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Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief

on land at the RAFA Club,

12 St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire

September 2006

Accession No: LCNCC: 2007.28



David J. Leigh

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Report 08/189

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ORISIS REPORT FORM

STAFF

SU 12637
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 EU 9838

PROJECT DETAILS

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 Text David J. Leigh BA Hons
 Fieldwork David J. Leigh
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Project type
 Site status
 Previous work
 Extent of work
 Project start
 Main body period
 Significant finds

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Steve Parry		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Mudd		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new extension to the rear of the former RAFA Club, St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire.	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to the rear of the former RAFA Club, St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. A heavily disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the foundations. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief Planning Application No: S05/1426/69 (Site Code SSP07)	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use		
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address	Land to the rear of the former RAFA Club, St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire	
OS Easting & Northing	TF 032 073	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Philip Heath Architects	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	September 2006	
End date	September 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Lincolnshire Museums	Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (4) black and white contact prints (4) Digital photographs (8)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND TO THE REAR OF THE FORMER RAFA CLUB, ST PAULS STREET,
STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 2006**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in September 2006 during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to the rear of the former RAFA Club, St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. A heavily disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the foundation trenches. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in September 2006 during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension on land to the rear of the former Royal Air Force Association Club (RAFA), St Pauls Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 032 073: Planning Application No; S05/1426/69; Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr Philip Heath Architect in response to a request for archaeological attendance and observation by the Planning Archaeologist, South Kesteven and Boston, Lincolnshire County Council.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the centre of Stamford to the rear of the former RAFA Club and is contained within the confines of the rear yard encompassing an area approximately 7m by 8m. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Jurassic Limestone.

2.2 Historical Background

Stamford has a well documented history. Settlement is known from the post-Roman era with both Saxon and Danish *burhs* situated within the core of the modern town. During the Middle Ages Stamford was situated on major north-south communication route, and was an important market centre with 14 churches as well as several religious houses.

Up to the present application the development area has been utilised as a garden/yard to the rear of the former RAFA club. No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out in the area of development.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the excavation of foundation trenches, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised intermittent visits to the site during the groundworks for the new extension. The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m and were 0.60m wide (Plates 3 & 4). The excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out using a mini tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 2000). The site code for the archaeological project was SSP07.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Examination of the stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches revealed mixed layers of post-medieval material. These comprised inter-cutting pockets of mid brown/light grey silt loam and dark grey charcoal dumps both containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and sherds of modern white ceramic pottery and glass fragments (not retained). Overlying this was a layer of grey/brown stone mixed with numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material within a matrix of loose grey/brown silt loam up to 0.47m thick (Fig 4).

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	4
Black and white contacts and negatives	4
Digital photographs	8

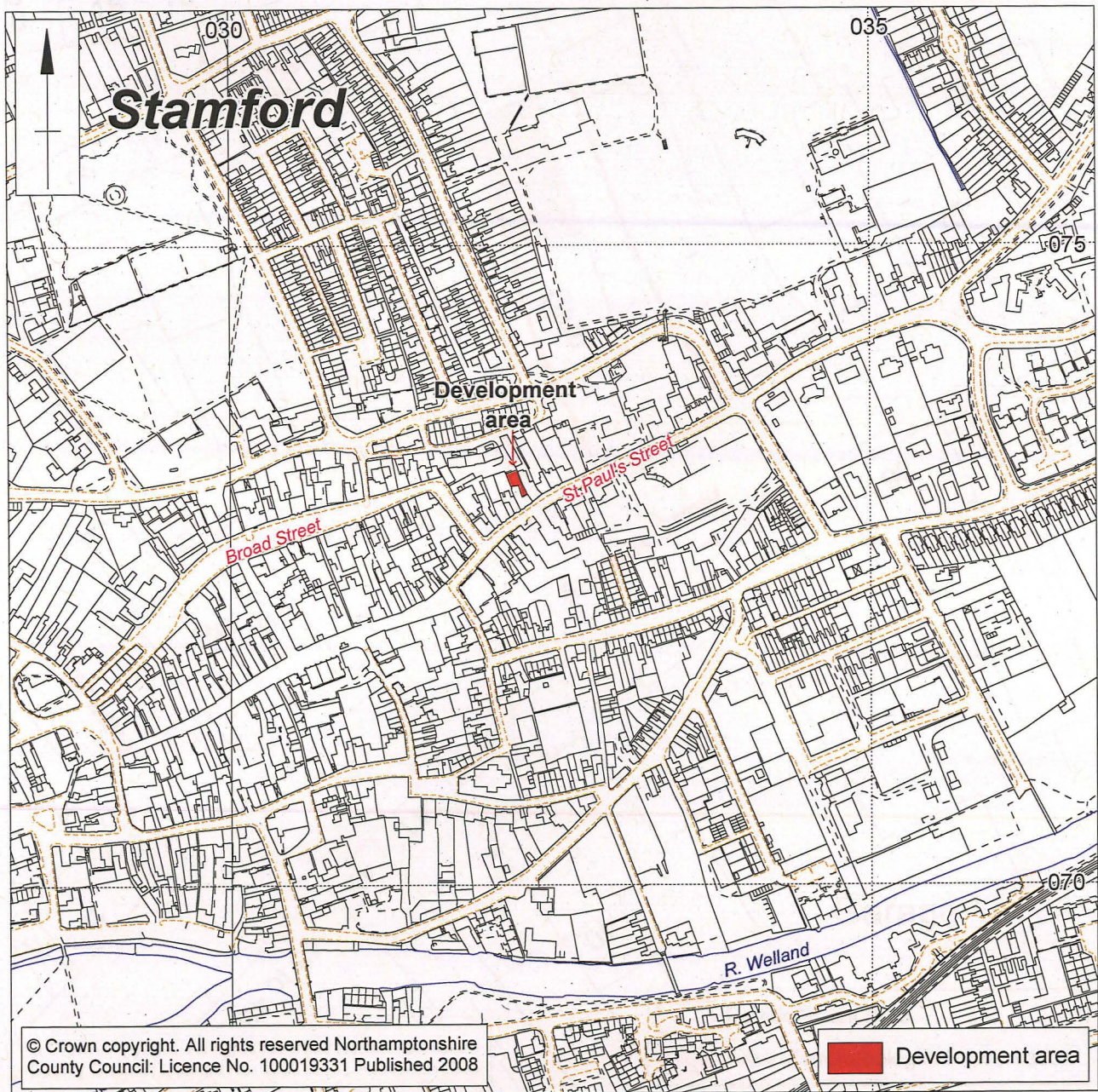
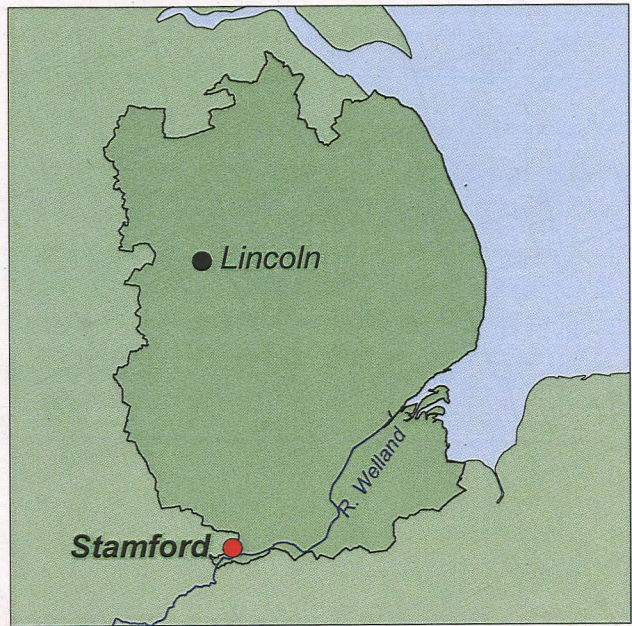
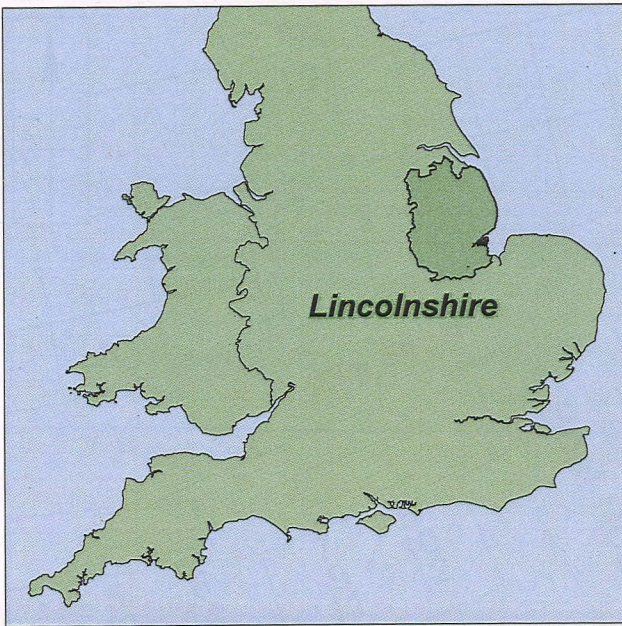
6 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the watching brief suggest that all of the yard area to the rear of the former RAFA Club has been subject to considerable modern disturbance. The natural substratum was not encountered during the course of the project and thus it cannot be determined if any truncation has taken place.

The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

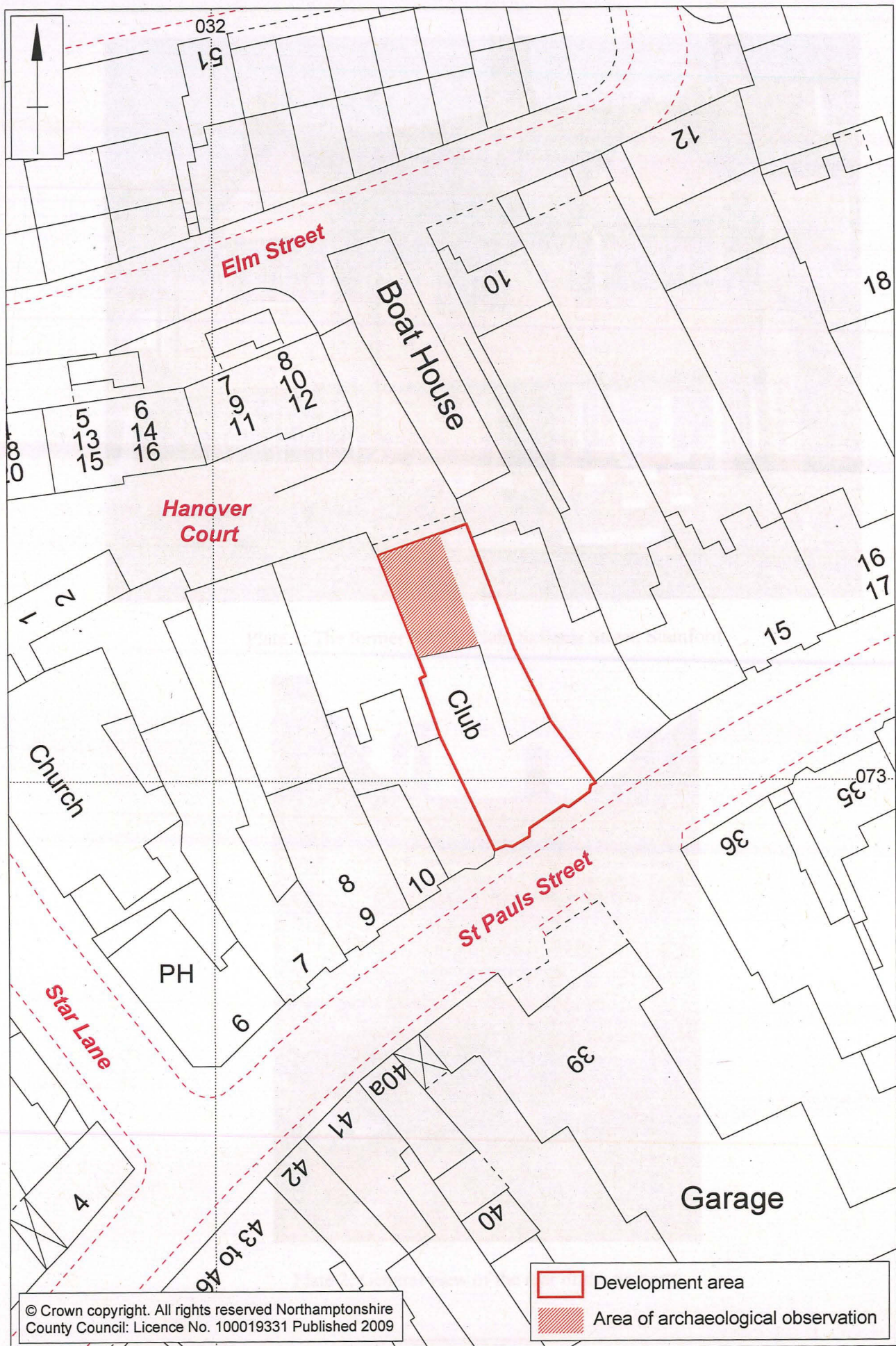
BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 2001 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Stamford RAFA club 12-13 St Pauls street Fig 2



Plate 1: The former RAFA Club, St Pauls Street, Stamford



Plate 2: General view of the rear of the property



Plate 3: The foundation trenches during excavation



Plate 4: The stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches