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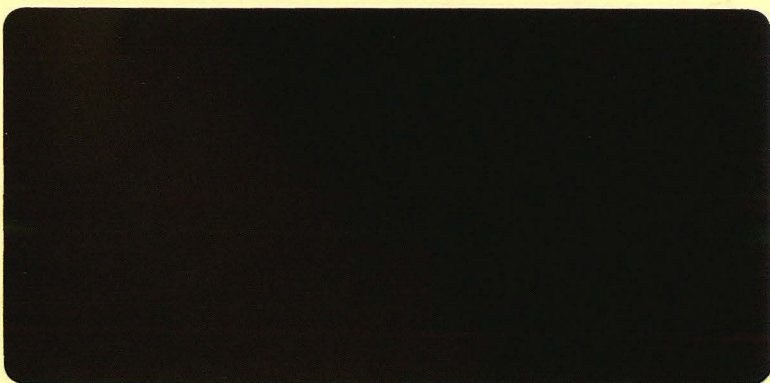
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HALL FARM COTTAGE,
STAINFIELD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TNS 03)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HALL FARM COTTAGE,
STAINFIELD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TNS 03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr P. Selden**

July 2004

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 1122 7332
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 82/04

Quality Control
The Nunnery, Stainfield
TNS 03

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Supervisor	Mary Nugent
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
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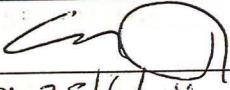
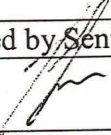
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 28/6/04	Date: 08-07-04

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at The Nunnery, Stainfield, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension.

A Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) barrow cemetery is known from the north of the parish. The site sits within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the medieval (AD 1066-1540) earthworks of a Benedictine priory, established for nuns in the 12th century, and also adjacent to the deserted village of Stainfield.

The watching brief revealed only natural and topsoil deposits with some modern hardstanding. No artefacts were retrieved although the presence of 19th century pottery and fragments of coal were noted.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr P. Selden to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new extension to existing buildings at hall Farm Cottage, Stainfield, Lincolnshire. Scheduled Monument Consent had been granted for the development, subject to a condition for the archaeological monitoring of groundworks. The watching

brief was carried out on the 13th November 2003.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stainfield is located 12km east of Lincoln and 15km west of Horncastle in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 120m to the north of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew at National Grid Reference TF 1122 7332 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 7m OD within a shallow northeast-southwest valley through which runs the Stainfield Beck, a tributary of the Witham.

Locals soils are of the Fladbury 2 Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils, within the valley with Beccles 1 Association, stagnogley soils, to the south and north (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 119, 196). These soils overlie a drift geology of river terrace sand and gravel that seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Stainfield lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. Located to the north of the village an extensive barrow cemetery emerging from a peat cover has been identified from aerial photographs (Everson and Hayes 1984, 36). Approximately 28 barrows have so far been identified. An Early Bronze Age axe hammer is also known from the parish.

Stainfield is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Stainfelde* the name is derived from the Old English *stān* and *feld*, and means a stony field (Cameron 1998, 116). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by William de Perci and contained 60 acres of meadow and 381 acres of woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley

1976). The subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, indicates that Bishop Ranulf of Durham held some land (*ibid.*), although Stainfield was part of the de Percy fee during the 12th century.

The site lies within the earthworks of Stainfield priory, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. SM22608). The priory was founded by either William or Henry de Percy before 1154, and was the only house for Benedictine nuns in Lincolnshire (Page 1988, 131).

The earthworks also include part of the former village of Stainfield, which was shifted to this position after the priory was constructed. The earthworks are regularly spaced and suggest a planned 12th century village (Everson *et al.* 1991, 175).

Following the dissolution of Stainfield priory in 1536, the land passed to the Tyrwhitt family. During the 16th century, the area was emparked (made into a park) and the village and priory cleared to make way for formal gardens which surrounded Stainfield Hall (*ibid.* 176).

Nothing survives of the original Stainfield Hall, the current building of that name dating to 1856. The parish church was also rebuilt in the 18th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 683).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the new extension were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical.

Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

The records were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of yellow sand and gravel (003) which was in excess of 0.7m thick. This was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Overlying the natural sand and gravel was a 0.31m thick topsoil of brown sandy silt (002) which contained coal and 19th century pottery. This was partially sealed by recent hardstanding (001). A drain from the house had the same sequence of deposits.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural sand and gravel belong to the drift geology of river terrace deposits. Above this was topsoil and modern hardstanding. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts retrieved although coal and 19th century pottery was observed within the subsoil. The presence of finds

of such a late date within the subsoil may indicate that the area was cleared prior to the construction of The Nunnery.

