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M4/26

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AND BUILDING RECORDING
AT THE RIVER EDGE AND
FORMER FLOSS LAUNDRY,
MORTON CORNER,
GAINSBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(GMC03)**



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SERVICES

Conservation
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Highways & Planning
Directorate



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M4/26

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LINCOLNSHIRE
(GMC03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Black and Veatch**

August 2004

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



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Land at
Morton Corner, Gainsborough,
Lincolnshire (GMC03)
Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief
Quality Control

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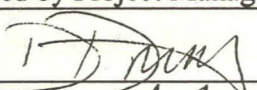
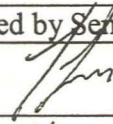
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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING.....	1
2.2	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	2
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	2
3.	AIMS	3
4.	METHODS	3
5.	RESULTS	3
5.1	BUILDING RECORDING.....	3
5.2	WATCHING BRIEF	5
6.	DISCUSSION	6
6.1	BUILDING RECORDING.....	6
6.2	WATCHING BRIEF	8
7.	CONCLUSION	8
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
9.	PERSONNEL	9
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	9
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	10

Appendices

1. Specification for archaeological watching brief
2. Context descriptions
3. The Finds by *Gary Taylor*
4. Glossary
5. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan showing new flood defences and areas of archaeological intervention
- Figure 4 Detailed plan of the former mill
- Figure 5 View Points of Plates
- Figure 6 Plan of features at northern end of works
- Figure 7 Sections 1 to 4

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General Site View, looking south towards former mill
- Plate 2 General View, north side of former mill, looking southwest
- Plate 3 South Side of Former Mill, showing blocked windows, looking north
- Plate 4 North Side of Former Mill, showing main entry and extension, looking southwest
- Plate 5 North Side of Former Mill, western end showing blocked entries, looking south
- Plate 6 West Side of Former Mill, showing blocked entries, looking northeast
- Plate 7 Detail, blocked door, west side of building, looking east
- Plate 8 Detail, blocked windows toward eastern end of south side of mill, looking north
- Plate 9 East Side of Former Mill, showing blocked and truncated windows, looking west
- Plate 10 Interior Main Mill Building, west end, showing offices and blocked entries, looking west
- Plate 11 Interior Main Mill Building, east end, showing blocked entries, looking east
- Plate 12 Detail, truncated brick arch, looking northwest
- Plate 13 Interior of Eastern Extension, looking east

- Plate 14 Interior of Eastern Extension, looking west
- Plate 15 Interior of Northern Extension, looking north
- Plate 16 Interior of Northern Extension, showing blocked windows, looking south
- Plate 17 Partially demolished mill building, showing retained brick arch, looking northwest
- Plate 18 Timbers, Possible River Revetment, Revealed in Trench, looking north
- Plate 19 Possible Millrace, looking east
- Plate 20 Stripped Area, northern end of site, looking north
- Plate 21 Floor and Wall, northern end of site, looking north
- Plate 22 Millstone found in demolition rubble

1. SUMMARY

A programme of historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief was undertaken prior to and during works associated with flood defence improvements at Morton Corner, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Recording of a building at the site was undertaken prior to and during its demolition. The watching brief monitored the groundworks for new flood defences.

There is some slight evidence for prehistoric activity nearby though the first major use of the area appears to have been in the latter part of the Anglo-Saxon period (9th-11th centuries AD). Coins of this date have been found in the area and nearby Gainsborough was raided at that time. Additionally, a road just north of the investigation site is thought to have been a Saxon military route. Morton is recorded in the Domesday Book of AD 1086 and was a settlement during the medieval period (AD 1066-1540). Morton and Gainsborough formed an important transport and industrial area during later medieval and post-medieval (AD 1540-1850) periods, with numerous mills established in the area. One such mill, thought to date from the 18th century, was located on the site.

Building recording established that the structural complex was of several phases, with the main former mill building, three storeys high, the earliest part and probably later 18th century in origin. Soon after, by 1820, it was extended on the east side. By 1921 this extension had been reduced in size. Additionally, at an unknown date, the mill building was lowered in height and the internal walls and upper floors removed. Many of the windows and doors were subsequently blocked up and a further annexe was constructed, after 1956, on the north side of the building. Reused timbers, perhaps former mill machinery parts, were recorded framing an entry to the mill.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, post-medieval and recent remains and indicated that the river was wider in the past. A timber revetment or river defence of post-medieval date was exposed. Structural remains, perhaps a shed or yard surface, of 19th century date were revealed and the original brick floor of the mill was identified. In addition, a brick arch, possibly the remains of the original millrace, was revealed beneath the present concrete river defences.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Building Recording

Building recording is defined as 'a program of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land or under water.' (IFA 1999a).

2.2 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999b).

2.2 Planning Background

An enquiry was made to Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section regarding flood defence works at Morton Corner, Gainsborough. They advised that further information including desk-based study and buildings appraisal was required to assist their decision making process. This investigation was carried out and, as a consequence, planning permission was

granted subject to conditions for further archaeological recording and monitoring.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Black and Veatch to undertake a programme of building recording and an archaeological watching brief prior to and during works associated with flood defence improvements at the former mill and laundry, Morton Corner, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The investigations were carried out between 20th November 2003 and the 10th February 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Gainsborough is located 25km northwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Morton is approximately 2km north of Gainsborough town centre. The site is at the southwestern corner of Morton, off Front Street and St Paul's Road, at National Grid Reference SK 8065 9141 (Fig. 2).

The site is located on the east bank of the River Trent at approximately 6m OD on fairly flat land, though on a man-made rise formed by the river flood defence bank. As an urban area soils at the site have not been mapped though, on the basis of nearby deposits, are likely to be Romney Association calcareous coarse silty soils on alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 302). These overlie a drift geology of 1st Terrace sand between 0.6m and 4m thick, that in turn seals a solid geology of Keuper Marl (Gozzard and Price 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A single flint implement found a short distance to the north provides a minor indication of prehistoric activity in the area.

