



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Legbourne Road, Louth  
(NGR: TF 339 864)  
Archaeological Appraisal**

**for  
Stamford Homes Ltd**

**August 1997**

gmk

**Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section**

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**Legbourne Road, Louth  
(NGR: TF 339 864)  
Archaeological Appraisal**

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Stamford Homes Ltd to assess the potential for archaeological remains on a site of a proposed housing development at Legbourne Rd, Louth. A watching brief was carried out on 4th July 1997 while test pits were being excavated for evaluation of the geological conditions.

**Site Location**

The site is located to the south of the town, with access from the B1200 Legbourne Road (Fig. 1). To the north-west and south it is bounded by existing suburban housing, and to the north by a stream running parallel to the route of a disused railway. It adjoins open countryside to the south-east.

**Site Description**

Following very wet weather, there were areas of standing surface water on the date when the watching brief was carried out, especially to the north and east where the ground dipped away. Crop species such as wheat, oats and field beans among the weed flora provide evidence of recent arable use.

Prior to this watching brief, little was known about the archaeology of the site or its immediate environs, but features and artefacts from the Romano-British period had been noted from the line of a water pipeline 750m to the south (Tann in preparation, *Stenigot to Kenwick Water Main*, Developer report for Anglian Water Services Ltd).

**Method**

A total of eighteen test pits were excavated using a JCB excavator with a 600mm bucket on the back-hoe arm (Fig. 2). The pits were between 1.90m and 2.90m deep. The distribution of the pits was designed to provide regular coverage of the area, but the north-west part of the site was avoided because of the very wet ground conditions. The locations of the pits are shown on the accompanying map, numbered in the order in which they were excavated.

**Results**

Although showing considerable variation in detail, all the pits revealed a similar pattern of deposits. A brown, humic topsoil layer around 0.30-0.35m deep overlay a greyish-brown silty layer, typically extending to a depth of around one metre. Below this was a thick layer of brown clay which, in most cases, lay over stiff, bluish-grey boulder clay with chalk inclusions. Test pits 10 and 13 had very wet and sloppy sandy gravel beneath the brown clay layer. The silty layer varied in thickness, composition and consistency, tending to having a higher clay content in some of the pits, and being notably sandy in pit 12. In test pit 1 it was very loose, with a marked tendency to slumping.

Pits 2 and 4 both had a large amount of brick rubble in the topsoil, mostly concentrated toward the bottom of the layer. This appeared to be the result of localised attempts to consolidate muddy ground. Field drains were encountered in two pits. In test pit 7, these were red earthenware pipes, at a depth of c.0.90m, while in pit 13 the pipes had a hard-fired yellow fabric, and were shallower, at around 0.60m from the present ground surface. Otherwise, no archaeological features were seen in any of the sections, and no significant artefacts were found.

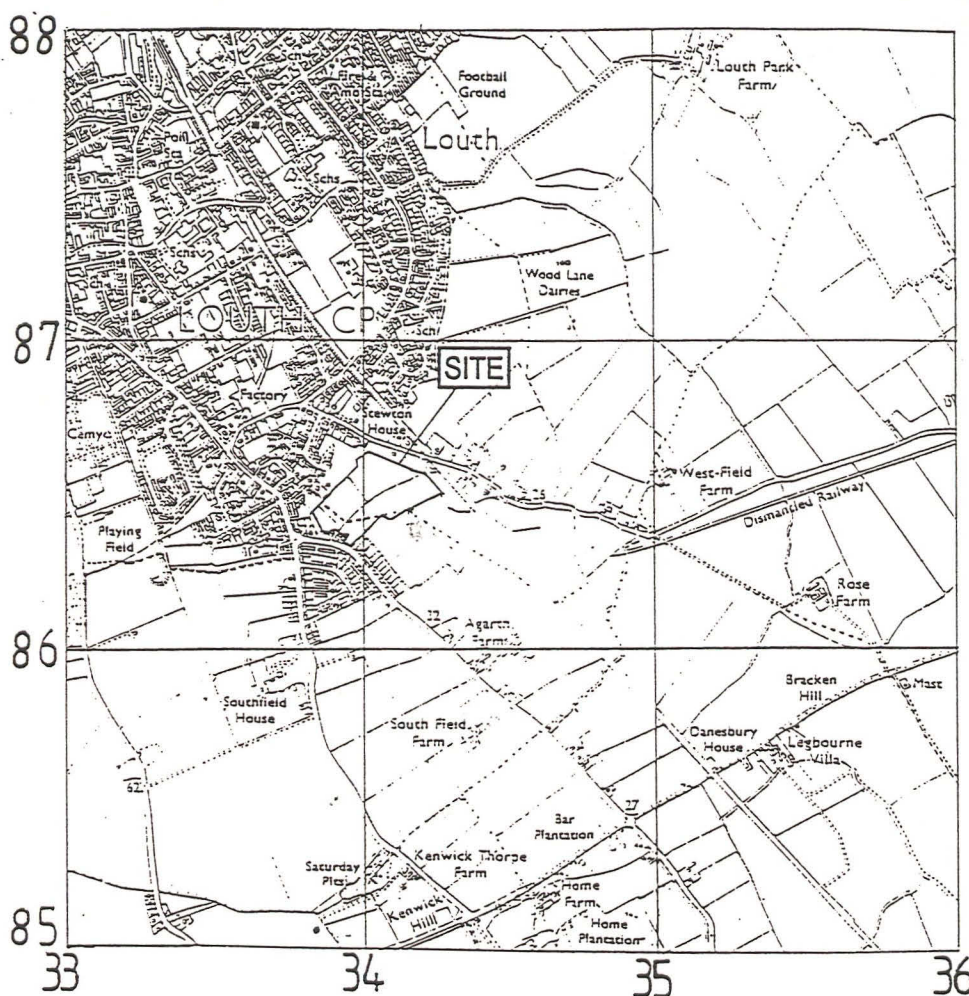
### **Discussion**

The only evidence of activity noted on the site relates to modern agricultural land drainage and ground consolidation. The atypical nature of the silty layer in test pits 1 and 12 may indicate that the ground has been disturbed in these areas, but is probably a result of the local geological or hydrological conditions. The clay and silt sub-soils appear to lie directly on the boulder clay and were probably formed by glacial out-wash rather than by later alluvial deposition. It is unlikely that they seal early archaeological remains.

