

**A REPORT TO  
KANE DEVELOPMENTS LTD**

**MARCH 2005**

**LAND BETWEEN  
NORTH STREET  
AND  
CHURCH STREET,  
GAINSBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

LCNCC 2004.243

SK 8148 9022

**PREPARED BY  
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**MJAS REPORT No.: 529**

**LAND BETWEEN  
NORTH STREET AND CHURCH STREET,  
GAINSBOROUGH**PRN: 55194  
Undated

55195 med.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Non-Technical Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Background	2
3.0 Aims and Methodology	3
4.0 Results and Analysis	3
5.0 Acknowledgements	5
6.0 Bibliography	5
<b>PLATES</b>	
Plate I: General view looking south.	4
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	
Fig. 1: Site location maps.	6
Fig. 2: Section & Plan location plan.	7
Fig. 3: Sections 1-5 & Plan 1	8
Fig. 4: Stratigraphic matrices.	9
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
Appendix 1: Context Summary	10
Appendix 2: Finds Archive	10
Appendix 5: LHA Note & Archive Summary	11



## LAND BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND CHURCH STREET, GAINSBOROUGH

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Kane Developments Ltd on land Between North Street and Church Street, Gainsborough during groundwork associated with the construction of nine residential properties.
- For the most part the results of this watching brief proved largely negative. An undated pit revealed beneath a layer containing a single sherd of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery provided the earliest evidence for activity on the site. The watching brief also uncovered a sherd of pottery dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century however, the extent and nature of associated activity was unclear.
- Evidence for the more recent occupation of the site was more extensive with the discovery on the site of brick foundations and floors associated with the former Alma Place. Subsequent deposits were associated with the demolition of Alma Place and the more recent use of the site as a petrol station.
- Although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Gainsborough.



## LAND BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND CHURCH STREET, GAINSBOROUGH

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Kane Developments Ltd on land Between North Street and Church Street, Gainsborough (hereafter *the site*) during groundwork associated with the construction of nine residential properties. The watching brief was commissioned in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: ~~M01/P/1048~~ 8 September 2004).

M04/P/1048

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

Gainsborough lies in the administrative District of west Lindsey, c. 20km north-west of Lincoln and 17km south of Scunthorpe (National Grid Reference: SK 8145 9022). Geological deposits present on the site consist of Mercia Mudstone of Triassic origin. Tills (boulder clays) with some associated sand and gravels mark deposits of a glacial origin. The town lies within the rivers tidal zone and both banks are alluvial.

No evidence of prehistoric or Roman occupation has been recorded in close proximity to the site and the closest major roman settlement lays c. 7km to the south of Gainsborough at Littleborough.

The River Trent was a major frontier of the Kingdom of Lindsey during the Saxon period. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records in AD873 that the Danish army established winter quarters at Torksey (10km to the south of Gainsborough) and subsequently in 1013, Danish King Swein Forkbeard sailed up the Trent to Gainsborough (Ingram 1912, 112-13). The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Gainsborough as lying in the Corringham Wapentake and comprised of a manor and no church. Charters were granted for an annual fair in 1242 and a market in 1383 (White 1842, 502; Cox 1924, 133). A medieval floor tile, possibly derived from elsewhere, was discovered close to the site in the general vicinity of Gainsborough Trinity football ground (SMR No. 52073).

Gainsborough was an important wool centre during the middle ages as a new town grew alongside its church (All Saints: SMR No. 52069 - c. 15<sup>th</sup> century & subsequently rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century – Pevsner et al). Subsequent development replaced the timber-framed buildings of the period with the red brick buildings that now characterise the town. Gainsborough Old Hall (c. 200m to the south-west of the site), constructed during the mid-late 15<sup>th</sup> century, is now the only surviving timber-framed building in the town (SMR No. 54153).

Gainsborough developed and grew during the 17<sup>th</sup> century despite much fighting during the Civil War where it was a frontier town due to its strategic position as a crossing point of the River Trent.

