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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION ON LAND AT  
4-5 WITHAM PLACE,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(WPB 04)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

EVENT L15529

SOURCE L19670  
L19671

PRN 13808 POST MEDIEVAL

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION ON LAND AT  
4-5 WITHAM PLACE,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(WPB 04)**

Work Undertaken For  
Bittern Properties LTD

November 2004

Report Compiled by  
Ray Holt BSc

National Grid Reference: TF 3256 4439

A.P.S. Report No. 147/04

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



Conservation  
Services

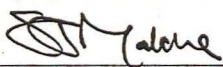
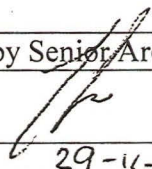
15 DEC 2004

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Witham Place, Boston. The site lies within the Bar Ditch, the boundary to the medieval town, and near to the river frontage, which in medieval times would have lain closer to the site.*

*The earliest archaeological deposits encountered, a series of buried topsoil horizons, contained domestic and building debris of post-medieval date.*

*Built during the Georgian period, wall foundations, floor surfaces and build up levels relating to 4 and 5 Witham Place were revealed. After the demolition of the properties in the 1960's the site became a car park.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

The site is the subject of a planning application (B/04/0209/FULL) for residential development of the site. Archaeological evaluation was required in

order to provide information to assist in the determination of the application.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Bittern Properties Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the site in accordance with a specification produced by APS and approved by the Boston District Heritage Officer (Appendix 1). The work was undertaken between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is located approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash, in the fens of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located in the medieval core of the town on the east side of the River Witham, at the junction of Witham Place and Witham Street some 500m north of St Botolph's Church. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3256 4439 (Fig. 2).

Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban but the natural soil in the vicinity comprises the Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous soil, overlying marine alluvium. The site lies on the east bank of the River Witham at a height of approximately 4.5m OD.

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest archaeological activity currently known in the Boston area is of the Roman period. Excavation at Boston Grammar School revealed *in situ* Roman industrial material, probably the remains of salt manufacturing. Roman period pottery sherds have been found at a variety of locations throughout the town, notably at the General Hospital in South End and from the Hussey Tower, in the town

centre. It is possible that Boston is the site of a Romano-British small town.

Boston rose to prominence during the medieval period when it developed into an important port and one of the largest wool exporting centres in England. It was also a major religious centre for a church and four religious houses were established in the town during the medieval period.

The site is located within the Bar Ditch, the boundary to the medieval town, and near to the river frontage, which in medieval times would have lain closer to the site. Development of the site thus has the potential to impact on deposits relating to the history and development of the medieval port.

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to recover as much information as possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and nature of social, economic and industrial activities on the site. More specifically the aims of the work were to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

## 4. METHODS

### 4.1 Trial Trenching

One trench was excavated measuring approximately 3m x 3m towards the rear of the site overlapping the foundation footprint of three proposed garages (Fig. 3).

Removal of overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket to a depth of approximately 1.0m. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed in relation to fixed points on boundaries and on existing buildings.

### 4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Description of the results

Above the natural deposits, archaeological remains are divided into two phases: post-medieval and recent deposits.

Phase 0: Natural deposits

Phase 1: Post-medieval deposits

Phase 2: Recent deposits

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

## 5.2 Phase 0: Natural deposits

The earliest deposits exposed during the evaluation were natural laminated greyish brown silt (026) at a depth of 1.5m below the modern ground surface in a hand-dug sondage (Figs. 4 and 5). Auger survey revealed this to be 0.81m thick and overlying a dark brown silty peat (027) of unknown depth.

## 5.3 Phase 1: Post-medieval deposits

Overlying the natural silt a series of dark grey silts (006, 007 and 025) and sandy silt deposits (020) were identified. Interpreted as buried soil horizons, they contained occupation debris of post-medieval date (Appendix 3; Figs. 4, 5 and 6; Plate 3).

Truncating the uppermost buried soil horizon, a linear cut [010] aligned northwest to southeast was identified, measuring 0.35m wide and at least 1.8m in length with vertical sides to a flat base. This has been interpreted as the foundation cut for wall (011), a red ceramic brick wall measuring 0.95m deep, the upper courses were bonded with a yellow lime mortar in an English Garden Wall pattern, the lower courses being irregular and unbonded with a packing of dark brownish grey silt (009). This was probably the rear wall of the now demolished Georgian properties previously occupying the site (Figs. 4 and 5; Plates 2, 3).

On the same alignment and parallel to (011), a brick wall (014) measured at least 1.8m in length and 0.9m in depth, bonded with a yellowish white lime mortar in a

stretcher bond pattern has been interpreted as the rear wall of two outhouses at the rear of the Georgian properties (Fig. 5; Plate 2).

Connecting these two walls, a red ceramic brick wall (013) was aligned northeast to southwest visible for 1.25m in length and cut to a depth of 0.7m. A yellow lime mortar bonded the bricks, the upper 2 courses of stretcher pattern, the middle 3 courses of header pattern and the lower 3 courses of English pattern bonding. The lowest courses consisted of over fired waste bricks. Interpreted as the dividing wall between two outhouses at the rear of the now demolished Georgian properties, it appeared to have been rebuilt or repaired with similar brick and mortar in a stretcher pattern (012) but with a shallower foundation over dumped deposit (024), a yellowish brown silt measuring 0.25m in thickness and containing mortar fragments and cinders (Figs. 4 and 6; Plate 3).

Within the confines of the outhouse walls a series of dumped deposits were identified. These consisted of building rubble mixed with sandy silt (005, 017), sand (004), crushed mortar (003, 019) and silt (018). Interpreted as build up layers, they combined to raise the interior of the structures by up to 0.46m. (017) and (018) contained a small amount of residual material of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 3). Directly overlying these to the southeast of wall (012/013), the remnants of a floor surface (016), a mixed deposit of brick rubble and flat square floor tiles measuring approximately 0.06m thick was identified. This appears to extend to the northwest of the wall as layer (021), a mixed deposit of crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments measuring up to 0.1m thick (Figs. 5 and 7; Plate 3).



Above layer (021), a deposit of coal dust and cinders with occasional oyster shells (022) measured up to 0.07m thick. Interpreted as occupation debris, it possibly related to the final usage of the outhouses (Fig 7; Plate 3).