Gainsborough is first recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 1013 when a Danish king, Swein, landed at the settlement with a raiding party (Swanton 1997, 143). Late Saxon coins, dating to the 9th century, have been found near Gainsborough and it has been suggested that the route marked by Front Street, just north of the investigation area, was a military highway during the Saxon period (Everson 1993, 95). The place-name Gainsborough is derived from the Old English and means 'Gaegn's fortified place (*burh*)' (Cameron 1998, 49).

Both Gainsborough and Morton are recorded in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Domesday records that Morton was held by the King as sokeland of his manor of Kirton-in-Lindsey (Foster and Longley 1976). Although the historic centre of Gainsborough lies over a kilometre to the south, the medieval core of Morton is located immediately northeast of the investigation area.

Gainsborough was a working port from at least the late 13th century and there was also a ferry from the town across the Trent from the 14th century. The town remained a significant port in the post-medieval period with numerous seed crushing and other mills and warehouses. The building at the site is one such former mill. Believed to have been built about 250 years ago, the mill provided flour for the Crimean War (1854-6).

It has been reputed that the building was the mill that inspired George Eliot's novel *The Mill on the Floss*, first published in 1860. However, detailed research has shown that this is not the case. Eliot herself described the mill as visible from a bridge and on a tributary, not the river itself (Brace nd, 75). However, none of the historic maps of the area dating from 1690 onwards depict a bridge or tributary in any proximity to the site. Other researchers have suggested that the inspiration for Dorlcote Mill in Eliot's novel was drawn from several other mills in Gainsborough and elsewhere, including

Cont's Mill, Mercer's Mill and Ashcroft Mill, all now demolished (Cope-Faulkner and Taylor 2003, 4-5; figs 3-10). The building is located on the flood defence bank of the river. Cartographic evidence indicates there was a northern extension at the northeastern corner of the mill by 1820 and this existed until after 1900 but was removed by 1921. Maps also show that a northwards extension to the middle of the building was created between 1956 and 1973. Additionally, there was a small extension at the northwest corner, recorded on maps from 1887 until 1956 (*ibid.*, figs 7-14).

3. AIMS

The aims of the investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1) were to carry out a programme of building recording and a watching brief prior to and during development. The objectives of the building recording were to fully record the building by photography and interpret the structure and changes to it. The objectives of the watching brief and monitoring of demolition were to: determine the form and function of the archaeological and structural features encountered; determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological and structural features encountered; recover dating evidence from the archaeological and structural features, and establish the sequence of the structural and archaeological remains present on the site (Appendix 1).

4. METHODS

A ground plan of the building to be demolished was produced by tape survey. A thorough photographic record of the structure and its architectural features was also compiled prior to and during demolition. In addition, a written record was produced and architects' plans of the site were annotated.

Initially, the course of the new flood

defence system was stripped and levelled. Thereafter, foundation trenches for the new development were excavated by machine to depths required by the scheme. Where safe to do so, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Building Recording (Figs. 4-5)

Constructed of brick with a concrete floor and pressed, corrugated asbestos roof, the main mill building is approximately 19m by 13m in area, elongated east-west (Plates 2 and 3). The building is trapezoidal in shape, with the northern side slightly, about 2m, longer than the southern. The western side of the building faces the river.

Entry to the main building is by tall, planked double doors toward the eastern end of the north elevation. This entry employs a rolled steel joist (RSJ) as a lintel. Immediately west of this entry is an extension to the north, described below (Plate 4).

West of this extension the northern

elevation continues (Plate 5). There is a brick-filled entry with a rolled steel joist over. Above and at either end of this RSJ is cleaner brick. At the upper storey level are two blocked openings. Above the entry is a tall, narrow former opening. The lower half of this is filled with handmade brick, while the upper part is blocked with machine-made brick. Above this, extending to the eaves, is an area of machine-made brick. Alongside this to the west is a high and wide opening blocked with machine-made brick. Moreover, within this blocking a smaller rectangle of window-dimensions blocked with a different kind of machine-made brick.

In the southern half of the western gable is an opening that extended at least two storeys high, to the current eaves line (Plate 6). The lower part of this appears to be a doorway with timber framing that includes sub-triangular spandrels that provide an archway-like appearance to the entry (Plate 7). Breeze blocks infill this doorway. Above the timber lintel of the door the remainder of the two-storey opening is blocked with machine-made brick.

To the north of this two-storey opening, at ground level, are two openings with segmental brick arches. The lower parts of these, which are both blocked with brick, are obscured by the present concrete river wall.

At first storey level are two further openings, both blocked with machine-made brick. The upper parts of these are obscured by corrugated plastic sheeting that covers over the full angle of the gable (Plate 6).

The south wall has a sequence of five windows at ground floor level and a further row of four on the second storey (Plate 3). The windows in the upper row are generally set above those on the ground floor, except for the fifth, east end, ground level window. With the exception

of this most easterly window, the ground floor windows have segmental arches of brick rubbers; the tops of the second storey windows are at eaves level. All the windows are blocked with brick. Beneath the ground floor windows are two infilled brick arches (Plate 8).

The eastern gable is partially obscured by an extension (see below). However, there is a blocked window with a segmental brick arch at second storey height, and a further blocked window on the third storey. This latter window is truncated by the eaves line (Plate 9).

Internally, the main building is open to the roof. There are two inspection pits set in the concrete floor on the south side of the building. In the northwest corner is a group of three office and storage areas constructed of breeze block (Plate 10). Some parts of the walls are boarded over to a height of about 1m.