Gainsborough achieved port status in 1841 and became an increasingly important inland port following the widespread development of canals linked to the Trent. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Gainsborough's prosperity grew with the arrival of the railways that led to a growth of light industries including engineering, shipbuilding and milling. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the site was occupied by Alma Place, terraced, brick-built properties that were subsequently demolished during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A petrol station occupied the site from the 1970's.



### 3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.
- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record (formerly the SMR).

The watching brief required the monitoring of all groundwork associated with the development and included enabling works primarily associated with the removal of large fuel-storage tanks from the site prior to the commencement of the development proper.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes and scale drawings. A comprehensive photographic record was also compiled.

### 4.0 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS (Figs. 2 – 4)

#### RESULTS

##### *Fuel Storage Tank (Fig. 3, Sections 5, Plan 1 & Pl. 1)*

Removal of the fuel storage tanks resulted in a large hole nominally 12m x 10m x 5m+ deep in the centre of the site. A small section of the hole was stepped and the recorded.

Natural sand ([015/016] lay c. 1.70m below ground level (5.50m OD). Cutting into natural was [014] a probable pit with three undated silt/ashy fills ([009] – [011] – top: 5.60m OD). Above [014] lay [008], a yellow sand containing infrequent charcoal flecks and a single sherd of Lincolnshire early medieval shelly pottery dating to between the early 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century (top – 6.00m OD). Sealing [008] was [005], light grey sand with occasional coal/coke fragments and a sherd of brown glazed earthenware pot dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century (top – 6.40m OD).

A brick cellar [007] infilled with building rubble ([006]), a land drain [003] and a brick-lined well [012], sealed [005] and were in turn capped by [002] an extensive deposit of grey/brown sand containing frequent building debris. Above [002] was [001] a tarmac capped deposit of limestone that constituted the forecourt of the former garage (ground level – 7.20m OD).

##### *Building Plots*

##### *Plot A (Fig. 3 Section 1 & 2)*

Plot A lay along the west boundary of the site and its excavation revealed grey clay (natural? [018]), 1.70m below ground level (5.60m OD). Above [018] were the remains of brick foundations and floors (top of floor [021]: 6.70m OD). Sealing [021] was an extensive deposit of brick rubble [022] (ground level – c. 7.30m OD). Truncating [022] along the eastern edge of Plot A was [023] the now infilled hole where the fuel storage tanks used to be located.

##### *Plot B (Fig. 3 Section 3)*

Plot B lay in the south-east corner of the site. Excavation revealed clay ([018]) 1.40m below ground level (6.10m OD). Cut into [018] was [017], an east-west ceramic land drain sealed by



an undated brown clay soil (top of [019] – 6.50m OD). Above [019] lay [020] an extensive dump of brick building debris sealed by a layer of concrete ([024] – 7.50m OD).

#### **Plot C (Fig. 3 Section 4)**

Plot C was located to the north of Plot B in the north-east corner of the site. A yellow/grey ([018]) lay approximately 1.10m below ground level (6.50m OD) was overlain by [019] a clayey soil (7.00m OD). Above [019] was a dump of brick building debris ([020]) that was in turn sealed by a modern dump of brick rubble ([022] ground level – c. 7.60m OD)



Plate 1: General view looking south showing the extent of groundwork associated with the removal of the fuel storage tanks. The scale visible in the centre of the photograph denotes the location of the undated pit feature (scale is 2m).

#### **ANALYSIS**

For the most part the results of this watching brief have proved largely negative. The pit recorded during the removal of the fuel storage tanks, while undated, appears to suggest that the area was utilised sometime before the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, however the form and extent of this occupation was unclear. The single sherd of medieval pottery recovered from a layer above the pit was the only evidence suggesting medieval activity on the site. Similarly, the sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery provides little insight as to the nature of later post-medieval activity.

Evidence of the more recent occupation of the site was more extensive. Brick foundations and floors together with an associated cellar and brick-built well are probably associated with Alma Place and the extensive dump of brick rubble overlying the earlier brick structures probably represent its demolition.

In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Gainsborough.