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at Hall Farm Cottage, Stainfield, as the site lay close to earthworks of a medieval priory and deserted village.

However, no archaeological features were observed and the site appears to have been stripped previously, probably when the existing house was built. Pottery of 19th century date and coal fragments were recorded but were not retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Selden for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

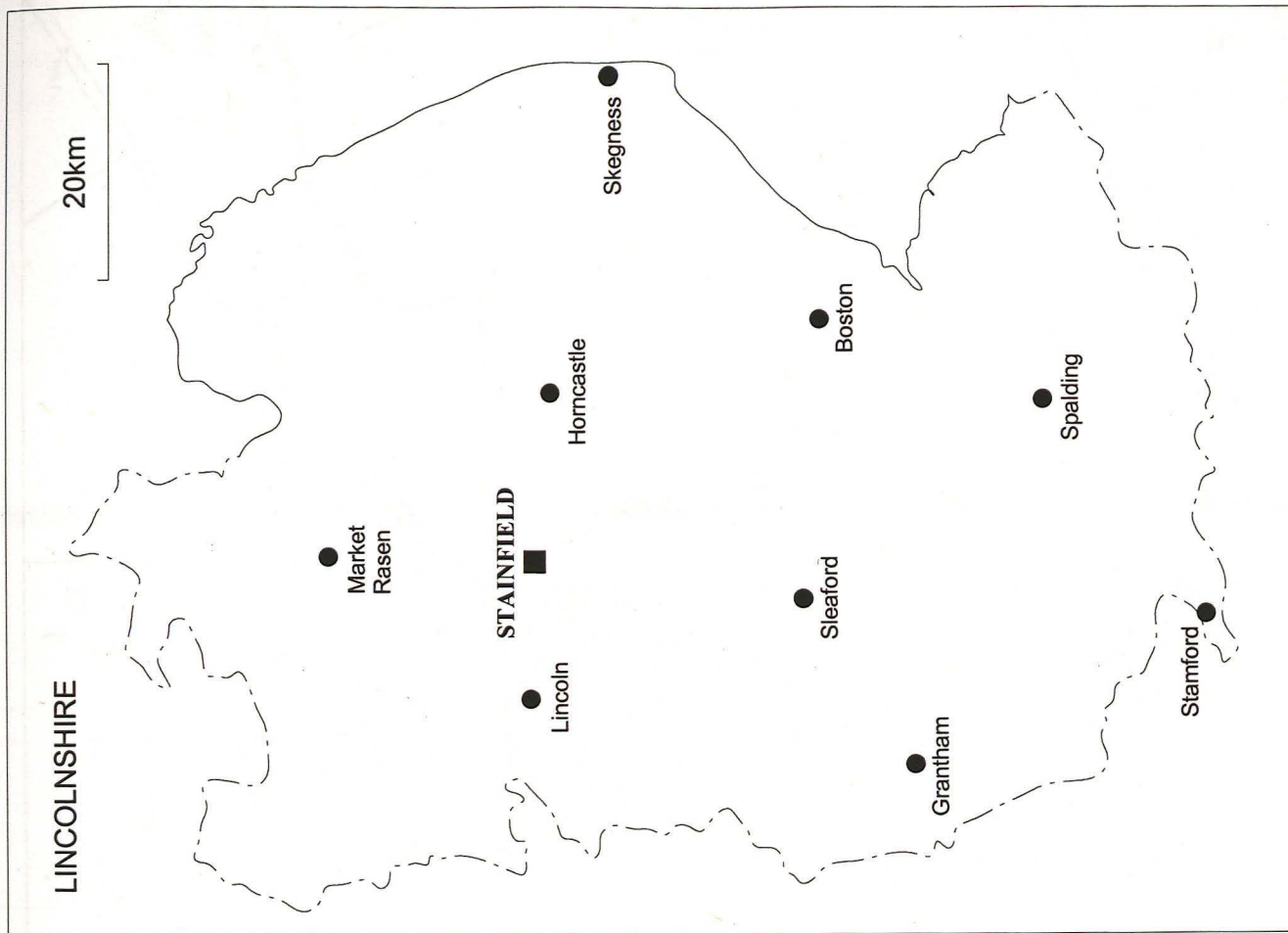
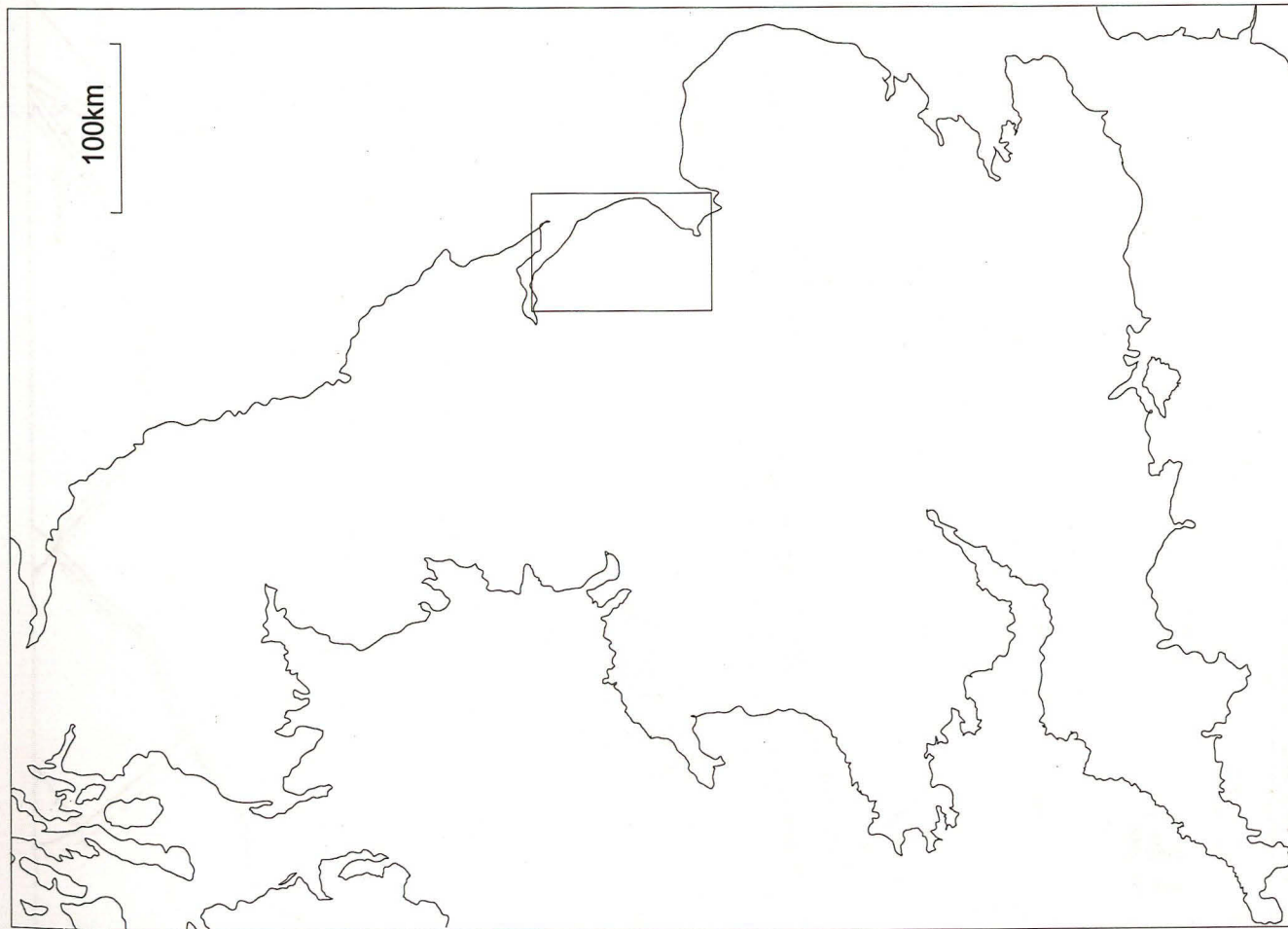
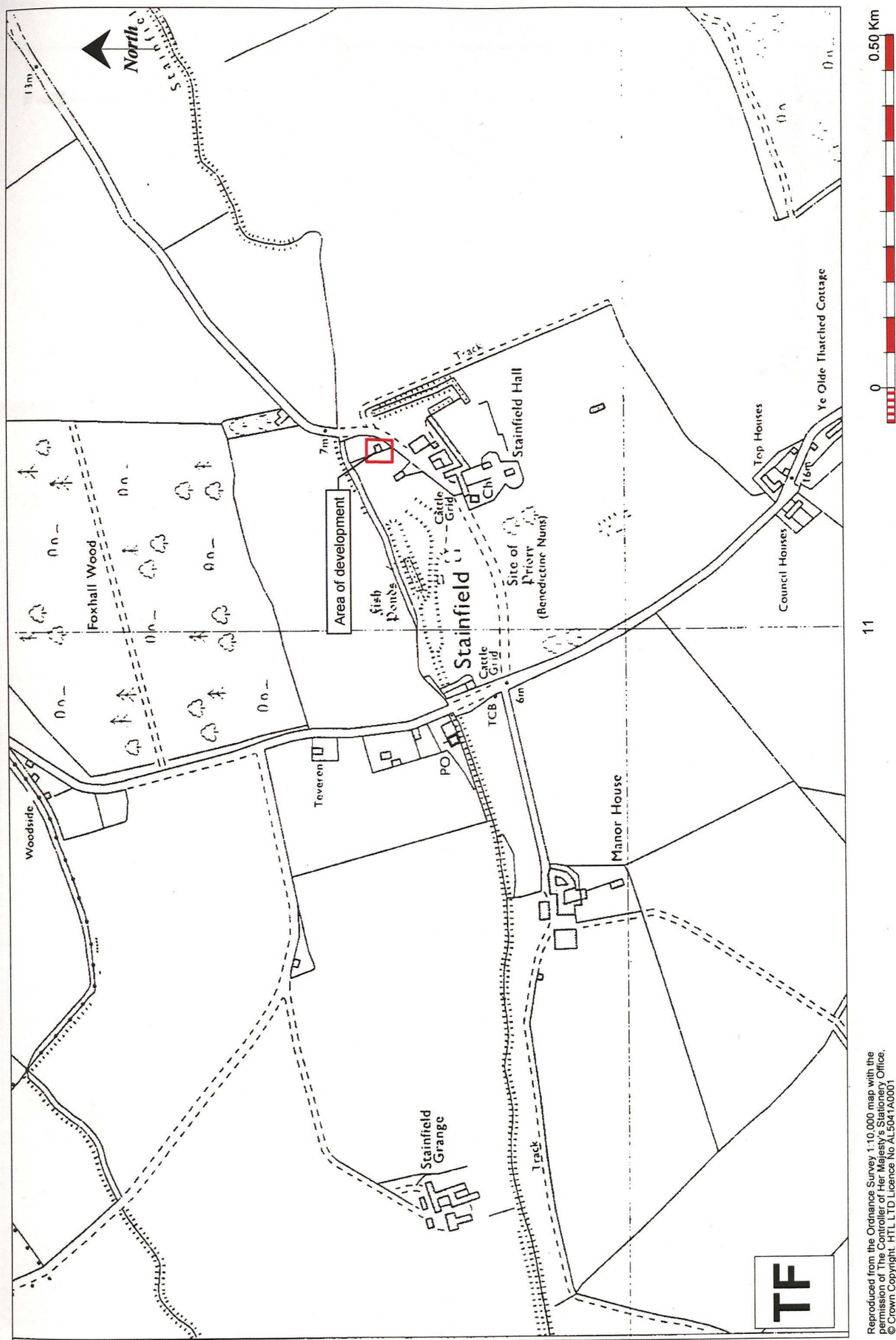