#### 5.4 Phase 2: Recent deposits

A brick rubble and decayed mortar deposit (002=015) measuring up to 0.15m thick overlay all earlier deposits and features. Interpreted as demolition rubble from the razing of previous properties this was directly overlain to a depth of 0.1m by the tarmac car park surface (001=023) (Figs. 4, 5 and 7).

### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural laminated silts were revealed in the base of Trench 1 at 3.08m O.D., 1.5m below the current ground surface and overlying a silty peat deposit of indeterminate depth (Phase 1).

On top of the silt a series of soil layers had developed. Containing building rubble and domestic waste of post-medieval date they suggest construction and domestic activity in the vicinity (Phase 2).

The wall foundations and associated deposits were the earliest identified occupation phases within the investigation area. Interpreted as a rear house wall and the walls of associated outbuildings, they date to the Georgian period. The dividing wall of the outhouses also showed signs of rebuilding or repair (Phase 2).

A series of silt deposits containing building rubble had been dumped within the confines of the outbuilding wall foundations to raise the level sufficiently to apply a tiled floor surface. This

contained some earlier material which presumably originated in the vicinity.

On the demolition of the properties in 1963 (*pers. comm.* Mr Harris), the site was levelled using building rubble and a tarmac car park surface applied (Phase 3).

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at the corner of Witham Place and Witham Street, Boston. The site lies within confines of the Bar Ditch, the boundary to the medieval town, and near to the river frontage, which in medieval times would have lain closer to the site.

No features dating to before the post-medieval period were identified during the investigations. This may indicate truncation by post-medieval levelling and construction – these deposits were up to 1.5m thick – or that any earlier deposits are sealed by the natural silts which were encountered 0.6m below the proposed maximum foundation level.

The earliest archaeological deposits encountered, a series of probable buried topsoil horizons, contained both domestic and building debris indicative of post-medieval occupation of the site.

Wall foundations, floor surfaces and build up levels relating to the construction of 4 and 5 Witham Place were revealed. Built during the Georgian period, the walls identified relate to the rear wall of the houses and accompanying outhouses.

After the demolition of the properties in the 1960's the site was levelled and became a car park.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Bittern Properties Ltd who commissioned the work. Steve Malone coordinated the project; Tom Lane edited the report.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone  
Site Supervisor: Ray Holt  
Site Assistants: Chris Moulis  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
CAD Illustration: Aaron Clements and Ray Holt  
Post-excavation Analyst: Ray Holt

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

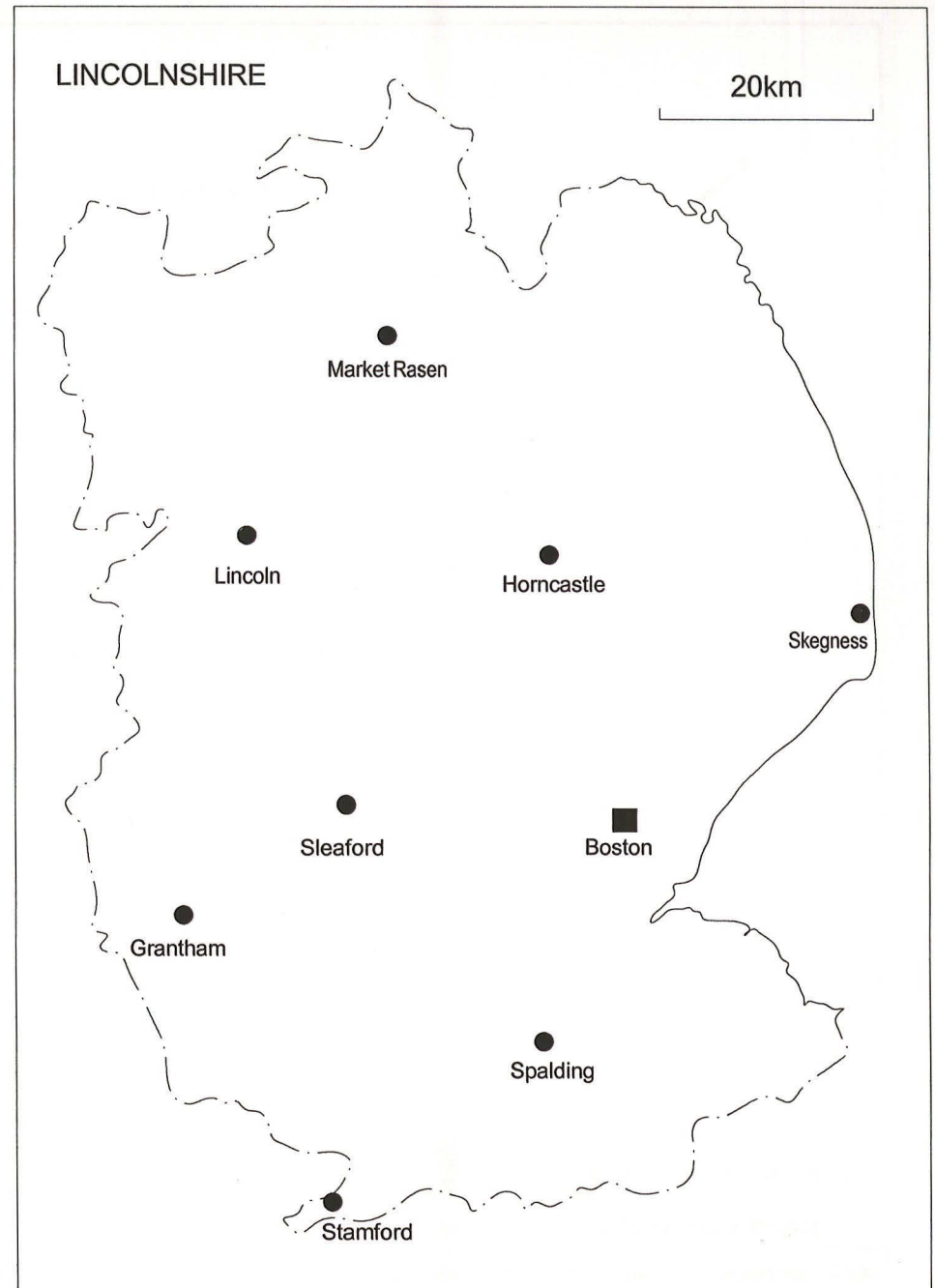
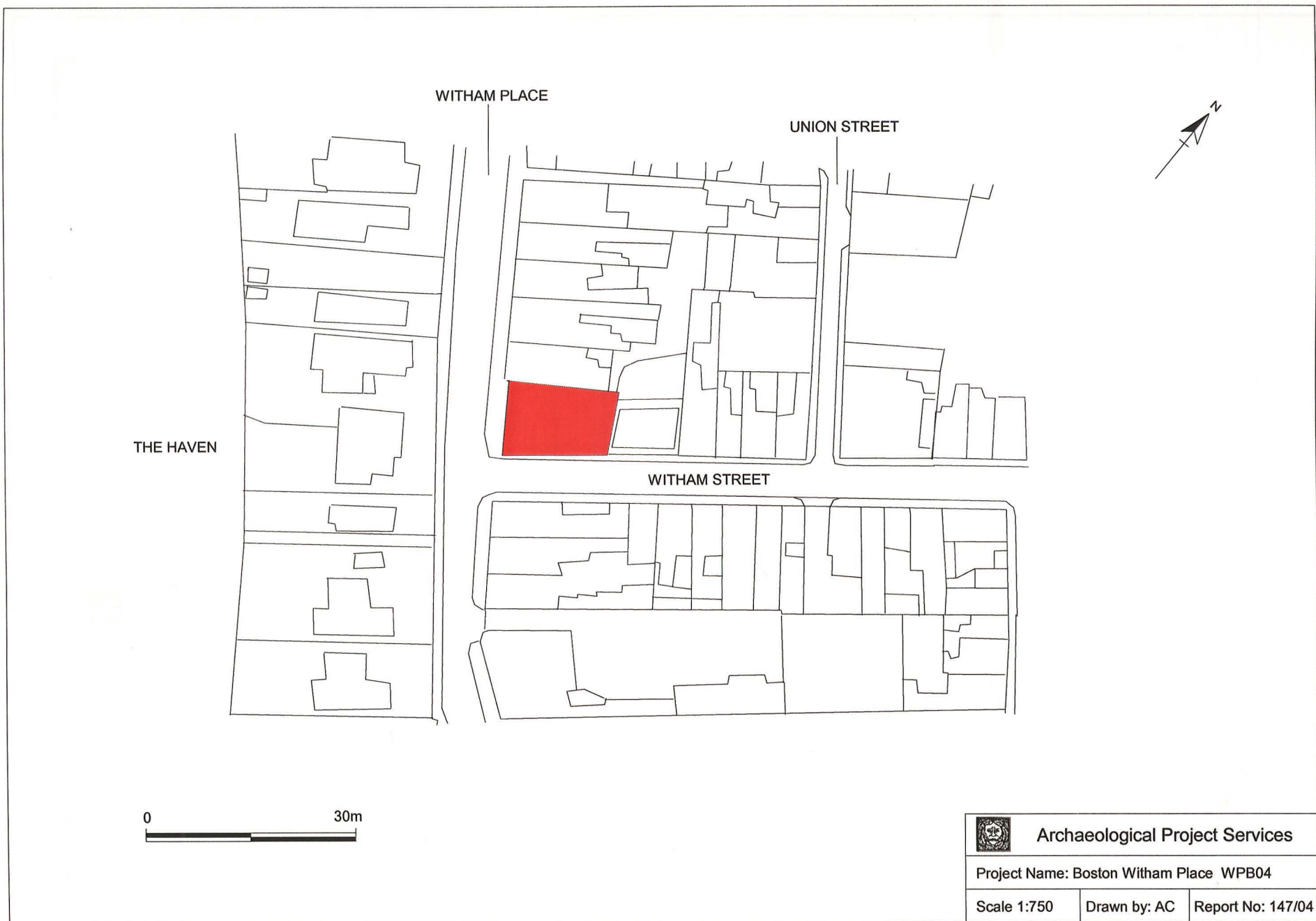


