the town, the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council (who advises South Holland District Council on archaeological matters) recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during preliminary development of the site. A preceding archaeological evaluation was carried out in January 2003, and a mitigation strategy was prepared by this company in May 2003.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The coastline of prehistoric Lincolnshire was considerably further inland than at present, and the area of Spalding was a frequently submerged island, uninhabitable for long periods. A prehistoric stone axe and a stone axe-hammer appear in the Sites and Monuments Record for Spalding parish (reference numbers 22367 and 22368), and pre-Roman salt workings have been found in the area (Simmons, 1993).

Salt production continued throughout the Roman period, and the Wash creeks may have been used for river traffic and fishing; settlement increased greatly in the 2nd century AD, probably due to a widespread drainage and administration programme (Hallam, 1970). A number of Romano-British coins and pottery scatters are recorded by the SMR within Spalding itself, as are a statue, probably of Venus (SMR ref. 22372), a ragstone female bust (23610) and a bronze figurine of a horse (22394).

By the Saxon period, falling sea levels had left Spalding a coastal settlement rather than an island, although the 'coastline' in this area still varied greatly with the tide and the season. The Fenland Survey records 6th century and later Saxon pottery in the west of the parish (Sawyer, 1998), and Spalding may have become a Royal Estate Centre in the 7th or 8th century AD (Palmer-Brown, 2000). The name itself is ascribed to the *Spalda*, one of the local tribes listed in the 7th/8th century *Tribal Hidage*.

Saxon and medieval development in the Spalding area was strongly influenced by monasticism. Crowland abbey received numerous land grants in the 9th century AD (Sawyer, 1998) and, with the nobles Ivo Tallboys and Guy de Craon, is listed as a major landowner in *Domesday Book*, which refers to a market, fisheries and salt-houses in Spalding (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). The abbey established a Benedictine priory at Spalding: the charter granting land for its foundation is dated 1051, but it may not have been built until after the Norman Conquest (Sumner, 1988). The priory is well documented, but archaeologically, little survives. Ivo Tallboys was made 'Lord of Spalding and all Holland' in 1073, and subsequently built a castle in Spalding: its earthworks were said to be visible at Coney Garth, c. 400m north-east of the development site, in 1746, but are no longer extant.

The medieval port town of Spalding was directly north-east of the priory, between the River Welland and the Westlode: wool and woad (then a popular dyestuff) were