Figure 1 - General location plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

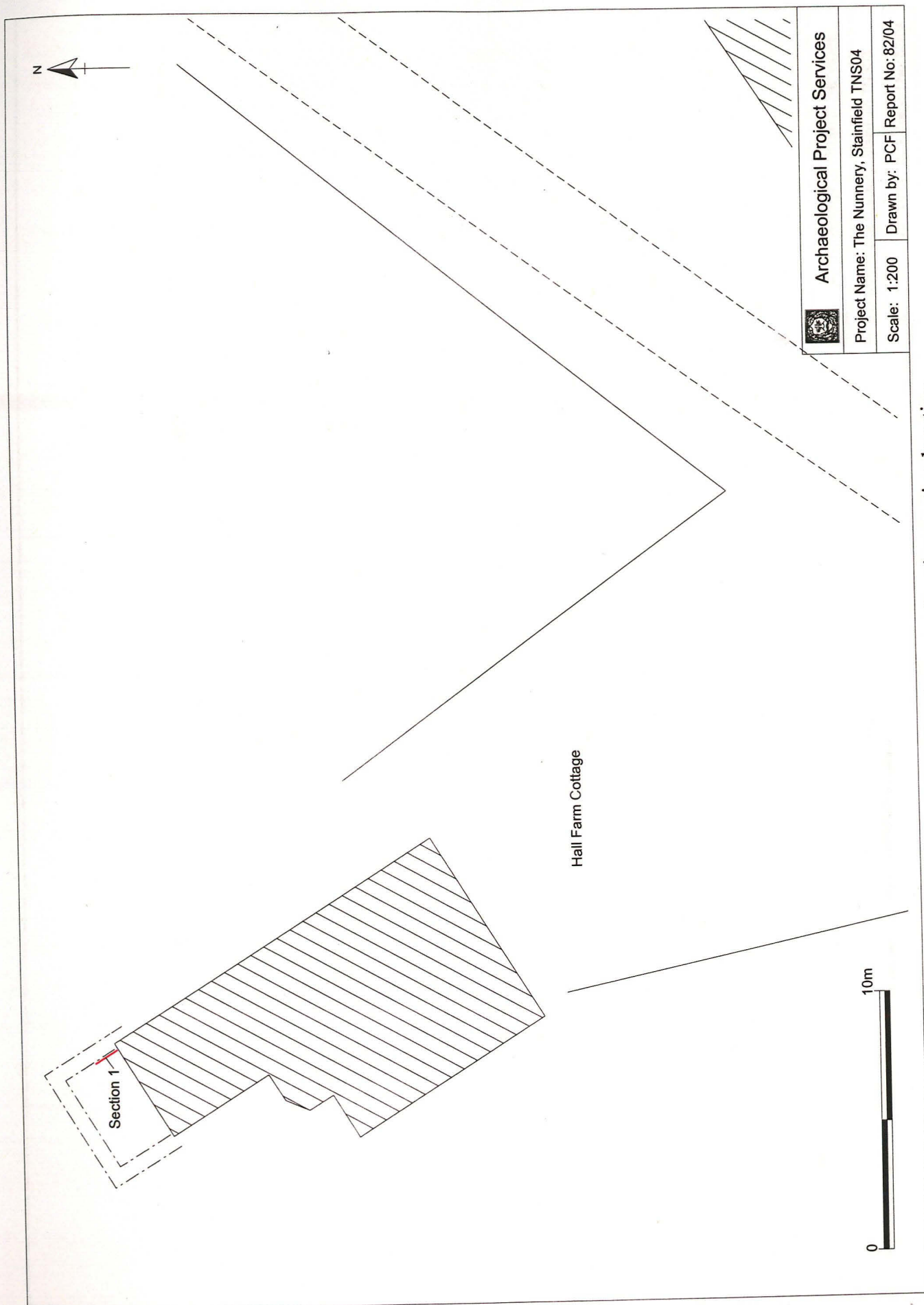
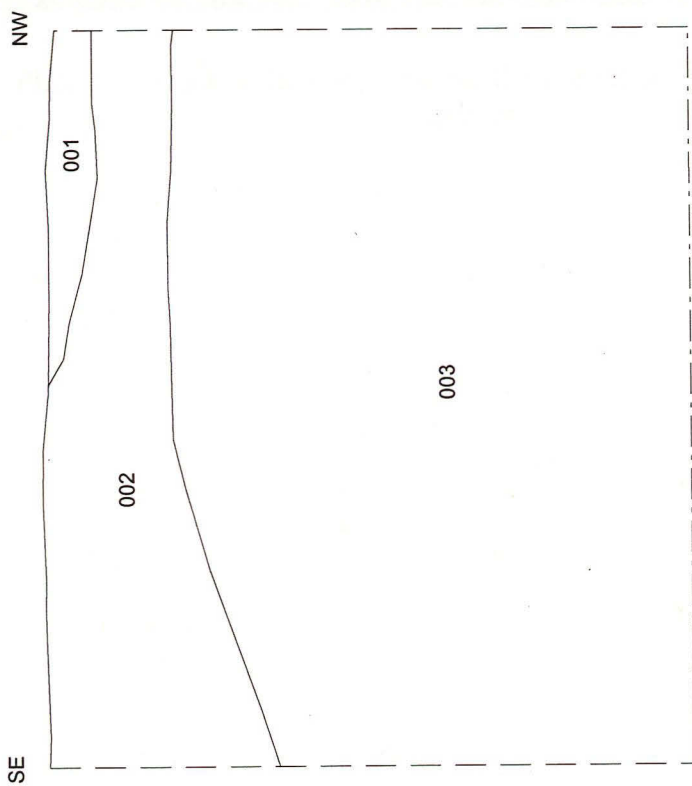


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location



Section 1



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: The Nunnery, Stainfield TNS03

Scale: 1:10 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 82/04

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking southwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm light yellow and brown rubble, 60mm thick	Hardstanding
002	Soft mid to dark brown sandy silt, 0.31m thick	Topsoil
003	Soft dark yellow sand and gravel, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

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, e.g.(004).
Fee	Freehold property that could be inherited.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Pannage	Right given to the owners of pigs to go into a wood and to allow the pigs to eat the acorns or beech mast which <i>fall to the ground</i> .

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Drawing sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records 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: 2004.3

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TNS 03

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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