Figure 1 General Location Plan




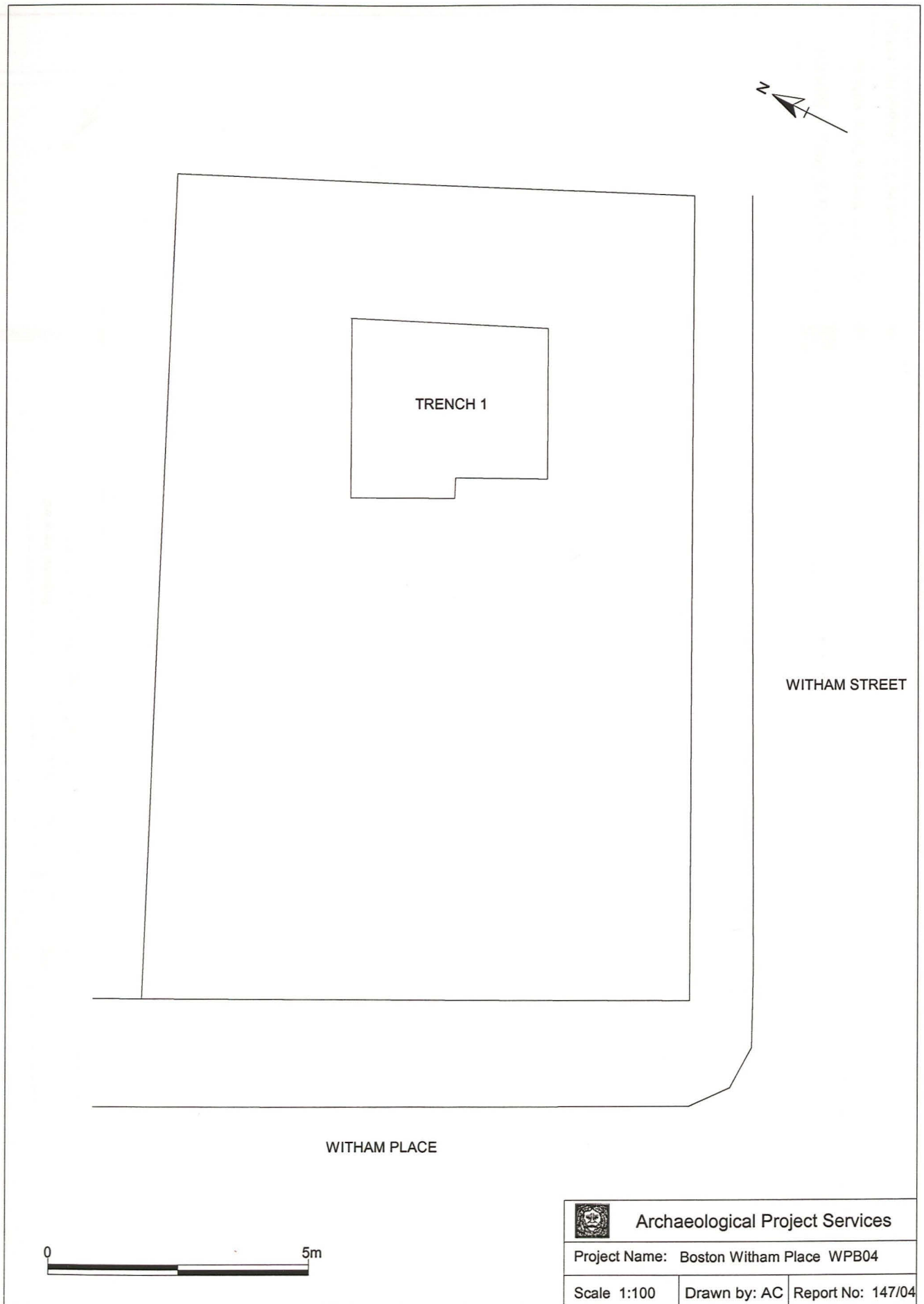
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Project Name: Boston Witham Place WPB04		
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Figure 2 Site location plan