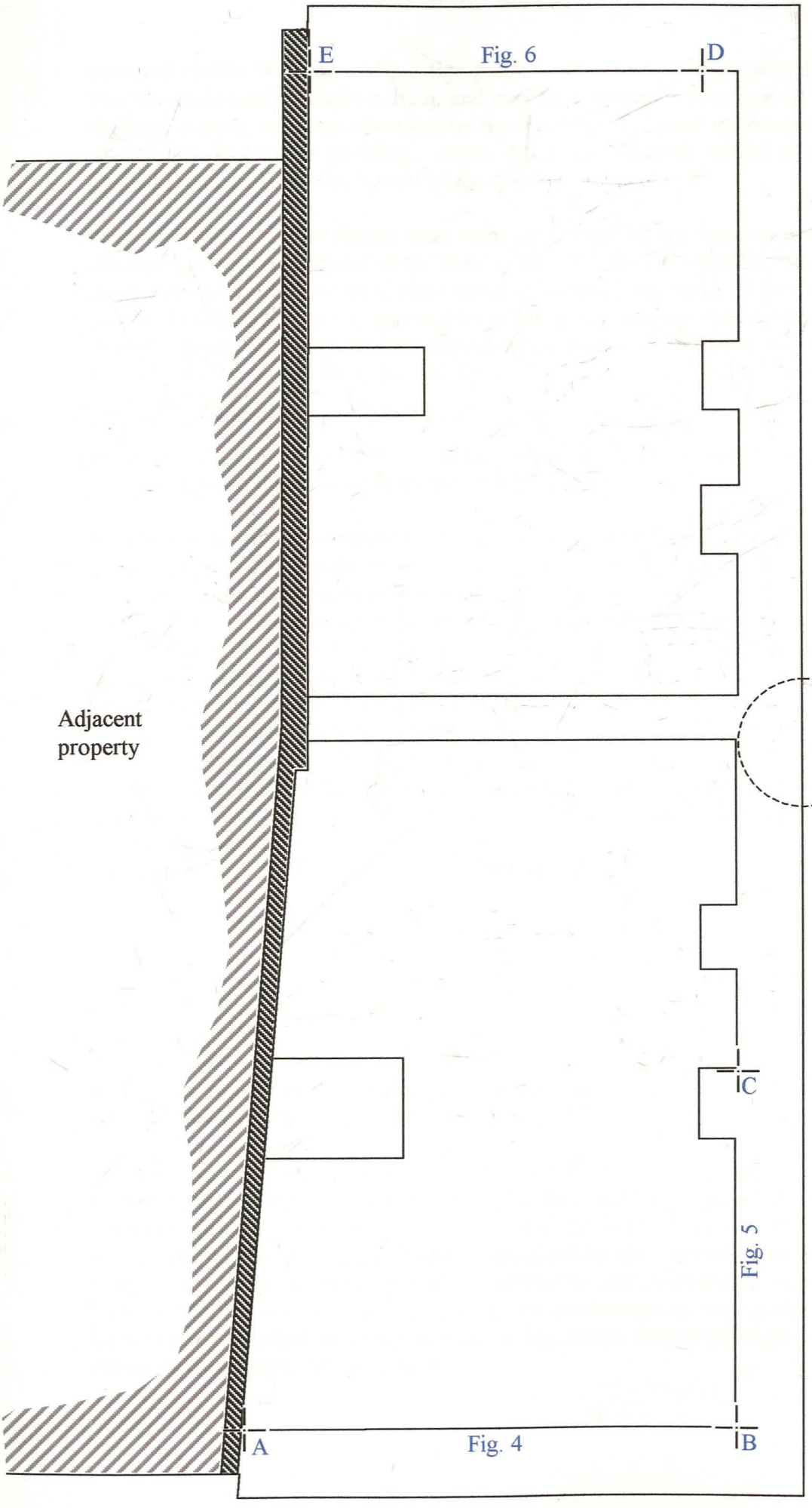


Fig. 3: Plan showing the foundation trenches and the location of the illustrated sections. Scale 1:100

exported via the Welland, and prestige goods such as wine (for Crowland) imported. The Westlode was primarily a drain, and may have originally been part of the Roman drainage system, but was also used to transport goods inland to Bourne, and local agricultural produce to Spalding. Boats using the Westlode landed at the present Sheep Market, c. 100m south-west of the development site.

Both the town and the district were radically altered by the massive enclosure and drainage projects carried out in the Fens in the 18th and 19th centuries: large areas of previously unexploited wetland came under cultivation, and much of the produce was exported via Spalding, a prosperous port whose population doubled in the first half of the 19th century. Steam-powered pumping engines made the Welland obsolete in 1824 (Gooch, 1940): it was filled in, and its course is now followed by New Road and Westlode Street.

An evaluation was carried out on the site in January 2003, when two trenches were excavated within the floor space of the former tyre depot: -

Trench 1 exposed approximately 1.4m of Victorian mass fill deposits and drainage (it is probable that this activity was associated with the infilling of the River Welland to the south of the development area in the early part of the 19th century), overlaying a series of well-defined flood deposits that were cut by pits. Pottery recovered from these features and flood horizons shows two distinct phases of activity, separated by silt deposits associated with the flooding of the River Welland. The earliest phase of activity dates (on the basis of ceramic evidence) to the late 12th – 14th centuries, while the later phase dates to the 13th –14th century.

Trench 2 demonstrated that the deepest foundations of the existing tyre depot did not truncate the medieval deposits on the site, as they were not deeper than 1.2m below modern floor level.

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was carried out by a by one archaeologist on 25/26.6.2003 and 30.6.2003, when the foundation trenches of the new building were excavated. This work was undertaken with a JCB 3CX excavator employing a selection of buckets. The foundation trenches were generally 1.2m wide and 1.2m deep. With the exception of a trench for a dividing wall and two small subsidiary pits, the foundation trenches generally followed the lines of the walls of the previous building (fig. 3).

The trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision, ensuring that all archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded. This entailed the selective cleaning by hand of the exposed surfaces, followed by a thorough inspection. All archaeological deposits identified by this method were subjected to sample excavation to assess their nature/dimensions and to attempt to recover datable material. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each layer on standard watching brief recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings complement these accounts.