## 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services would like to thank Kane Developments Ltd for their cooperation throughout the duration of the watching brief. Thanks are also extended to Dr Beryl Lott (Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council) for her guidance and assistance, and to Robert Schofield, who provided archaeological cover during the early stages of the watching brief.

Maps contained in this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. MJAS Licence No. 100042473.

## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, J C 1924 *Lincolnshire 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, London

Ingram, J 1912 *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, London

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, Penguin Books, London

White, W 1842 *History Gazetteer, & Directory of Lincolnshire*, Sheffield

### NOTE

THIS REPORT IS PRESENTED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FURTHER INFORMATION MAY EMERGE, MJAS CANNOT THEREFORE BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS, DELAY, OR DAMAGE ARISING OUT OF THIS REPORT.
---



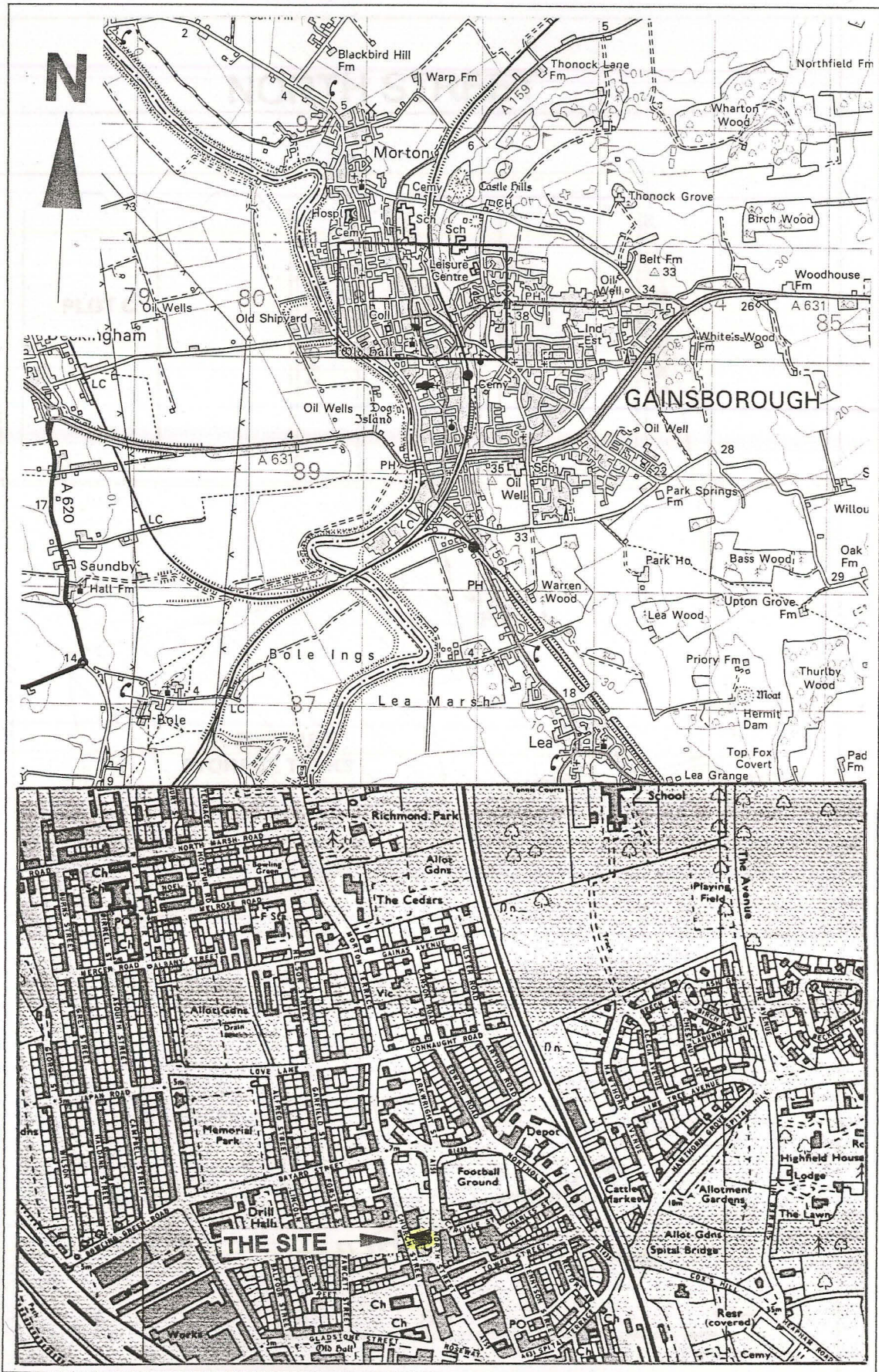


Fig. 1: Site location maps (1:50,000 & 1:10,000).