In the middle of the eastern wall of the building is a scar of a wall and this continues on the floor, extending westward for almost 3m. Just to the north of this wall scar is a blocked door, also evident in the extension to the east (Plate 11). Immediately south of the wall scar is a straight join. Just west of this, part of a brick arch is visible, the remainder obscured by boards. This is more fully exposed and distinct in the extension to the east (see below).

The southern interior elevation contains blocked windows, as seen on the exterior. Similarly, the internal face of the western wall reveals evidence of the blocked entry noted on the exterior (Plate 10). Additionally, the internal elevation establishes that one of the blocked entries is a door, the other a window. Two blocked windows are also evident in the interior of the northern wall. These windows are also visible in the extension to the north (see below).

At the eastern end of the main building is an approximately triangular extension. There is a straight join at the point where the southern angle of this triangular structure meets the southeast corner of the main building – the triangular extension is cut into the main mill structure. This single storey extension is mostly of handmade brick, though the northern face is in machine-made brick, as is the upper part of the eastern side. It has a corrugated asbestos roof, with skylights of corrugated plastic, and a concrete floor. Entry is via two sets of planked and glazed double doors in the north wall. There is also a door at the northeast corner, where this extension projects slightly north of the main building.

The southern half of this building is divided into two rooms on the west side and a triangular yard to the east. All the internal walls forming these rooms and yard are of machine-made brick. In the northern wall of the yard are two blocked windows with concrete lintels. In the west wall of the southern room are straight joins marking the position of a blocked door. Also in this wall, and extending to the west wall of the room immediately to the north, is an infilled brick arch (Plate 12). This arch is truncated by the straight join of a blocked door. On the interior of the southeastern wall of this extension are two brick plinths/butresses, one in the southern room, the other in the yard.

The northern half of the triangular extension is a single room (Plates 13-14). There is an infilled circular ventilation opening in the northern wall, and another in the west wall.

In the middle of the north wall of the main building, and extending northwards from it, is a rectangular extension, approximately 12.5m x 7m. This single storey building is of machine-made brick with a concrete floor and a flat corrugated asbestos roof. Entry to this section of the complex is via a hung corrugated steel

sliding door in the east wall. Above this entry is a rolled steel joist lintel. The north wall is plain and the west wall contains three large windows and, at the northern end, a door to a toilet. The toilet compartment is located internally at the northwest corner of the building and is defined by breeze block walls (Plate 15).

Within the building, in the middle of the north wall is a plinth/buttress of brick. In the eastern wall, north of the entry, is a small recess. At the southern end of the building are two blocked windows with exterior facings (Plate 16). In the floor of the building, just in from the entry, is a rectangular infilled inspection pit.

When the mill was demolished, a section of the lower walls containing the brick arches was retained (Plate 17).

5.2 Watching Brief

Following post-excavation analysis four phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 4	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

In the deepest recorded parts of the trenches, revealed between 2.2m and 3m depth, was a layer of yellow-brown sand and silt (012). This deposit, which was wet, was over 0.25m thick and was identified as river flood silts.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Beneath the mill building, 0.65m below the floor, was a layer of blackish cinder with ceramic building materials (018).

Over 0.2m thick, this is a dumped deposit. Directly above this was a 0.65m thick layer of yellow-brown silt (017), thought to be a flood deposit.

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

Overlying the natural river silts (012) was a deposit of black organic silt (011) containing brick, stone and wood, including possible poles (Plate 18). This deposit yielded 19th century pottery, a large iron retaining spike of late post-medieval date and a wooden peg. This deposit and materials is thought to be river margin with possible revetment or flood defences. Above this was a 1.6m thick layer of grey-brown silt with rubble, brick, mortar, stone and metal (010), explained as dumped material.

Within the mill building, above the flood silt (017), was a layer of bricks 0.12m thick (016), interpreted as a surface.

Just outside the western side of the mill building part of a brick arch, over 1m high was revealed (022). This is thought to be part of a millrace (Plate 19).

At the northern end of the monitored route (Plate 20), an area of structural remains about 3.5m long by 1.5m wide was exposed (Plate 21). The earliest element of this was a mortared brick wall, aligned east-west (004). This wall formed the southern limit of a layer of brown gravelly silt with crushed brick (003) that contained pottery of 19th century date. This layer provided bedding for a mixed stone and brick surface (002). Partially overlying this floor was a concrete surface (001). Built up against the south side of wall (004) was an area of mixed grey and brown silt with crushed coal, brick rubble, slate and glass (005). This is a dumped deposit.

Approximately 10.7m to the south of the structural remains was a further mortared brick wall (007), also oriented east-west. Developed against the north side of this

was a layer of brown silt with brick rubble (006), thought to be a dumped deposit.

Phase 4 Recent deposits

Partially above the river margin and revetment deposit (011) was a dark grey clay silt (013) that contained rubble and pottery and glass of late 19th-20th century date. This layer is thought to be a former topsoil.

Overlying this former topsoil, and also observed above the concrete surface (001) and dumped deposits (005), (006) at the northern end of the route, were layers of yellow-brown silt up to 0.6m thick (008, 009). Immediately west of the mill building, but only revealed in plan after site stripping, was an extensive layer of comparable yellow-brown silt (020). These deposits are interpreted as subsoils. In a restricted area on the west side of the mill, and apparently overlying subsoil (020), was a deposit of light grey stone and cement (019), considered to be dumped.

Within the mill building, overlying the post-medieval brick surface (016), was a 0.3m thick deposit of red-brown rubble (015) that provided a bedding layer for the present concrete floor of the building (014). Additionally, above the possible post-medieval millrace was the concrete flood defence bank (021). During demolition of the mill building a small millstone was revealed but not retained (Plate 22).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Building Recording

Examination of the building complex has indicated that it comprises three main structural phases, with other periods of alteration.