6.0 Results

As mentioned above, the foundation trenches for the exterior walls of the new building were excavated along the same lines as those of the former tyre depot. Consequently the trenches, apart from encountering the concrete sill beams and stanchion bases of the former structure, also exposed modern services which had been laid around the outside of the previous building. The presence of these services, including live sewers and high-voltage electricity supplies, prevented the cleaning and recording of the exterior sections of the foundation trenches.

The archaeology seen in the foundation trenches fell into three main areas. Medieval layers and features were concentrated at the north and south sides of the site, preserved below the remains of buildings. These can be broadly interpreted as following the lines of the buildings seen in the first edition OS map of 1888 (fig. 7). In the centre of the site was a large area of 19th century backfill, which was seen in the trenches of the January 2003 evaluation.

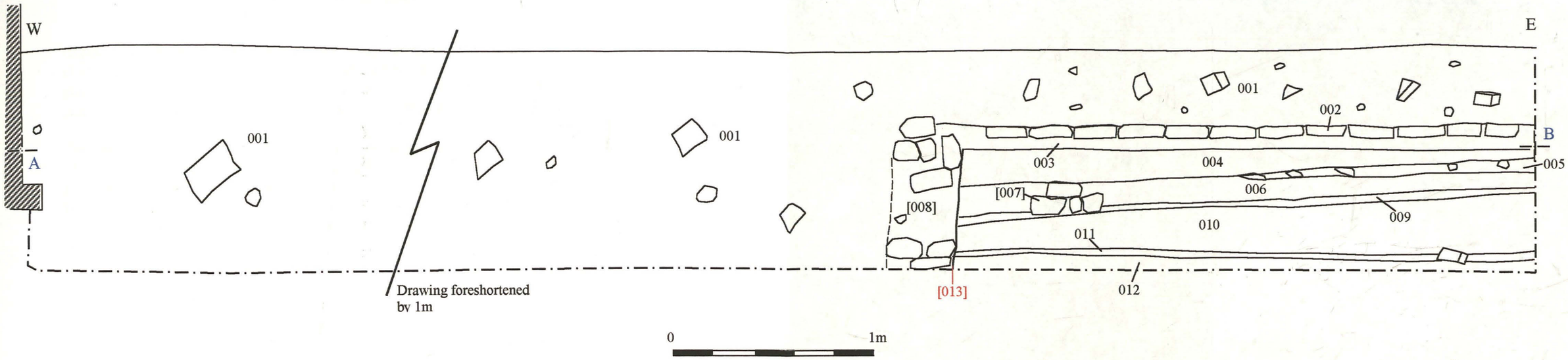
Significant archaeology was seen occupying the south-east corner of the site (figs. 4,5), in an area 3.5m wide (E-W) and approximately 5m long (N-S). In this area, the structural remains of a building were observed. This building consisted of limestone and brick walls [008] and [014], a brick floor (002) and its setting (003), and possibly an earlier brick floor (025). The building appears to have fronted onto Chapel Lane, which runs to the south of the site, and wall [014] appears to represent the rear wall of the property.

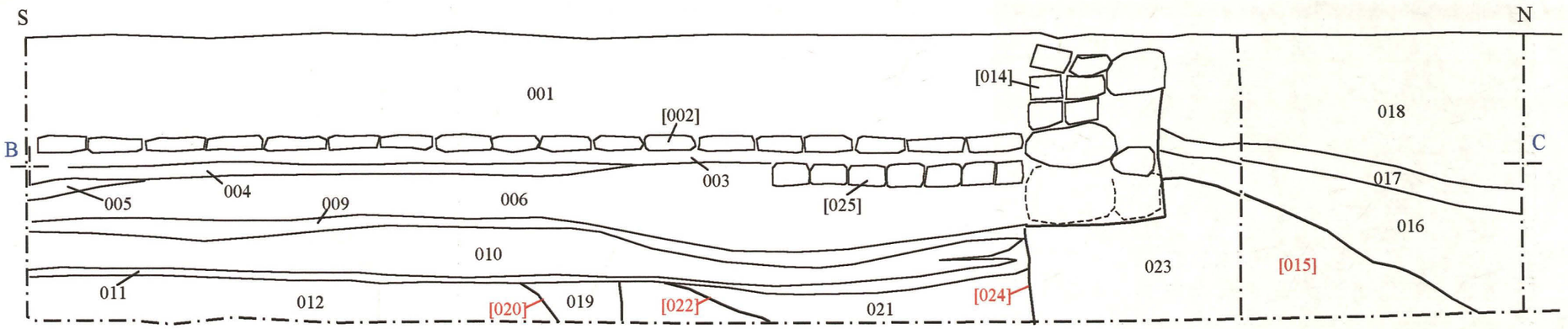
To the west of wall [008], the area was mass-filled with brick and limestone rubble in a loose mid grey mortary matrix, context 001. This material was indistinguishable from the material which sealed 002 and as wall [008] was founded deeper than the depth of the foundation trench (1.2m), and 001 was also exposed in the base of the trench. It seems likely that there may have been a cellar here, of which [008] was the east wall, filled with the rubble produced by demolition of the building.