0 5m


	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Boston Witham Place WPB04			
Scale 1:100	Drawn by: AC	Report No: 147/04	

Figure 3 Trench Location Plan

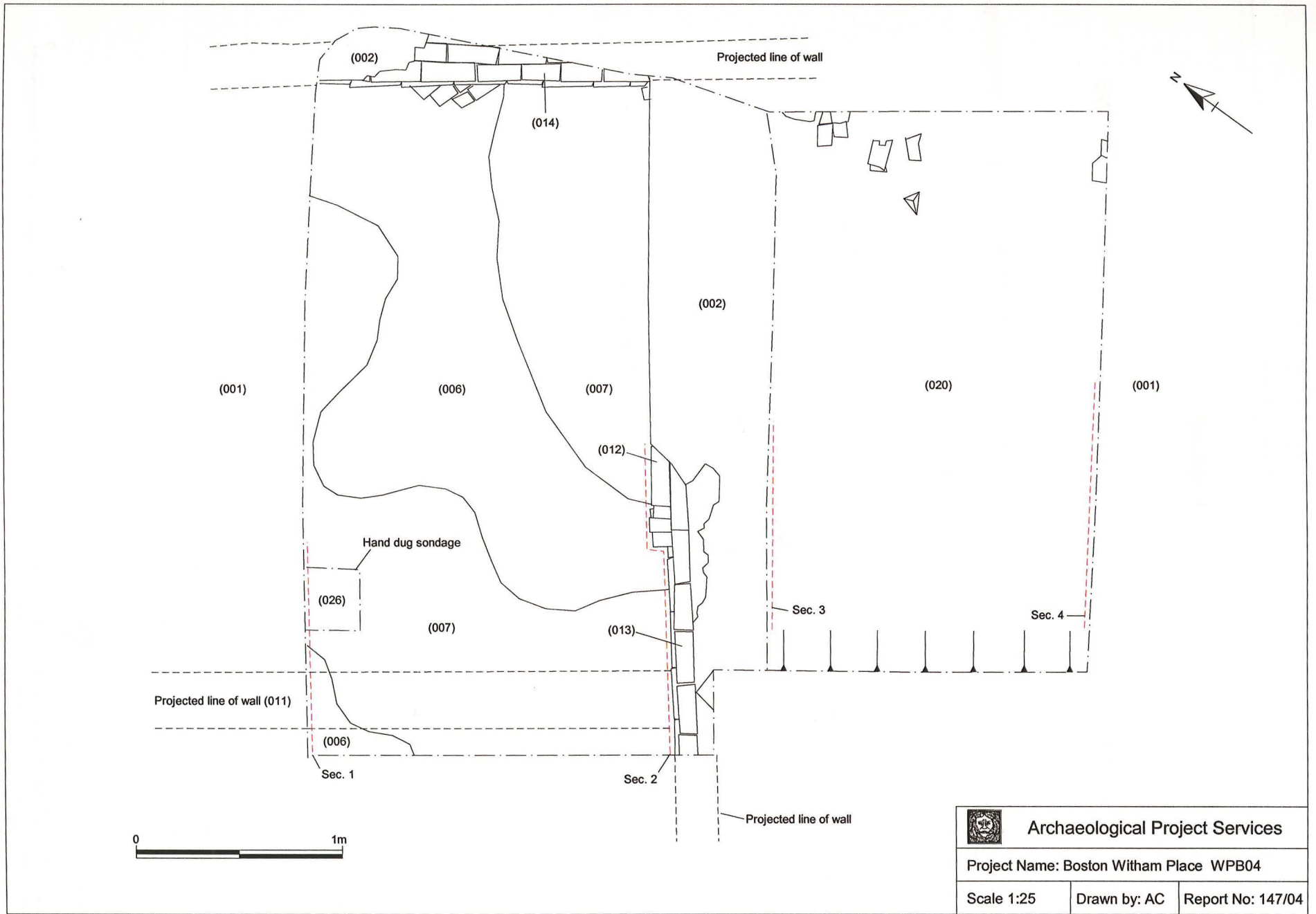


Figure 4 Trench 1 Post-excavation plan.

# Section 1

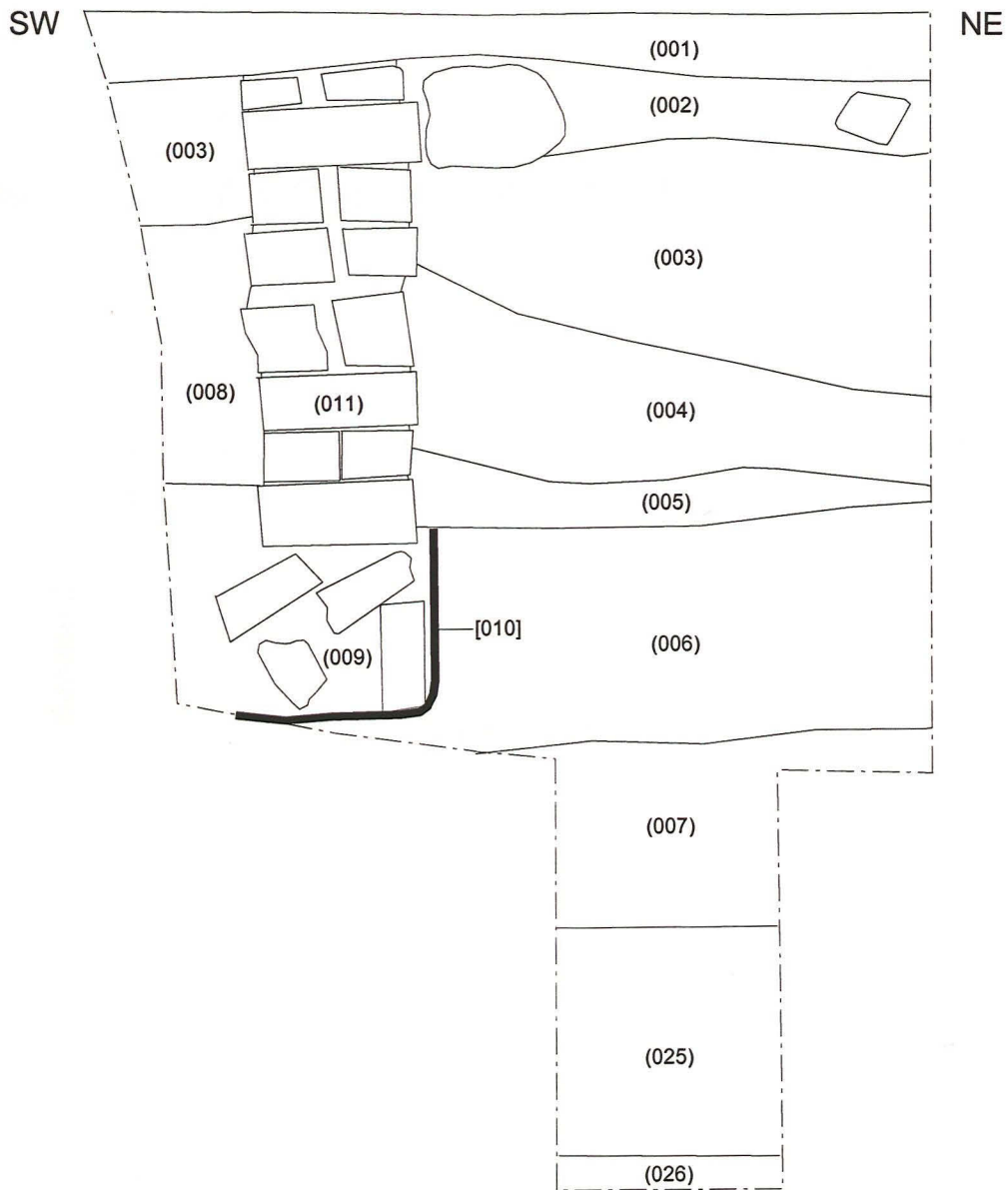
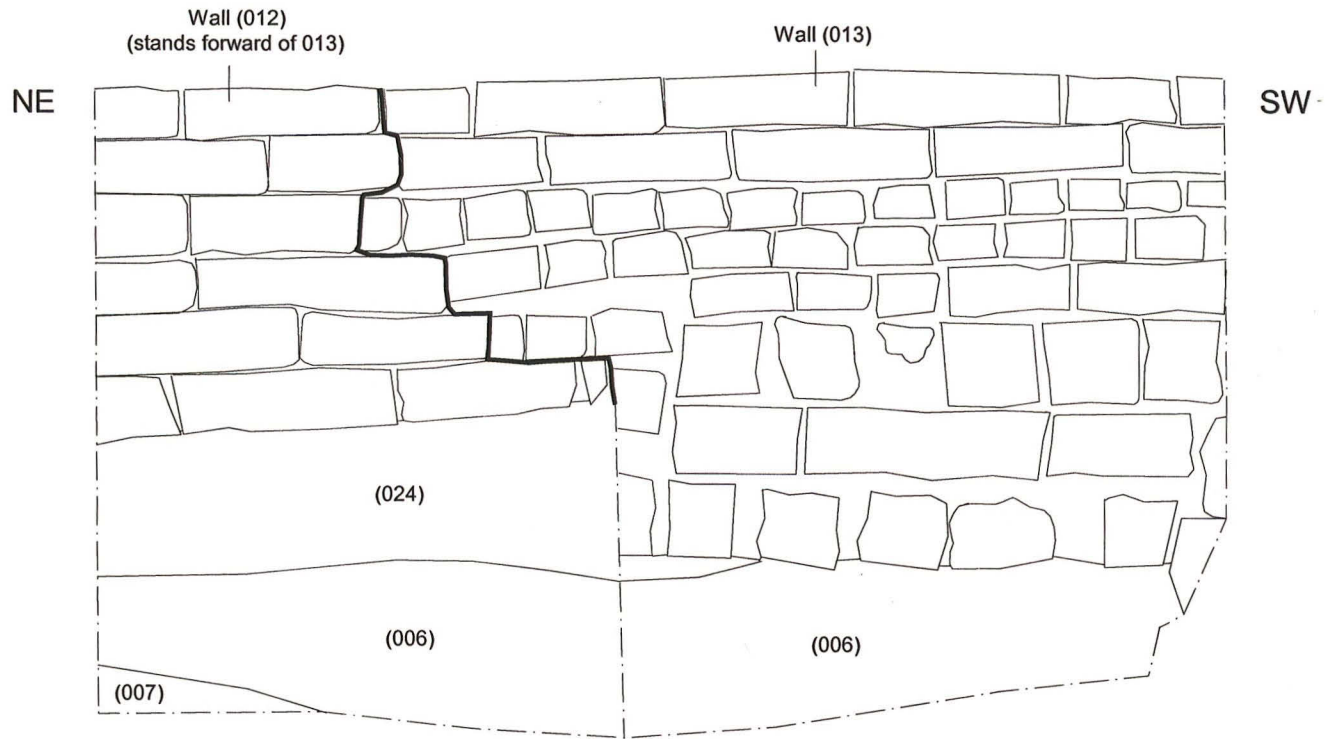