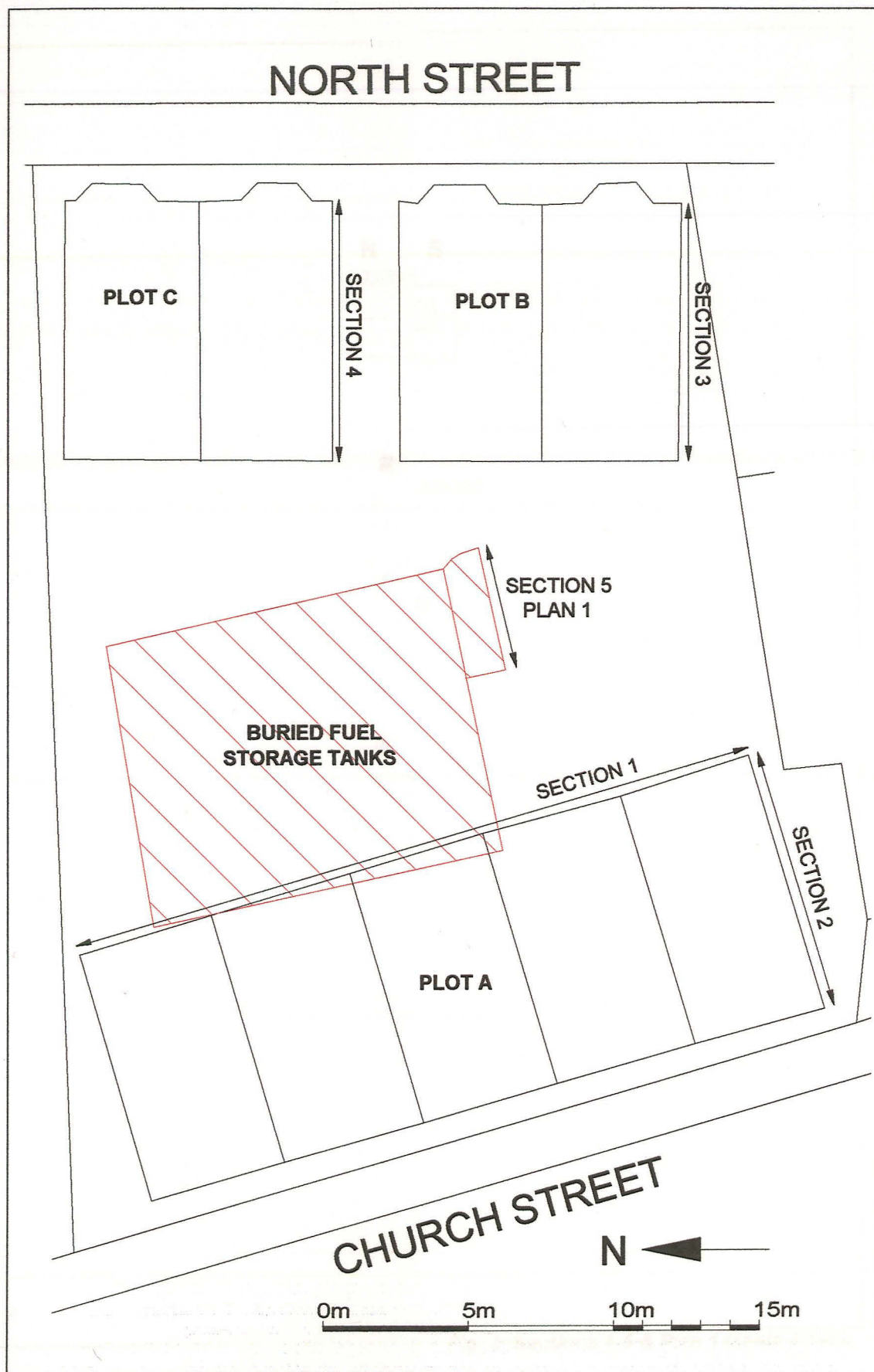


Fig. 2: Section location plan (scale 1:200).