Below the remains of this building, in the area outside of its cellar, the archaeological sequence remained preserved. The uppermost layer, seen below the setting of the floor, was 004: a mid brown sandy silt levelling layer. Layer 004 in turn sealed 005, a mottled mid-orange/brown mottled burnt clay that contained occasional brick and tile fragments, beneath which was a charcoal flecked mid-brown silt layer – 006. Layer 006 yielded one sherd of a Dutch Red Earthenware cooking pot dated to the 14th-16th century.

Approximately 0.4m to the east of wall [008], the remains of a brick foundation [007] were seen. This part of the sequence appears to represent an earlier phase of building in this area, with 006 as a levelling layer, [007] as a structural element and 005 as a possible site clearance deposit (before 004 was deposited as a levelling layer for the building discussed above). Layer 006 was cut on the north side by a large steep-sided feature - [024], which contained a mottled light grey silty clay fill – 023. Pottery recovered from this fill has been dated to the 14th – 15th century.

Sealed below 006 was a series of alternating clean silt layers and thin grey 'walked-on surface' type layers, which represent flood deposits and open surfaces. The





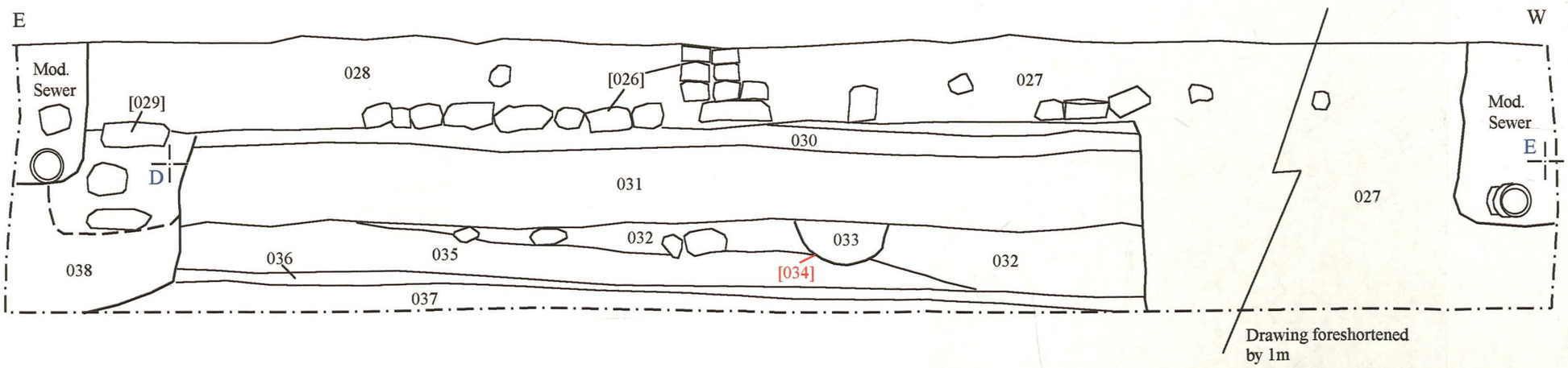


Fig. 4 (above): South facing section of foundation trench for south wall. Scale 1:20

Fig. 5 (left): East facing section of southern end of foundation trench for east wall. Scale 1:20

Fig. 6 (left): North facing section of foundation trench for north wall. Scale 1:20

uppermost of these, 009, was a dark grey laminated dirty silt, up to 0.08m in thickness, which sealed 010, a clean mid-brown silt with occasional small blue clay patches. Pottery from this layer was dated to the 13th/14th century. This material sealed another dark grey laminated silt layer, 011, which was 0.04m in thickness.

Two cut features were sealed below 011. One appeared to be a pit – [022], while the other, [020] may represent a posthole or beam-slot. These features yielded no datable material, but were cut into another silt layer – 012. Layer 012 was a mottled mid/dark brown silt, and yielded several datable sherds, all of Bourne D fabric, dating to the 13th/14th centuries, this layer was the earliest encountered within the foundation trenches.

At the north end of the site, a very similar sequence to that seen in the south was observed (fig. 6). Here a brick wall and floor [026] and a limestone and brick foundation [029] represented the building immediately predating the tyre depot; again sealed below a layer of demolition rubble (028). The western 4m of the trench was again filled with a deep rubble deposit (027), which may also represent a backfilled cellar contemporary with this structure, however on this occasion no cellar wall was evident in the section. Below wall [029] was a very dark brown sandy silt containing occasional limestone chunks (038), this may represent a layer of hardcore in the base of the construction trench, or a very rough wall foundation – it was heavily disturbed by a modern sewer and the removal of the footings of the tyre depot. The building remains [026] were founded on a very dark greyish brown sandy silt layer containing clay pipe, occasional charcoal and small fragments of brick and tile –030. Layer 030 sealed a 0.3m thick layer of dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, 031.

An earlier phase of building activity appeared to be present, sealed below layer 031. This was represented by a levelling deposit of mid-brown silt, containing occasional limestone and brick fragments – 032, into which a posthole, [034] had been cut. This was steep sided with a 'U'-shaped base and contained a charcoal flecked mottled dark-brown sandy silt fill – 033.

Sealed beneath 032, the sequence of flood events and open surfaces was repeated. The uppermost of these layers was 035, very light creamy-brown pure silt, up to 0.18m in thickness, which sealed 036, dark brown laminated silt. This material sealed another mid brown clean silt layer, 037, which was present at the base of the foundation trench here.

In the centre of the site, in the area of the dividing wall foundation and the two stanchion base pits on the west side, the same post-medieval layers seen in the evaluation were present, here numbered 016-018. It became clear, in the eastern wall foundation trench, however, that rather than layers, as seen in the evaluation, this material represents mass filling of a large hole opened in the area between the buildings [015]. As another brick-built soakaway was seen in the line of the eastern wall trench [039], and more Victorian drainage runs were also present, it seems likely that rather than working in small trenches, this whole area was opened up and backfilled *en masse* by this material.

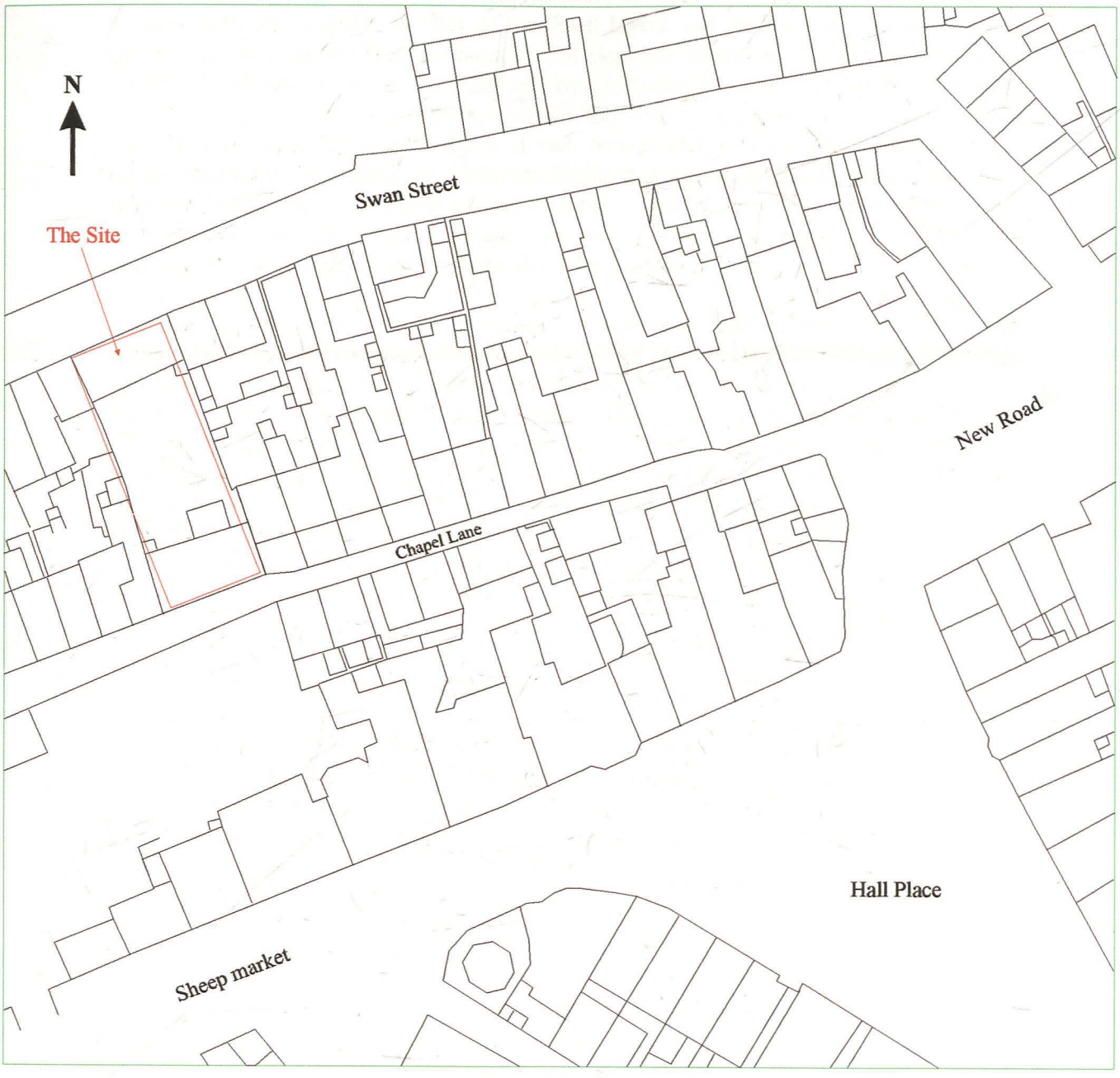


Fig. 7: First edition Ordnance Survey map extract, showing the proposed development area in red (scale 100 inches to the mile, approx 1:620)

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The evidence from the evaluation must be reconsidered in the light of that presented by the watching brief. Although the evaluation demonstrated that post-medieval and modern deposits sealed a number of medieval layers and features, it was not clear in the evaluation trenches that the most recent deposits were cut into the area between the two buildings shown on the First edition Ordnance Survey map (fig. 7). It is now clear that this activity was associated with the construction of new drainage within this area, including the construction of two new soakaways and associated drainage rather than with the infilling of the River Welland in the early part of the 19th century. It seems likely that the infilling of the Welland to the south of the development area may have altered the local drainage conditions in such a way as to require the construction of new drainage facilities for these buildings.

Ironically, it is below these buildings, themselves represented here, that the archaeology is best preserved. The watching brief identified some evidence of earlier structures, predated by a series of well-defined flood deposits (associated with the flooding of the River Welland) and surfaces, which at depth were cut by a series of pits similar to those seen in the evaluation. Pottery recovered from the layers immediately below the building remains suggests that the earlier buildings dated to the 14th-16th century while the flood horizons (and associated pits) fall into the 13th-14th century date range. This activity equates to the later phase of activity seen in the evaluation trench, where the earliest flood horizon seen was found to predate pits of the late 12th – 14th centuries.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed allowed the presence/absence, the depth and the dating of the archaeological features to be determined. Interestingly, the results of the watching brief have enabled a more accurate interpretation of the results of the initial evaluation to be made, and when considered together a complete sequence of occupation in this area could be established.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr Wells for the commission and his assistance during the watching brief. Thanks are due to the groundworkers of Jacksons Building Contractors for their assistance on site, and in post-excavation to J Young for the specialist pottery and tile archive.

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1 (left): General shot of the development site, looking south-west.

Plate 2 (right): General shot taken during the machining of the foundation trenches, looking south-west.

Plate 3 (left): Section of the east end of the foundation trench for the south wall of the new building, looking north-east.

Plate 4 (left): Section of the south end of the foundation trench for the east wall of the new building, looking south-west.