Figure 5 Section drawing Trench 1

### Section 2




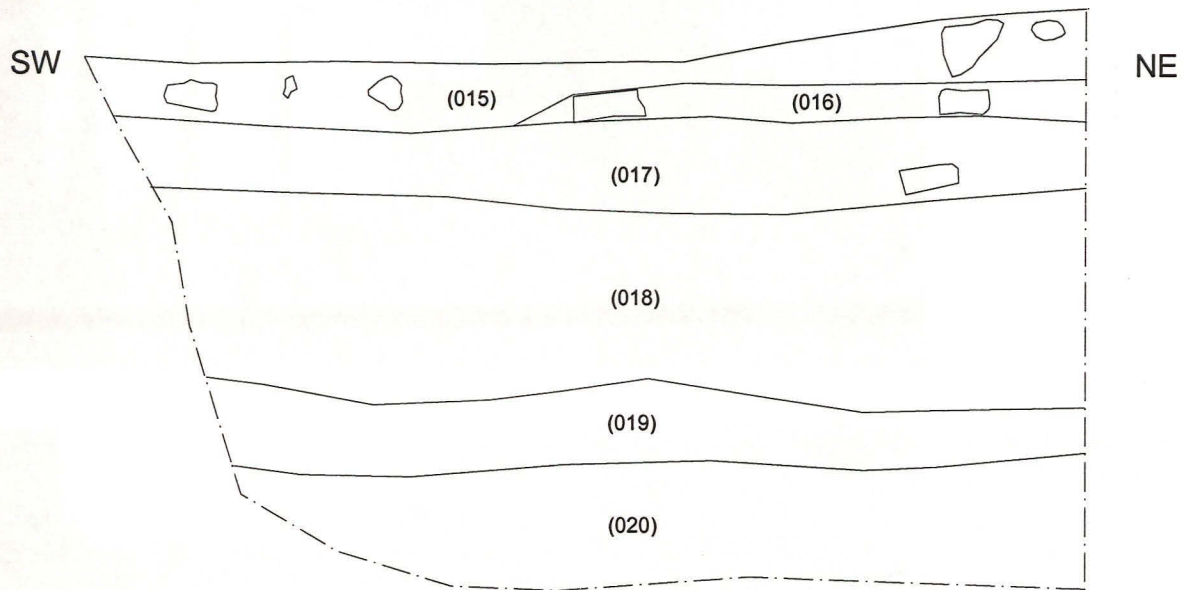
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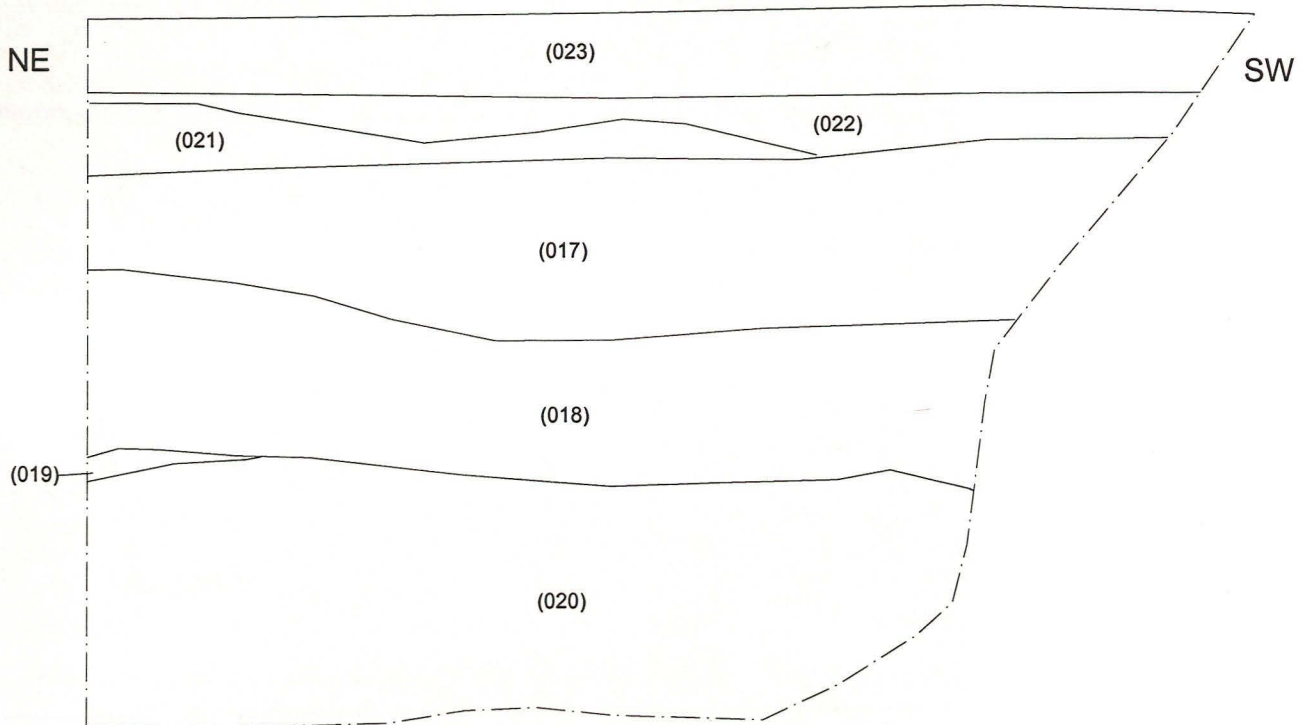
Figure 6 Section drawing Trench 1



### Section 3



### Section 4



0 0.5m



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Boston Witham Place WPB04

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: AC

Report No: 147/04

Figure 7 Section drawings Trench 1



Plate 1 General view of site, looking northeast



Plate 2 Excavated trench looking east showing remains of brick structures.