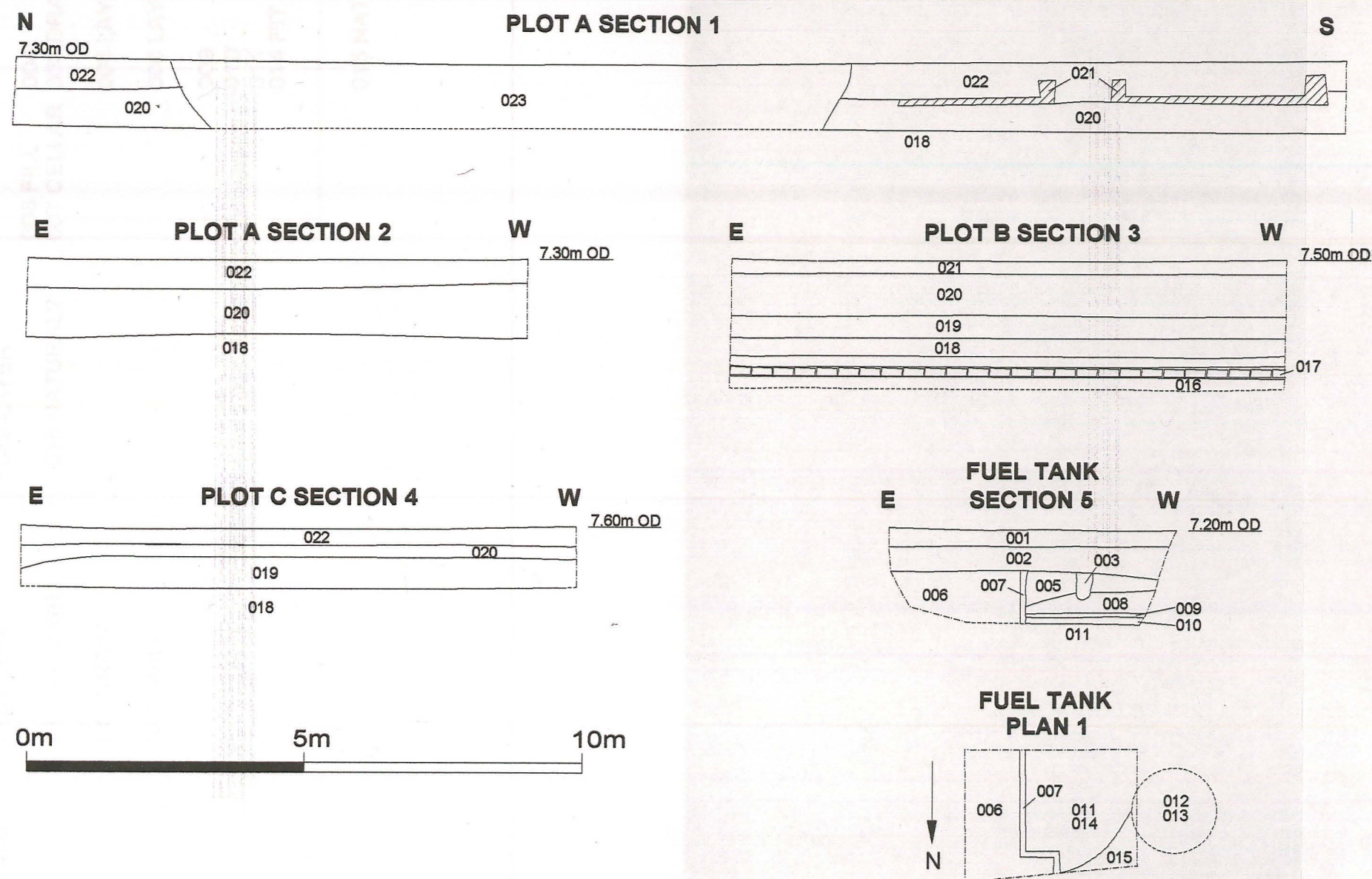


Fig. 3: Sections 1-5 & Plan 1 (scale 1:100).



PLOT A

023 DUMP  
|  
022 DUMP  
|  
021 BRICK STRUCTURE  
|  
020 DUMP  
|  
018 NATURAL?

PLOT B

024 CONCRETE  
|  
020 DUMP  
|  
019 LAYER  
|  
018 NATURAL  
|  
017 DRAIN  
|  
NATURAL?

PLOT C

022 DUMP  
|  
020 DUMP  
|  
019 LAYER  
|  
018 NATURAL?

FUEL TANKS

	001 DUMP	
	002 DUMP	
006 FILL	004	012
	003 DRAIN	
007 CELLAR		013 WELL
	005 LAYER	
	008 LAYER	
	009	
	010	
	011	
	014 PIT	
	015 NATURAL	

Fig. 4: Stratigraphic matrices.



## LAND BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND CHURCH STREET, GAINSBOROUGH

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Area	Description
001	Fuel Tank	Crushed limestone and tarmac capping – garage forecourt.
002	Fuel Tank	Compact, dark grey/brown sand silt with frequent brick rubble.
003	Fuel Tank	Loose, mid grey/brown silt within a ceramic drain pipe.
004	Fuel Tank	Cut for [003].
005	Fuel Tank	Loose, light grey sand with occasional coal/coke fragments.
006	Fuel Tank	Fill of cellar [007].
007	Fuel Tank	Brick lined cellar partially exposed during the removal of fuel storage tanks
008	Fuel Tank	Loose, yellow sand with occasional charcoal flecks and infrequent bands of clay.
009	Fuel Tank	Compact brown clay – fill of cut [014].
010	Fuel Tank	Loose, yellow sand with occasional charcoal flecks – fill of cut [014].
011	Fuel Tank	Loose, dark grey/black sand/ash – fill of cut [014].
012	Fuel Tank	Brick well.
013	Fuel Tank	Well cut.
014	Fuel Tank	Pit cut fills [009], [010] & [011].
015	Fuel Tank	Natural yellow sand.