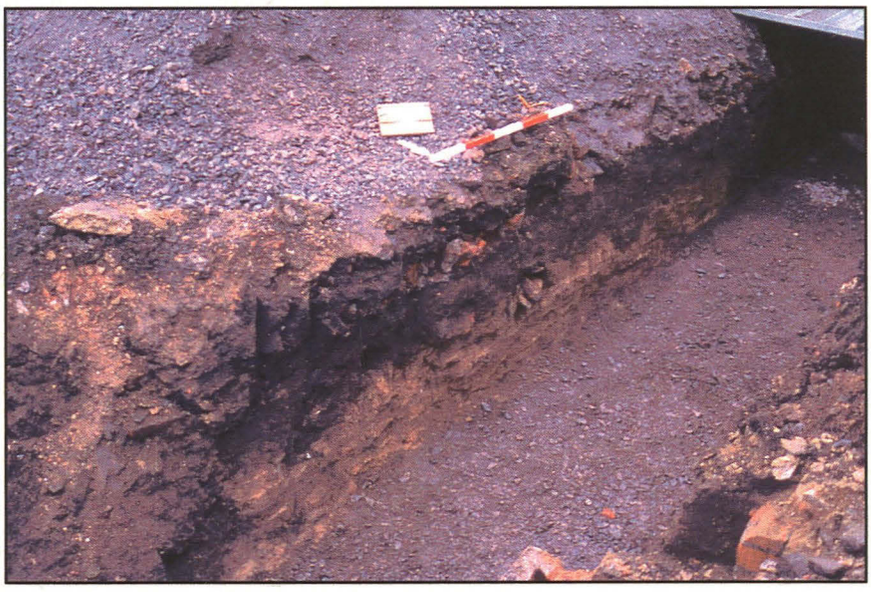

Plate 5 (right): North facing section of the foundation trench for the north wall of the new building, looking south-west.

Plate 6 (left): General view of the site on completion of the machining, looking north-west.

Pottery Archive FTSS03

Jane Young

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
006	DUTR		Dutch Red Earthenware	cooking pot	1	18	BS	soot;? ID or English copy	14th to 16th
010	BOUA	A/B/C	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	jar	1	63	rim	flanged rim;soot	13th to 14th
012	BOU	A/C	Bourne D ware	jar	1	5	BS	soot	13th to 14th
012	BOU	B	Bourne D ware	jar ?	1	11	BS	soot int;burnt	13th to 14th
012	BOU	A/B	Bourne D ware	jar ?	1	8	base	soot	13th to 14th
012	BOU	B/C	Bourne D ware	jar/bowl	1	22	BS	soot;int glaze	13th to 14th
012	BOU	A/B	Bourne D ware	jar	1	30	BS	soot;white interior deposit	13th to 14th
023	BOU	Fabric 10	Bourne D ware	large jar ?	1	33	BS	soot ext	14th to 15th

Brick Archive FTSS03

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
011	BRK	Brick	1	941	handmade;120mm wide 60mm thick;thick soot over flat surface;? From hearth base;stacking scar on one edge;hard red silty fabric with comm fe inclusions	15th to 17th

Appendix 4: Context summary

Context	Description
001	Brick and limestone rubble
002	Brick floor
003	Mottled mid brown/grey silt
004	Mid greyish brown silt
005	Redeposited burnt clay
006	Mid brown silt
007	Brick wall foundation
008	Limestone and Brick wall foundation
009	Dark grey dirty silt
010	Mid brown silt, occasional blue clay patches
011	Dark grey dirty silt
012	Mid brown silt, occasional darker brown patches
013	Cut for [008]
014	Limestone and Brick wall foundation
015	Cut contains 016-018
016	Dark greyish brown sandy clay
017	Dirty yellow sandy silt
018	Dark grey sandy silt
019	Mid/dark grey silt
020	Cut contains 019
021	Mid/dark grey silt
022	Cut contains 021
023	Mottled grey/light grey silty clay
024	Cut contains 023
025	Brick floor
026	Brick structure (wall and floor)
027	Very dark grey-brown rubble fill
028	Same as 027
029	Brick and limestone wall foundation
030	V dark greyish brown sandy silt
031	Dark brown sandy silt
032	Mid brown silt
033	Dark brown sandy silt fill of [034]
034	Posthole/gully
035	V light creamy brown pure silt layer
036	Dirty dark brown laminated silt
037	Mid brown clean silt
038	V dark brown sandy silt
039	Brick soakaway