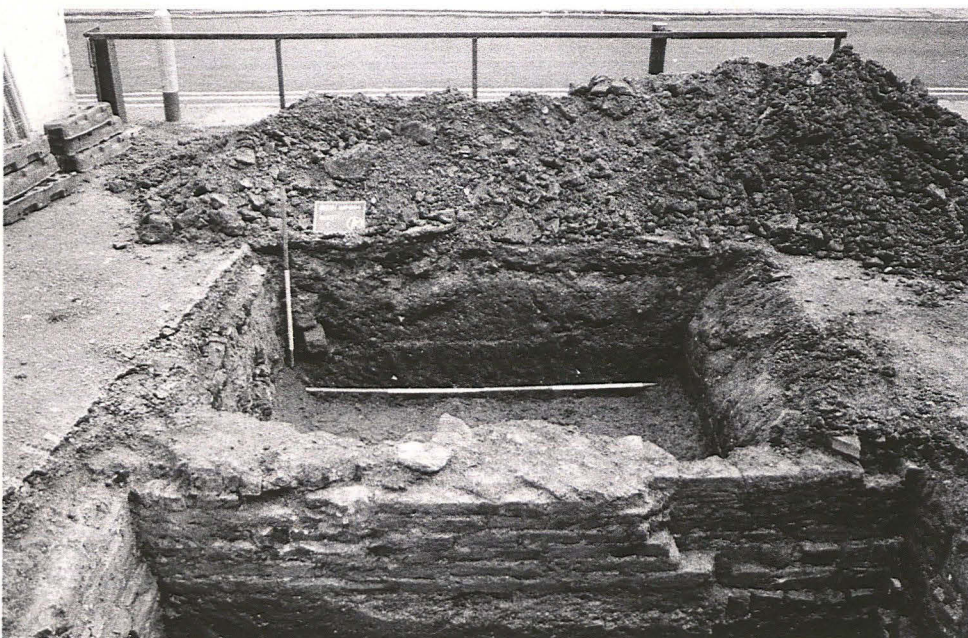


Plate 3 Excavated trench, looking south

**Appendix 1**

**LAND AT  
4-5 WITHAM PLACE  
BOSTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**PREPARED FOR  
BITTERN PROPERTIES LTD**

**BY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES  
Institute of Field Archaeologists  
Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21**

**SEPTEMBER 2004**

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 4-5 Witham Place, Boston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying within the boundaries of the medieval town, approximately 500m north of St Botolph's Church.*
- 1.3 *Planning permission has been sought for residential development of the site. Archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenching is required in order to provide information to assist in the determination of the application.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 4-5 Witham Place, Boston, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 3256 4439.
  - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.1.2 Overview
  - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.1.5 List of specialists
  - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Boston is located approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash, in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site is located in the medieval core of the town on the east side of the River Witham, at the junction of Witham Place and Witham Street some 500m north of St Botolph's Church. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3256 4439.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (B/04/0209/FULL) has been made for residential development of the site. Archaeological evaluation is required in order to provide information to assist in the determination of the application.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban but the natural soil in the vicinity comprises the Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous soil, overlying marine alluvium. The site lies on the east bank of the River Witham at a height of approximately 4.5m OD.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The earliest archaeological activity currently known in the Boston area is of the Roman period. Excavation at Boston Grammar School revealed *in situ* Roman industrial material, probably the remains of salt manufacturing. Roman period pottery sherds have been found at a variety of locations throughout the town, notably at the General Hospital in South End and from the Hussey Tower, in the town centre. It is possible that Boston is the site of a Romano-British small town..
- 6.2 Boston rose to prominence during the medieval period when it developed into an important port and one of the largest wool exporting centres in England. It was also a major religious centre for a church and four religious houses were established in the town during the medieval period.
- 6.3 The site is located within the Bar Ditch, the boundary to the medieval town, and near to the river frontage which in medieval times would have lain closer to the site. Development of the site thus has the potential to impact on deposits relating to the history and development of the medieval port.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## 8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Prior to the commencement of the trial trenching the arrangement of the interventions (excavations) will be agreed with the archaeological curator to ensure that the proposed scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

## 9 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 9.1 Reasoning for this technique
  - 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.

- 9.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of one trench, measuring 3m x 3m placed within the areas of the proposed buildings, the trench not to exceed the 900mm foundation depth of the proposed development works. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present below this level.

## 9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

## 9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - the site on completion of field work
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

## 10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

## 11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

### 11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City



and County Museum, Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

13 REPORT DEPOSITION

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the Boston District Council Planning Archaeologist; Boston District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

**14 PUBLICATION**

- 14.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and an article of appropriate content will be submitted for inclusion in the journal Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

**15 CURATORIAL MONITORING**

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Boston District Council Planning Archaeologist. As much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, will be given to the archaeological curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

**16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS**

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

**17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust  Roman: B Precious, independent specialist
Anglo-Saxon:	J Young, independent specialist
Medieval and later:	G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, independent archaeologist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

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SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT WITHAM PLACE, BOSTON

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Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy; or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

## 18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 2 staff, a supervisor and 1 assistants, and to take two days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 5 person-days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Two half-days of specialist time are allotted in the project budget.
- 18.3 Contingency
- 18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump; Medieval pottery- large quantities (moderate amount expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 18.3.2 Other than the pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator, not Archaeological Project Services.

## 19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their

work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 23 September 2004

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

#### Trench 1

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Tarmac layer covering the whole evaluation area to a depth of 0.1m.	Modern car park surfacing.
002	Brick rubble and decayed mortar deposit measuring up to 0.15m thick.	Demolition rubble layer.
003	Yellowish brown deposit of crushed mortar with lenses of mid brown silt measuring up to 0.35m thick with moderate ceramic building material inclusions.	Demolition rubble layer.
004	Mid yellowish brown sand deposit measuring up to 0.25m thick.	Dumped deposit.
005	Light brown sandy silt deposit measuring up to 0.1m thick with occasional coal and ceramic building material fragments.	Dumped deposit containing possible occupation debris.
006	Dark greyish brown silt deposit measuring at least 0.3m thick with occasional coal and ceramic building material fragments.	Buried topsoil horizon.
007	Dark grey silt deposit with occasional pebble and ceramic building material inclusions, measuring at least 0.06m thick.	Buried topsoil horizon.
008	Mid grey silty sand deposit measuring 0.35m thick.	Possible build up deposit.
009	Dark brownish grey silt deposit measuring 0.3m thick and containing occasional ceramic building material fragments.	Packing within wall foundation cut [010].
010	Linear cut aligned northwest to southeast, measuring 0.35m wide and at least 1.8m in length with vertical sides to a flat base.	Wall foundation cut.
011	Red ceramic brick wall aligned northwest to southeast measuring at least 1.8m in length and 0.95m deep. Consisting of double brick thickness, the upper courses are bonded with a yellow lime mortar in an English Garden Wall pattern, the lower courses being irregular and unbonded.	Possible rear wall of the now demolished Georgian properties.
012	Red ceramic brick wall aligned northeast to southwest. Consisting of double brick thickness measuring at least 3m in length and 0.55m deep, a yellow lime mortar bonds the bricks in a Stretcher pattern.	Possible dividing wall between two outhouses at the rear of the now demolished Georgian properties. This appears to be a repair to the pre existing wall (013).

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
013	Red ceramic brick wall aligned northeast to southwest measuring at least 1.25m in length and 0.7m deep. A yellow lime mortar bonds the bricks, the upper 2 courses of stretcher pattern, the middle 3 courses of header pattern and the lower 3 courses of English pattern bonding. The lowest courses consisted of over fired waste bricks.	Possible dividing wall between two outhouses at the rear of the now demolished Georgian properties. Wall (012) appears to be an extension or rebuild of this wall.
014	Red ceramic brick wall aligned northwest to southeast measuring at least 1.8m in length and 0.9m deep, bonded with a yellowish white lime mortar in a stretcher bond pattern.	Possible rear wall of two outhouses at the rear of the now demolished Georgian properties.
015	A mixed light brownish white deposit of brick rubble and mortar fragments measuring 0.09m thick containing coal fragment inclusions.	Demolition rubble layer, possibly the same deposit as (002).
016	A mixed deposit of brick rubble and flat square floor tiles measuring approximately 0.06m thick.	Remnants of a tiled floor surface.
017	Light brownish grey sandy silt with mid grey brown mottles. Measuring 0.25m thick, the deposit contained moderate amounts of ceramic building material.	Foundation surface for floor (016).
018	Dark greyish brown silt deposit measuring 0.31m thick and containing moderate amounts of ceramic building material.	Dumped deposit.
019	Light brownish white deposit consisting of decayed mortar and ceramic building material fragments.	Dumped deposit of demolition debris.
020	Dark brownish grey sandy silt deposit measuring up to 0.35m thick and containing coal and ceramic building material fragments.	Buried topsoil horizon, possibly the same deposit as (006) or (007).
021	Mixed deposit of crushed mortar and ceramic building material fragments measuring up to 0.1m thick.	Demolition rubble layer, possibly the demolished remnants of floor surface (016).
022	A black deposit of coal dust and cinders measuring up to 0.07m thick with occasional oyster shell inclusions.	Occupation debris layer, possibly relating to the final phase of usage of the outhouses.
023	Tarmac layer covering the whole evaluation area to a depth of 0.1m.	Modern car park surfacing.
024	Yellowish brown silt deposit measuring 0.25m thick, containing mortar fragments and cinders.	Dump deposit.

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
025	A dark grey silt deposit measuring 0.3m thick and containing charcoal, cinders, seashells, ceramic building material fragments and limestone chunks.	Possible buried topsoil horizon containing occupation debris.
026	A laminated greyish brown silt deposit measuring at least 0.05m thick.	Natural silt deposit.
027	A dark greyish brown silty peat deposit of unknown depth.	Natural silty peat.

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. Four fragments of pottery weighing 53g were recovered from 4 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a quantity of other artefacts, mostly brick/tile, comprising 26 items weighing a total of 14021g, was retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from a buried topsoil (006, 020), a floor foundation (017), dumped deposit (018), walls (011, 012, 013, 014) and demolition debris (003).

Although the earliest pottery was made in close proximity to the site, probably in Boston or nearby, the majority of the small pottery assemblage is of Staffordshire manufacture. The ceramic building materials and clay pipe are probably also Boston products.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
006	WS	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	1	mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century
017	BOSTTT	Boston Toynton-type ware	1	9	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
018	BL	Staffordshire black glazed ware	1	13	17 <sup>th</sup> century
020	CRMWARE	Creamware plate	1	30	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century

A single fragment of pottery of probable 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date is the earliest material recovered, though the remainder and bulk of the small pottery assemblage is much later, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	CBM	Pantile, mortar adhering, incl on broken edge	1	123	Late post-medieval
006	CBM	Pantile, late post-medieval	1	77	Late post-medieval
	CBM	Tile, reduced core, abraded, 13mm thick, mortar adhering, medieval	1	9	
	CBM	Tile, 16mm thick, post-medieval	1	5	
	CBM	Handmade brick/tile, mortar adhering to 1, post-medieval	4	23	
011	CBM	Handmade brick, 220mm x 108mm x 67mm, mortar adhering	1	2880	Post-medieval
012	CBM	Handmade brick, overfired, 120mm x 64mm, mortar adhering, including on broken faces, post-medieval	1	1702	Post-medieval
	CBM	Handmade brick, very overfired, distorted, 120mm x 64mm, mortar adhering, post-medieval	1	1390	
013	CBM	Handmade brick, vitrified, distorted, cracked and voided, approx 110mm wide x 85mm thick, mortar adhering, Post-medieval	1	1730	Post-medieval



Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	CBM	Handmade brick, 230mm x 110mm x 68mm, post-medieval	2(link)	2965	
014	CBM	Handmade brick, 220mm x 67mm, mortar adhering, post-medieval	7(3 link, prob all same thing)	2951	Post-medieval
	Mortar	Mortar	2	25	
017	CBM	Tile, reduced core, 15mm thick, mortar adhering	1	138	Medieval
020	Clay pipe	Stems, bore 4/64"	2	3	19 <sup>th</sup> century

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

One of the bricks from (013) is essentially a waster, and those from (012) are misfired to the point of being at least sub-standard, if not wasters. However, each has mortar adhering, showing that they were used. However, because of their appearance and irregularity, particularly the one from (013), they would have only been employed in a position where they would not have been seen, such as a foundation, surface or wall core. It is probable that these waster/misfired bricks would not have been transported far from their place of manufacture, and are therefore likely to be fairly local Boston products. This may also suggest that the other bricks were similarly locally made.

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

#### Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations at Boston. Additionally, there has been reported study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the town and its vicinity. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

The collection of predominantly post-medieval material is of generally of low local potential and significance. However, the large quantity of ceramic building materials indicates the presence of brick structures on the site during the post-medieval period. Moreover, the use of brick wasters implies brick production during the post-medieval period in close proximity to Boston and this is of moderate-high local potential and significance.

The lack of any material earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup> century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition. Similarly, the dearth of artefacts dating between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

#### References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	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 interpretation 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].
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Daily record sheets.
27	Context sheets.
1	Context record sheet.
1	Plan record sheet.
2	Plans on 2 sheets of permatrace.
1	Section record sheet.
4	Section drawings on 2 sheets of permatrace.
1	Photographic record sheet.
1	Levels sheet.
1	Stratigraphic matrix.

All primary records and finds 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: 2004.209

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WPB 04

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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