016	Plot C	Light grey sand/clay (natural?)
017	Plot C	U-shaped ceramic land drain.
018	Plots A- C	Compact grey clay (natural?).
019	Plots B & C	Light-mid brown clay soil.
020	Plots A - C	Very friable mid brown sand with frequent brick, tile and pebbles.
021	Plot A	Brick structure.
022	Plot A	Brick rubble.
023	Plot A	Modern fill.
024	Plot B	Concrete.

#### APPENDIX 2 – FINDS ARCHIVE

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
005	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	large jar	1	127	base	Worn basal surface; Humber type?	17th to 18th
008	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	bowl	1	12	rim	abraded; everted rim; leached surfaces	mid 12th to early/mid 13th



## **LAND BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND CHURCH STREET, GAINSBOROUGH**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **APPENDIX 3 – LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS**

**SITE NAME:** Land Between North Street And Church Street, Gainsborough

**SITE CODE:** NSGG04

**MJAS REPORT No:** 529

**NGR:** SK 8145 9022

**PROJECT TYPE:** Watching Brief

**PROJECT DATE:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004

**PLANNING APPLICATION No.:** M01/P/1048 8 September 2004

**SMR No.:** N/A

**CIVIL PARISH:** Gainsborough

**MUSEUM ACCESSION No.:** 2004.243

**ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION:** MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

**ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION:** The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln