

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT BARN HILL HOUSE,  
STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE  
JULY - DECEMBER 2003**



EVENT L15189

SOURCE L19534  
L19535

NEGATIVE

1

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY  
AUGUST 2004**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT BARN HILL HOUSE,  
STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE  
JULY - DECEMBER 2003**

Conservation  
Services

05 OCT 2004

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**STAFF**

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                           David J. Leigh  
                           Barry Lewis BA  
                           Ed Taylor BA  
Illustrations        Jacqueline Harding BA HND

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>P Chapman</i>	12/8/04
Verified by	Andy Mudd	<i>A Mudd</i>	12/4/04
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>A Chapman</i>	12/8/04

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Barn Hill House, Stamford, Lincolnshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new conservatory at Barn Hill House, Stamford. No archaeological deposits were revealed and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.	
Project type (eg desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief, Planning application No: SO3/0294/69 (extension to house) & SO3/5989/69 (Garden re-design)	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Listed Building (Application No: SO3/LB/5989/69) The site lies within a Scheduled Monument (County Monument No: LI255)	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Barn Hill House, Stamford, Lincolnshire	
Easting (use numbered 100km grid square no.)	50274	
Northing	30720	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	South Kesteven District Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Andy Mudd	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr W. Adderley	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	July 2003	
End date	December 2003	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		None
Paper	2003:285	Watching brief forms (16) Context sheets (20) Colour slides (20) black and white contact prints (38)
Digital		

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
BARN HILL HOUSE, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE  
JULY - DECEMBER 2003**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a new conservatory and the re-design of the garden at Barn Hill House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. No archaeological deposits were revealed and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between July and December 2003 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new conservatory and the re-design of the garden (Planning application Nos; SO3/0294/69 & SO3/5989/69 NGR TF 0274 0720: Fig 1) at Barn Hill House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Philip Heath (Wilson & Heath Chartered Architects) acting for the applicant Mr W. Adderley, and in accordance with a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by the Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council.

**2 BACKGROUND**

The site is located in the centre of Stamford and lies on ground which slopes down towards the south. The British Geological Survey has mapped the underlying geology as Jurassic Limestone.

The development area lies within the medieval town, to the west of the medieval town wall with the site of Scotgate, one of the medieval entrances, to the south. The site is part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No LI255). Barn Hill House itself is a Listed Building and comprises a town house with a large garden which has remained largely undeveloped. The surrounding area contains several known sites of archaeological importance, including St Clement's Church in Scotgate. An urn of possible Romano-British date was found in the garden of Barn Hill House.

**3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

In accordance with the terms of Scheduled Monument Consent, granted by English Heritage in a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2003 the aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks (which exceeded 300mm in depth) associated with the construction of the new conservatory, and any groundworks undertaken during the re-design of the garden area, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ To determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.

The fieldwork comprised thirteen visits to the site during the digging of footings for the new conservatory and associated service trenches. No archaeological observation was undertaken in the garden as all works were superficial and no excavations exceeded 300mm in depth. A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept and the written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets.

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket was used to excavate the footings for the new conservatory and associated service trenches (Fig 2). The footings were dug to a maximum depth of 1.0m, and were of 0.70m wide, whilst the service trenches were dug to a maximum depth of 0.50m, and were 0.20m wide. An examination of the footings and service trenches revealed a heavily disturbed stratigraphy. This comprised a layer of grey/brown silty loam and limestone fragments with numerous fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building material. This layer extended the full depth of the trenches and across all the development area, apart from the south-east corner where grey/black silty loam was deposited above a modern polythene membrane.

#### 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	16
Context sheets	20
Permatrace (Sheets)	3
Colour slides	20
Black and white contacts and negatives	38

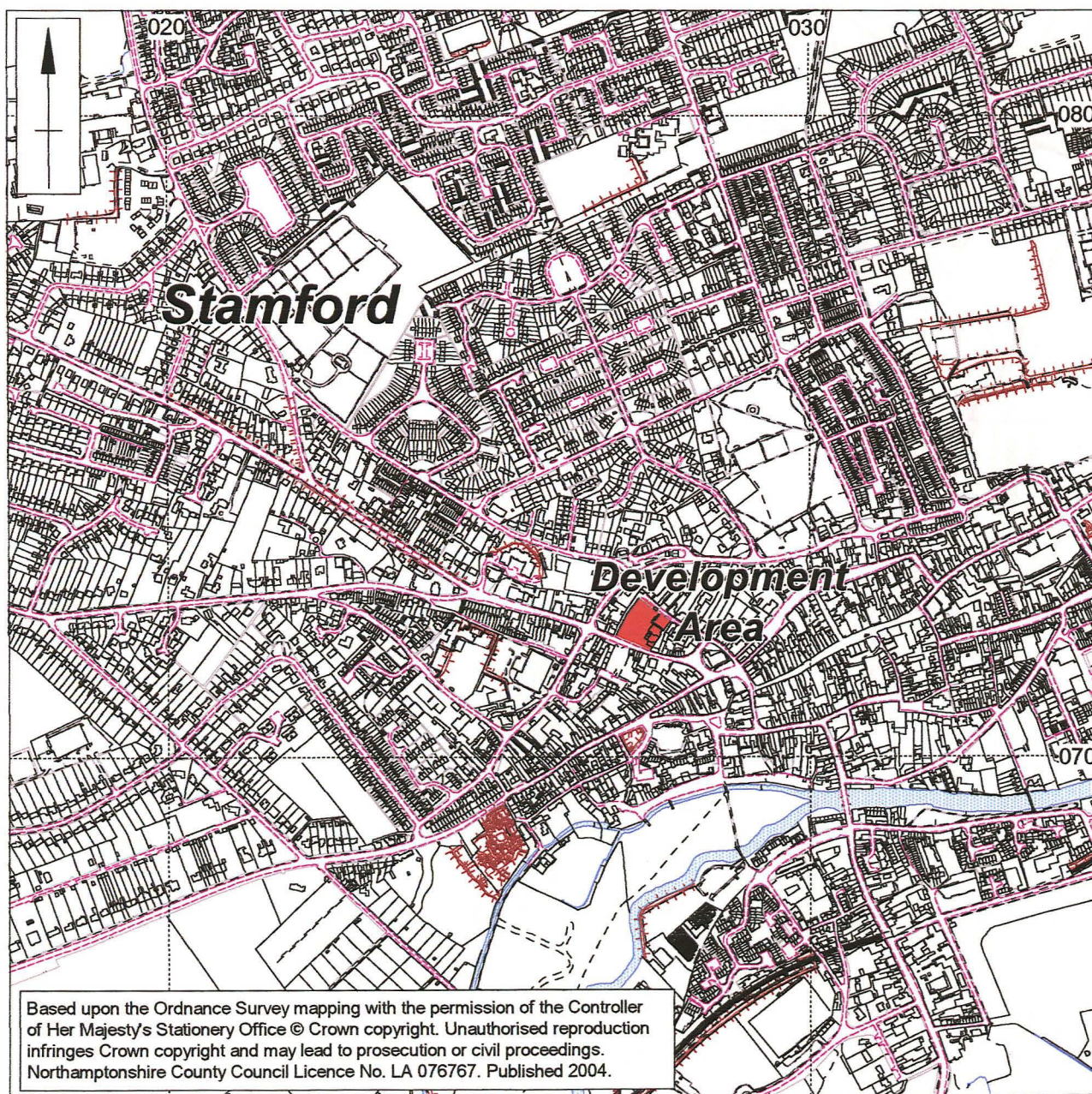
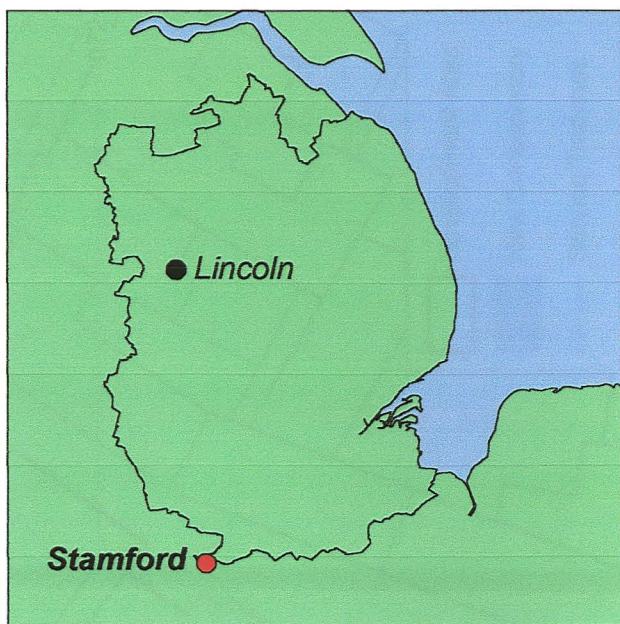
**6 CONCLUSION**

No archaeological deposits were revealed and no artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

The results of the watching brief demonstrate that the area of the new conservatory has been subject to considerable disturbance in recent times, most probably during the construction of Barn Hill House itself and during subsequent periods of re-development. As a result, any evidence of earlier activity that may have been present in this area no longer survives.

No archaeological observations were carried out in the garden as all groundworks carried out in this area were superficial in nature.

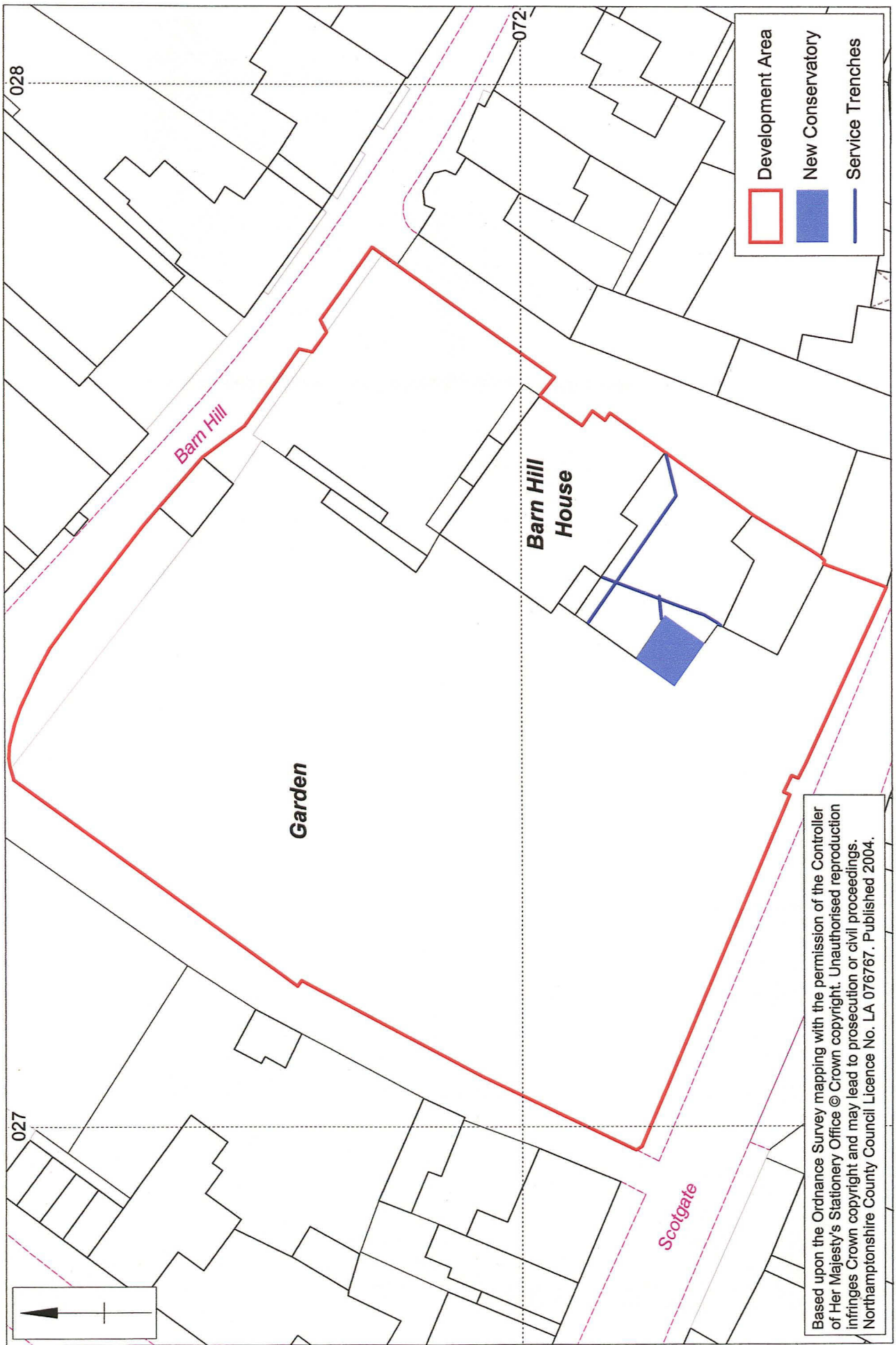




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Scale 1:10,000

Fig. 1



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Fig. 2



Plate 1



Plate 2