In summary, this watching brief indicates that the site appears to have a very low archaeological potential.

Dick Moore  
July 1997





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CLIENT :

Stamford Homes Ltd

PROJECT TITLE :

Land off Legbourne Road and  
Pasture Drive, Louth

DRAWING DETAIL :

Site Location Plan

DRAWN :

HH

DRAWING No.

DG1063/01

REVISION :

DATE :

July 97

SCALE :

1:25000

CHECKED :

APPROVED :



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Fig. 1

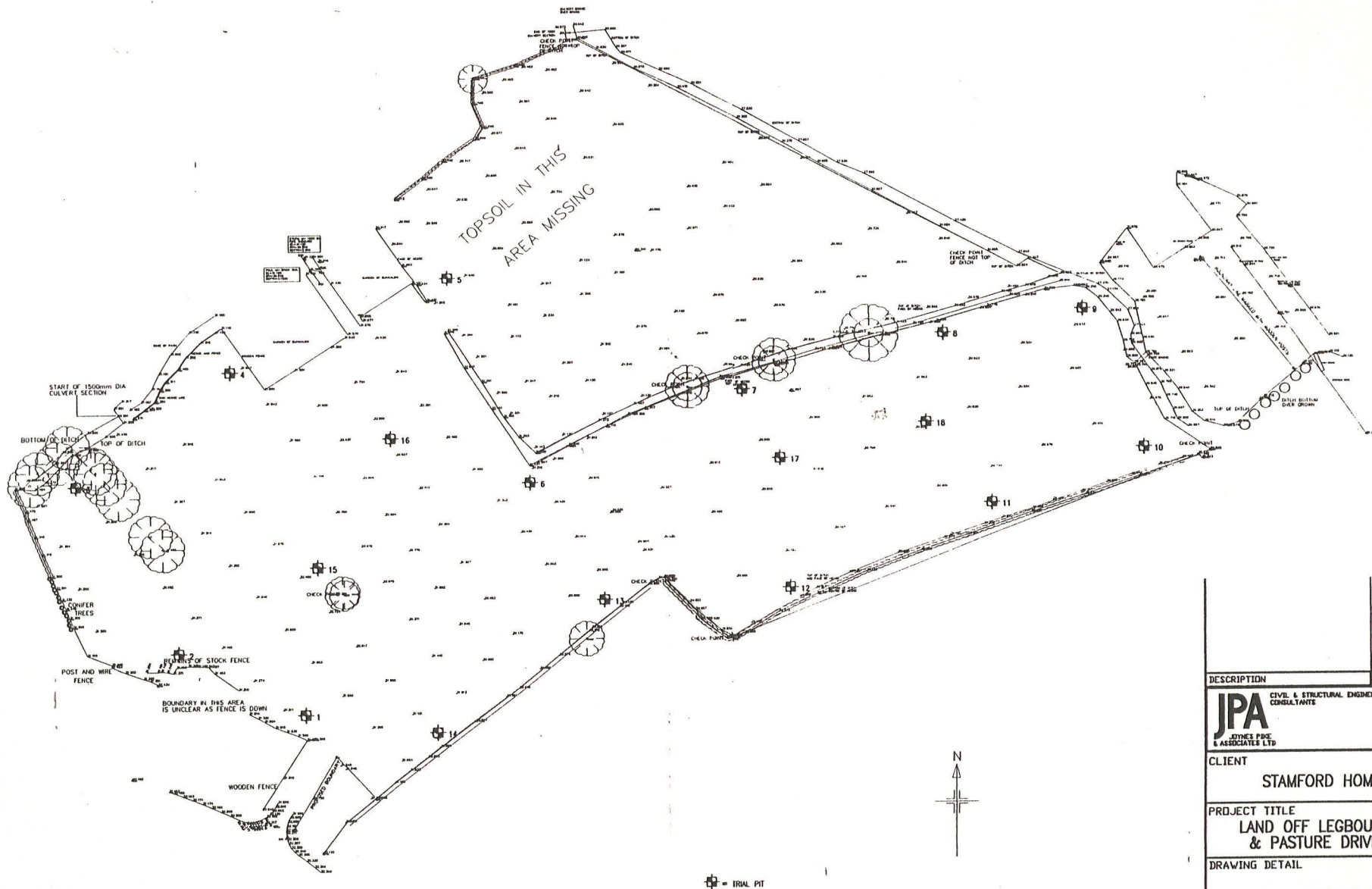


Fig. 2 Location of geotechnical test pits (reduced from original supplied by Stamford Homes Ltd)

DESCRIPTION	REV	DATE	CHKD	APPR
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CLIENT  STAMFORD HOMES LTD				
PROJECT TITLE  LAND OFF LEGBOURNE ROAD & PASTURE DRIVE, LOUTH				
DRAWING DETAIL  SITE PLAN				
DRAWN	R.P.	DATE	JULY '97	
PROJECT ENGINEER	S.M.	SCALE	N.T.S.	
CHECKED	SM			
APPROVED	SM			
DRAWING NUMBER		G1063/02		REVISION