

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

*CORNER OF SCOTGATE & WEST STREET*

*STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE*

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF*

*JULY 2003*



Conservation  
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EVENT L14382

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***NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY***

***NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL***

***AUGUST 2003***

***CORNER OF SCOTGATE & WEST STREET***

***STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE***

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF***

***JULY 2003***

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE CORNER OF SCOTGATE & WEST STREET, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**(Planning Application No. SO1/1033/69)**

**JULY 2003**

## ***Summary***

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundwork prior to the erection of residential premises on land at the corner of Scotgate and West Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The site lies west of the medieval town wall with the site of Scot Gate being the southern entrance into the medieval town. No archaeological deposits were identified. Groundwork for the building footings, excavated to a depth of 1.4m, did not cut below modern builders' rubble.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned in July 2003 by Wilson and Heath Chartered Architects, acting for the developer Hindmarch and Co. Ltd, to conduct an archaeological Watching Brief on land at the corner of Scotgate and West Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire (Fig 1: NGR TF 0262 0718). The work was carried out in response to a *Brief for Archaeological Observation and Recording (Watching Brief)* issued by the South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) Community Archaeologist as a condition on planning permission for the redevelopment of the formerly vacant land plot for residential premises (Application No. SO1/1033/69; Brief dated 10/09/01).

Work was undertaken to a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by the SKDC Community Archaeologist (*Redevelopment of garage premises, Scotgate and West Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief*. NA 23 July 2003).

The watching brief comprised the observation of trench footings for the residential structure within the area of the proposed development to compile a record of surviving archaeological deposits where they may be encountered and to recover any artefacts.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Stamford has a long and well-recorded history. Settlement has been known from the post-Roman era with both Danish and Saxon burhs situated within the area of the modern

town. During the Middle Ages Stamford was situated on a major north-south communication route, an important market centre and, with 14 churches as well as several religious houses, was a focus for ecclesiastical affairs.

Potential for archaeological remains in the vicinity was considered likely based upon evidence for known archaeological survivals near the site and finds in the local area.

The site is situated immediately west of the course of the medieval town wall, with the medieval entrance of Scot Gate to the north. North-east of the site is Barn Hill, part of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument within the medieval town which has remained largely undeveloped. Within this area are several sites of archaeological importance including St. Clements Church in 'Scotgate' and the location of a Romano-British urn in the garden of Barn Hill House.

### **3 WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the fieldwork were as follows:

- To identify any evidence for the presence of archaeological remains within the area of the proposed redevelopment;
- To determine the depth of deposits. Characterise, date and record the extent and state of preservation of any remains so identified;
- To recover any remains disturbed by development, under the approved procedures, where it was appropriate to do so;
- Consult with the SKDC Community Archaeologist in the event of features or deposits arising that could not be adequately investigated within the framework of the watching brief.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The Watching Brief was carried out in July 2003. The excavation of topsoil and the upper deposits was carried out using a JCB excavator with toothless ditching bucket to the formation level of the development. Cutting for the building foundation was undertaken using a heavier claw bucket to cope with substantial building rubble, concrete and brick.



The trench footings were located in the south-west of the development area, fronting onto the access road from Rock Road, south of the site. The working area was approximately 18m x 10m within the development site.

Adjustments were made to the engineering drawings for the drainage and dirty water pipes but these did not affect the terms of the archaeological Watching Brief.

### **3.3 Results**

None of the trench footings cut below modern materials to reach an archaeologically significant horizon. No finds were recorded or archaeological features observed.

The base of the trench footings consisted of a firm dark brown/black silt clay with frequent blocks of concrete, modern brick and fragmented mortar to a maximum depth of 1.4m below the finished floor level at 31.8m above sea level. Photographs of the foundation cuts were taken for the permanent record (Plates 1 & 2).

Considerable mixing of deposits clearly demonstrated heavy disturbance during the demolition of a former 19<sup>th</sup>-century structure. Lead water pipes, disused lead glaze drains and surviving wall footings were encountered at the lowest horizon of groundwork along with substantial modern rubbish. On the southern side of the working area two large disturbed natural sandstone blocks provide support for the existing bank upon which Rock Road runs. These are thought to be associated with the former quarry.

### **3.4 Archive**

The project archive is to be stored with the City and County Museum, Lincoln (Accession No. 2003.284).

## **4 CONCLUSIONS**

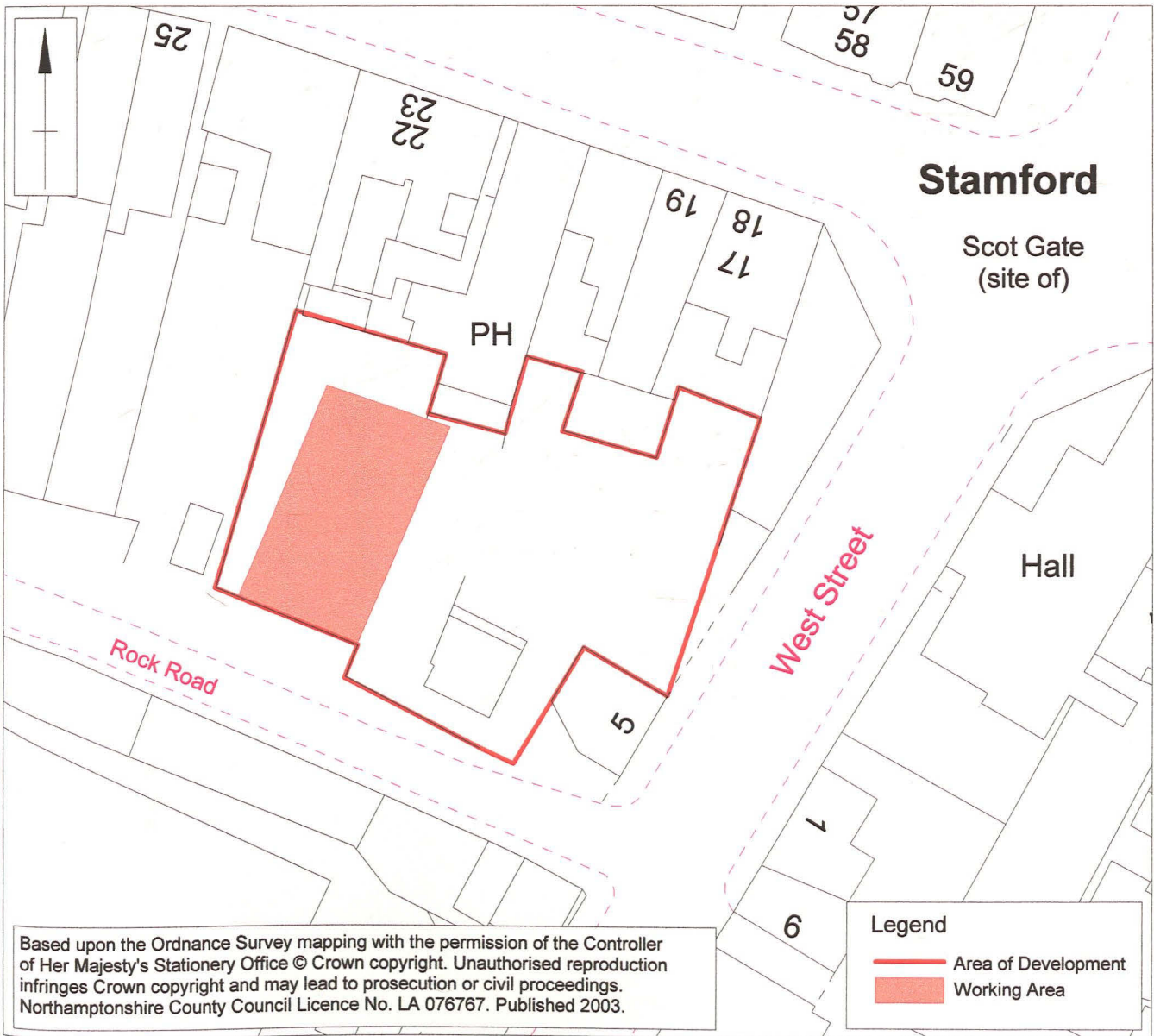
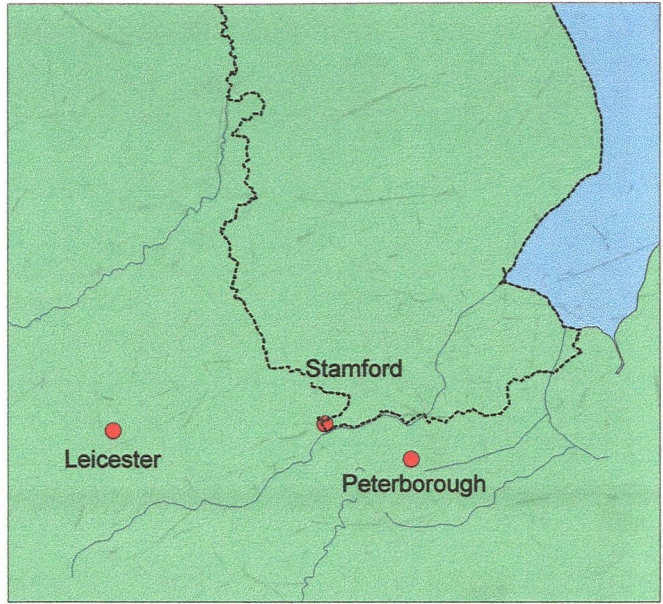
Although some element of archaeological survival was anticipated within the redevelopment area of the Scotgate site, no archaeological remains were identified.

A substantial depth of modern deposits exists up to 1.4m below the finished floor level of the new building structures. Deposits in the working area demonstrate considerable disturbance during the demolition of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century structure.

On the basis of the observations made it is not possible to gauge the archaeological potential of site environs. It is possible that significant remains lie deeply buried, or they



may be absent. The lack of any archaeological material in secondary contexts from the footings was noted but again the significance of this is hard to estimate.



Scale 1:500

Fig.1





Plate. 1



Plate. 2



A SMP



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Please ask for  
Andy Mudd

Tel (01604)

Our ref  
03/

Your ref

Date  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2003

Dear Mr Catney

**WATCHING BRIEF REPORT: SCOTGATE, STAMFORD**

I enclose a copy of the report on a Watching Brief at Scotgate, Stamford for your Sites and Monuments Record. A copy is also being sent to the District Council Planning Department.

Yours sincerely

Andy Mudd  
Senior Project Officer  
For Head of Northamptonshire Archaeology

Enc.