Forming the nucleus of the complex, the main mill building is the earliest structural

phase evident. Although lacking distinct evidence of date, the building appears to be late 18th to very early 19th century in style and was probably constructed between about 1760-1810. In the eastern gable a third storey window truncated by the eaves indicates that the roof of the building was lowered at some point. Photographic evidence of probable early 20th century date indicates the mill was previously three storeys high with a hipped roof (Cope-Faulkner and Taylor 2003, Plates 2 and 3).

There are three, low-set brick arches, one on the east and two on the southern elevation, all of them infilled. It has previously been suggested that these marked the positions of the millrace and wheels respectively. However, it is uncertain that this is the case and no clear evidence of a millrace was revealed in proximity to these during the watching brief (see below).

Above these arches are windows. These mostly have segmental arches of brick rubbers and set symmetrically, one above another. However, the lower row of windows in the southern elevation has, at its eastern end, an additional opening that is not matched on the upper level and which does not have an arched top. This would seem to indicate that this particular window is a later insertion.

It appears likely that soon after the mill was constructed an extension was built on the east side. Cartographic evidence indicates that this annexe was in existence by 1820 and originally projected further to the north. Historic maps reveal that this building was shortened in the period 1900-1921, at which time it was provided with a new end wall of machine-made brick. Additionally, the change from handmade to machine-made brick part way up the walls reveal that the building was raised. The internal divisions are also of machine-made brick and it is possible that the building was compartmentalized into

rooms at the same time.

Cartographic evidence shows there was a small extension at the northwestern corner of the main mill building between at least 1887-1956. This is no longer extant and there are no obvious scars of its removal in the mill building. However, in the northern elevation of the mill are two blocked entries at second storey level. These are both the full height of the storey and therefore represent doors or similar access points, rather than windows. This, in turn, indicates that the removed annexe was also at least two storeys high. After the annexe was removed the two entries were partially blocked, with smaller openings left as windows.

In the western, river-facing, gable is a large entry that apparently rose to at least two storeys height. The lower part of this entry is framed in timber, all apparently reused. The upper angles of this entry are formed from sub-triangular sections of wood with curved inner edges. These are also clearly re-used, but are of uncertain origin. They may be sections of mill machinery, or possibly parts of barrel/cask stands (Appendix 3).

The window sequence, particularly that in the eastern gable, indicates the mill was at least three storeys high and this is confirmed by photographic evidence. Moreover, these windows denote that the building had upper floors. However, at some point these floors were all removed and the building opened to the roof. The date at which this happened is unknown but may have been when the roof was lowered. A truncated, blocked window in the eastern gable is evidence of this reduction in height, and there are of photographs of probable early 20th century date that show the building as fully three storeys high (Cope-Faulkner and Taylor 2003, Plates 2 and 3).

In addition to the former upper storeys, the ground floor of the building appears to

have previously been divided up into separate rooms, as indicated by a wall scar evident on an interior elevation and the floor.

Many of the doors and windows of the main mill building and the triangular annexe were subsequently blocked and a rectangular extension created on the northern side of the mill, which map evidence shows happened after 1956. It seems likely that the construction of this extension, and the re-flooring of the main building in concrete, with its integral inspection pits, occurred when the complex changed function to a vehicle repair workshop. The final phase of construction appears to have been the creation of a toilet cubical in this extension, and offices in the main mill building, both using breeze block.

6.2 Watching Brief

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprising river silts were revealed at depth. These indicate that the river was previously wider than at present.

Dumped deposits and flood silt were recorded below the mill building, but were undated (Phase 2). The dumped deposits may represent some attempt at bolstering the riverbank. Although undated, the presence of these materials beneath the mill indicates they are earlier than it and thus likely to be no later than the late 18th century.

The indication, provided by the natural silts, that the river was wider in the past is confirmed by the presence of organic river margin deposits and what appears to be a former river defence or revetment of timber (Phase 3).

A brick surface was revealed within the mill building. It is likely that this was the original floor of the mill and therefore contemporary with the superstructure which probably dates to the late 18th-early

19th centuries. Also, just outside the mill to the west, a possible brick-lined millrace was revealed. This is also probably part of the original mill construction. However, it was at the northern side of the building, rather than the south where other brick arches are evident in the above-ground walls of the mill. This might suggest, therefore, that this leat was to inlet river water at high tide. It has previously been suggested that the mill operated by allowing the fields to the east to be flooded at high tide and then letting the water to pass through the millrace back into the river at low tide (Cope-Faulkner and Taylor 2003, 3).

Structural remains revealed at the northern end of the monitored area consist of a wall and associated cobble and brick surface. The wall is probably too thin to be part of a house or other substantial building, but the features could be part of a floored shed, or perhaps yard. A further wall about 10m to the south is perhaps a yard or garden boundary. Historic maps record buildings in this area from as early as 1887 (*ibid.*).

Recent deposits include a former topsoil of 19th-20th century date (Phase 4). This indicates ground stabilisation and soil development over the post-medieval revetment and river margin. Burying this topsoil, and observed extensively throughout the monitored area, were thick deposits of fairly clean silts. These were interpreted as subsoils but could be dredged and dumped materials to bolster the riverbank. A localised dumped deposit, recorded by the southwestern corner of the mill, may be related to the building or the existing concrete river defence wall. The current surface of the mill building, and its bedding, were also recorded.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological investigation involving building recording

and a watching brief was undertaken at the riverside and former garage, Morton Corner, Lincolnshire. These works were required as the site lay close to the medieval core of the hamlet and was occupied by a historic building.

Building recording indicated that the structure was probably originally 18th century in date but had been much changed. These alterations included the lowering of the roof, removals of internal upper storeys, re-flooring, and the blocking of doors and windows. Additionally, two extensions had been made to the building, one by 1820, the other after 1956. The earlier extension was subsequently shortened and a new wall erected, a process recorded by cartographic evidence as having occurred between 1900-1921.

The watching brief identified natural, undated, post-medieval and recent deposits and established that the river was previously wider than at present and had apparently been restrained by a timber revetment or system of flood defence by the 19th century. Structural remains of 19th century date, perhaps a shed and garden wall, were recorded at the northern end of the monitored area. Evidence for the original floor, and subsequent re-surfacing, of the mill building was also identified, together with a possible millrace. Organic remains, including the timber revetment/river defence, were preserved at depth due to waterlogging.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
DoE	Department of the Environment
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England

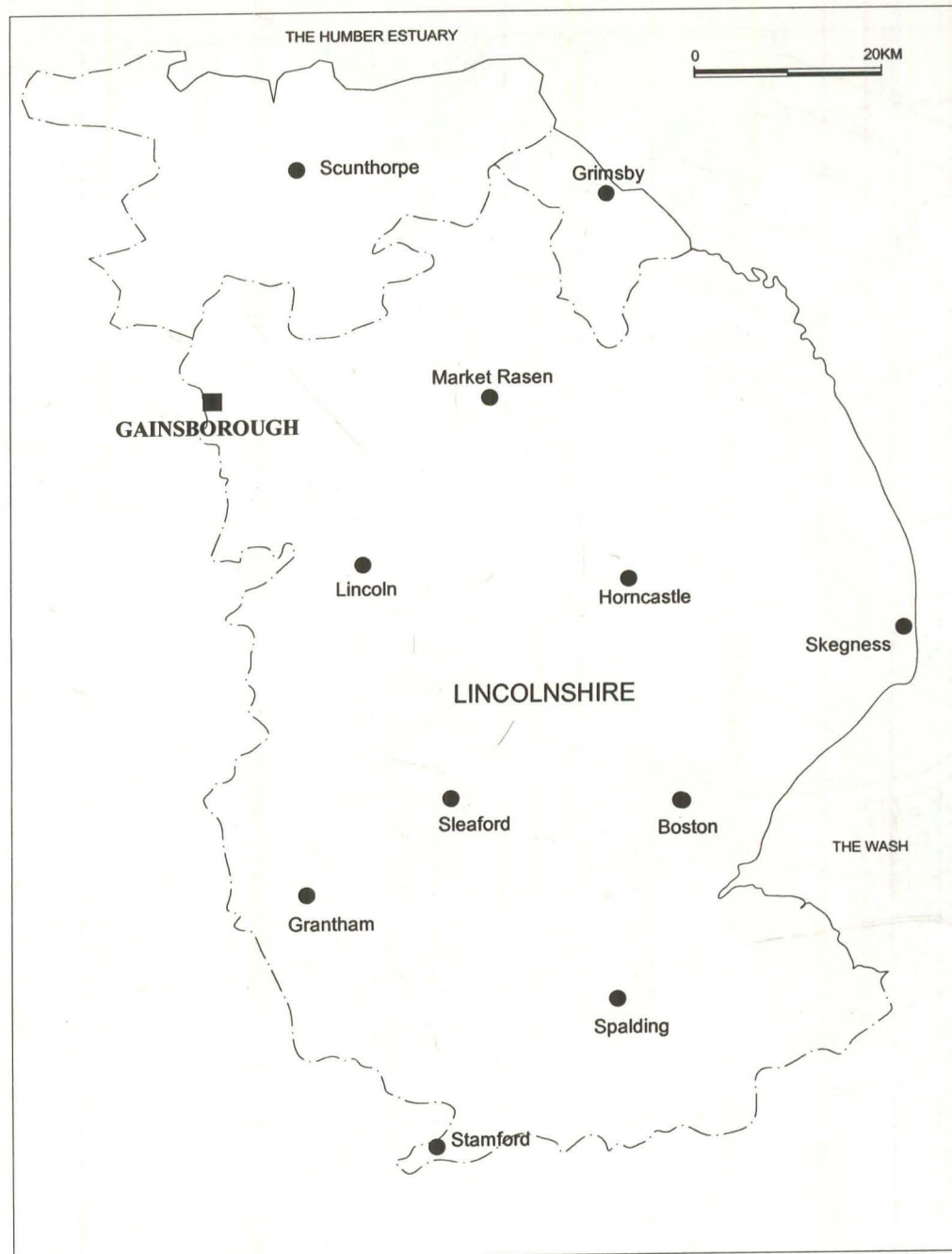
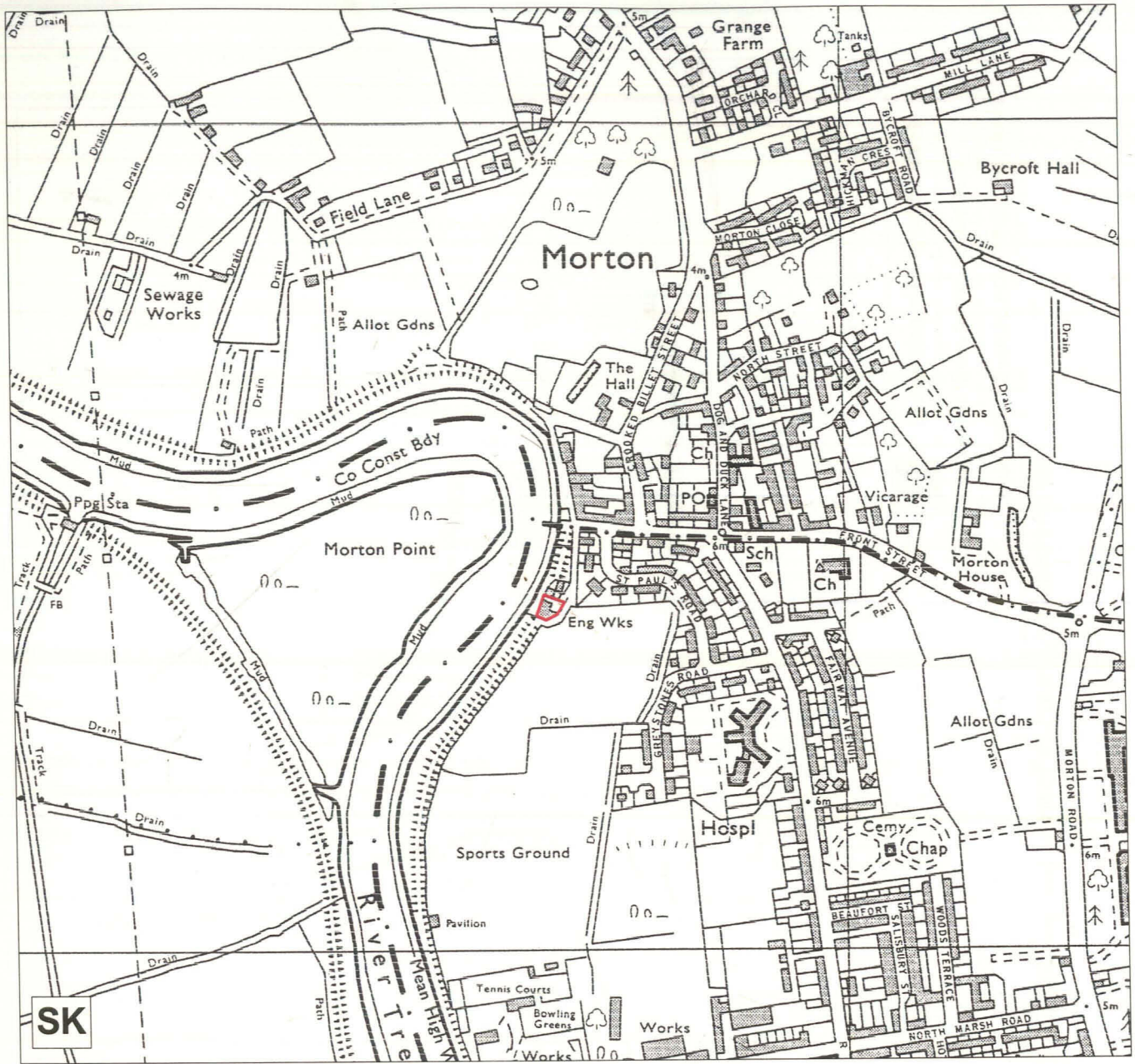
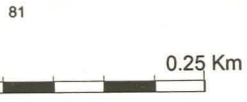


Figure 1 - General location plan



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Key
 Area of investigation

Figure 2 - Site location plan

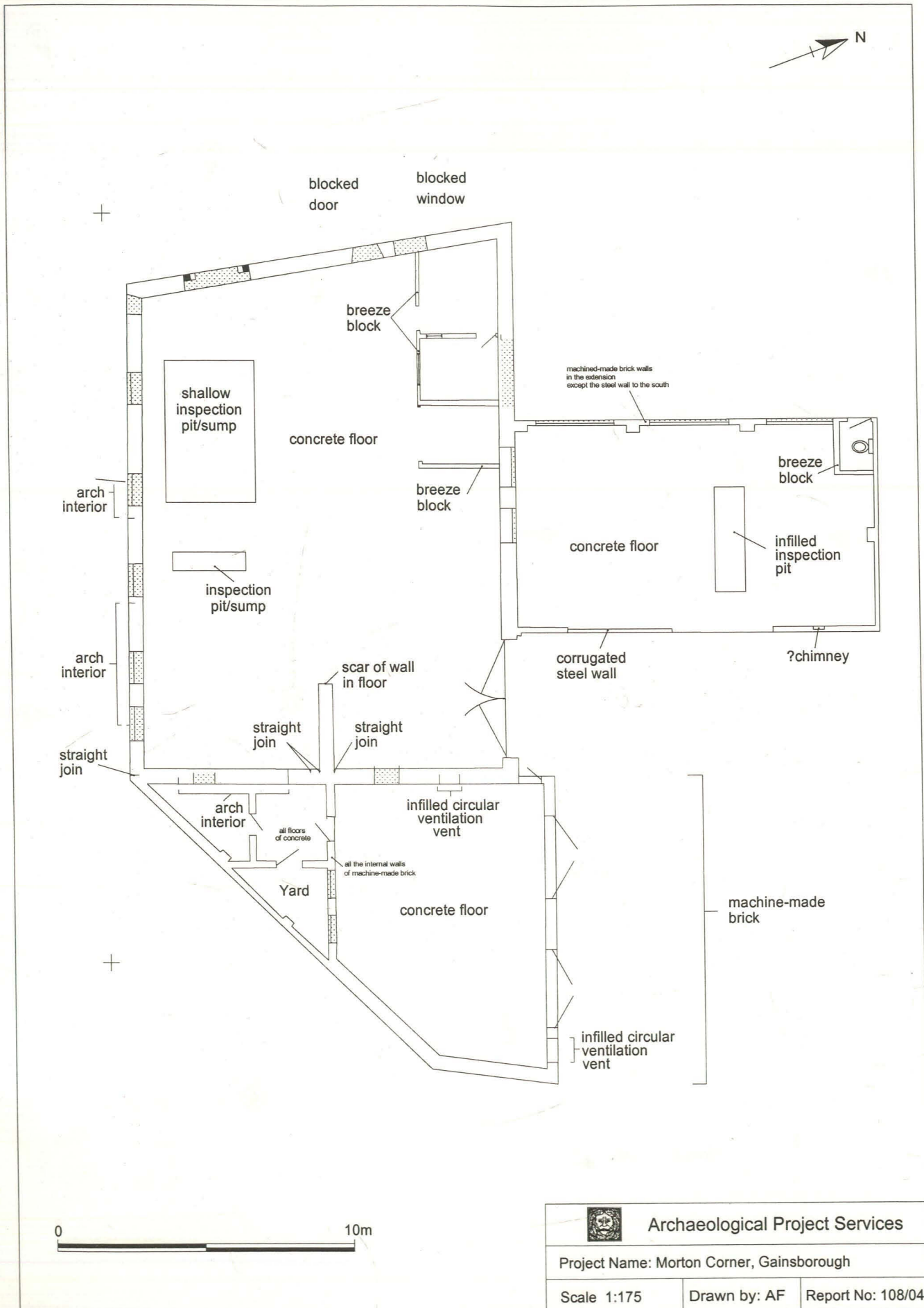


Figure 4 - Detailed plan of the former mill

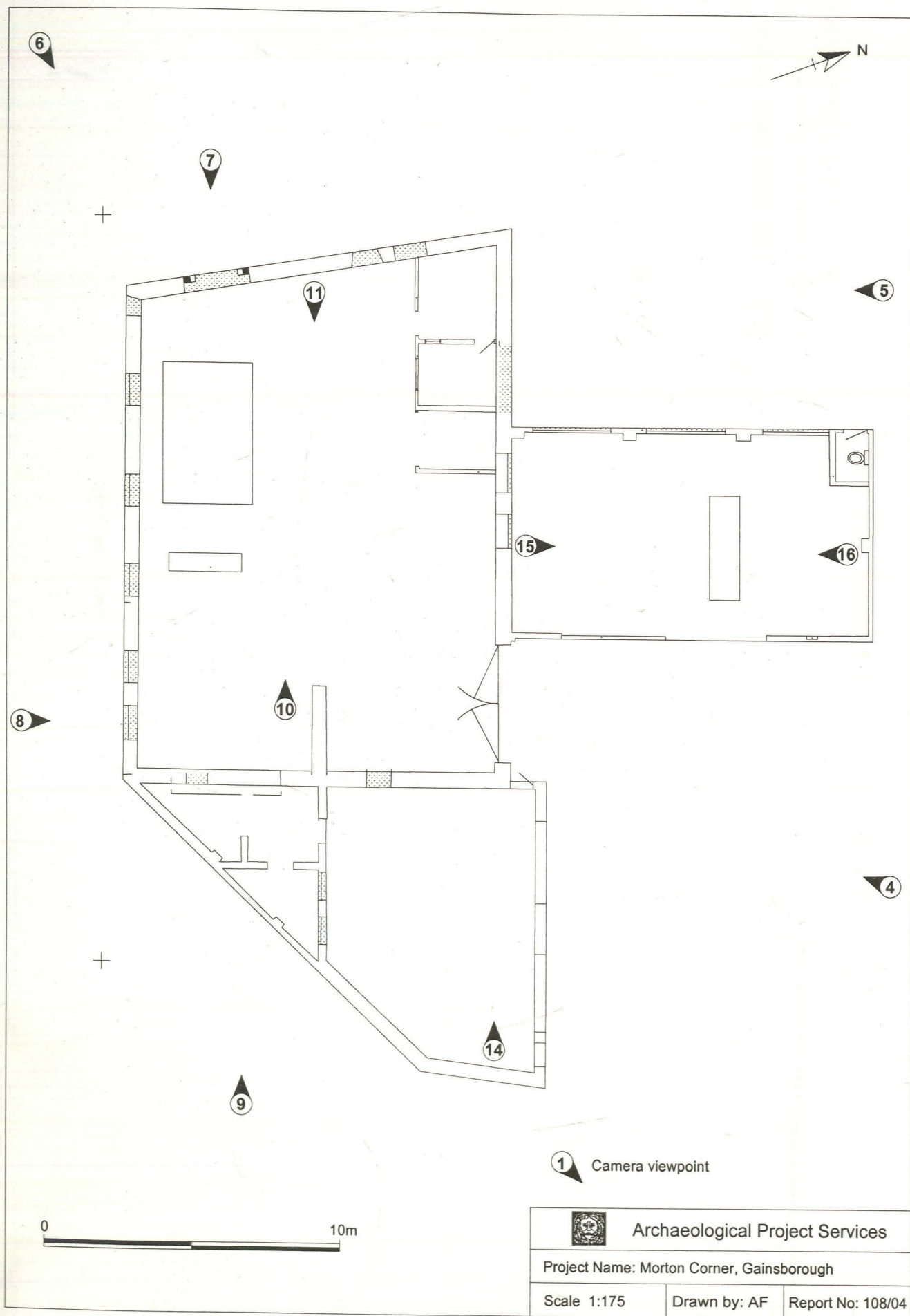


Figure 5 - View points of plates

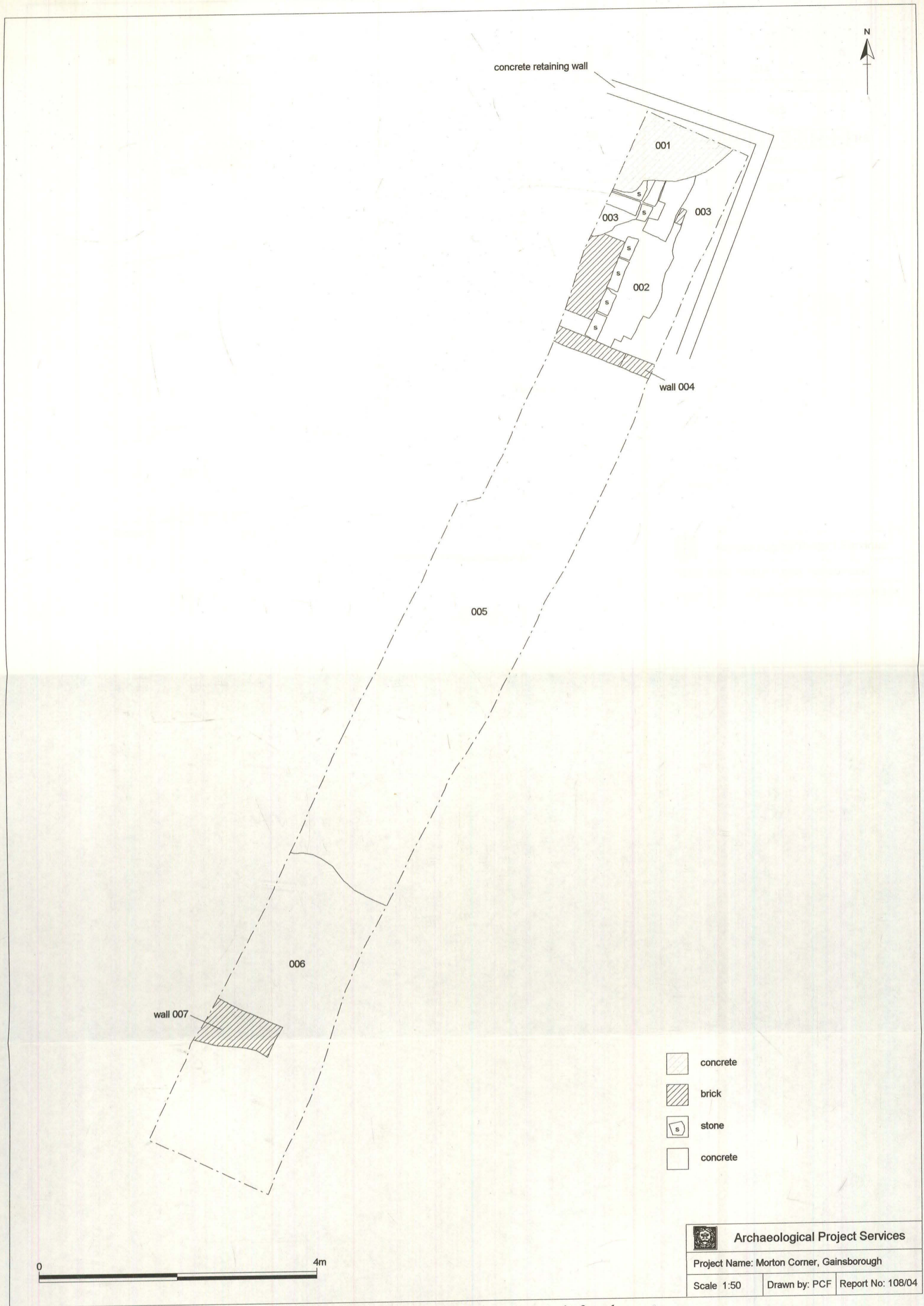
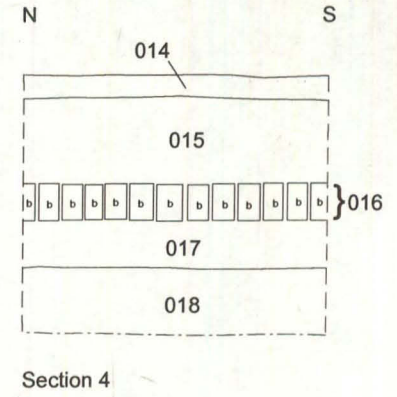
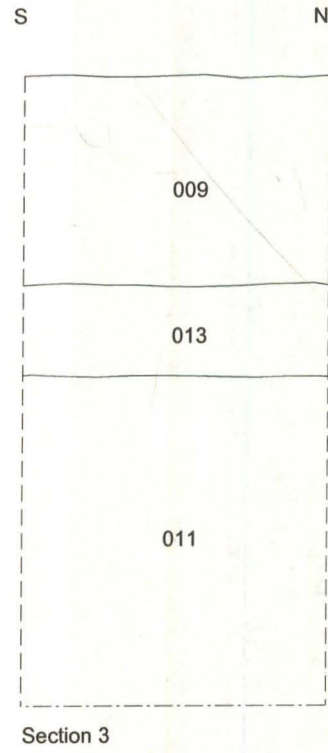
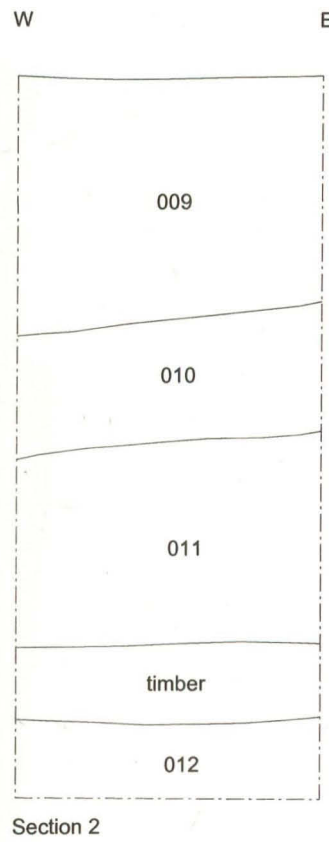
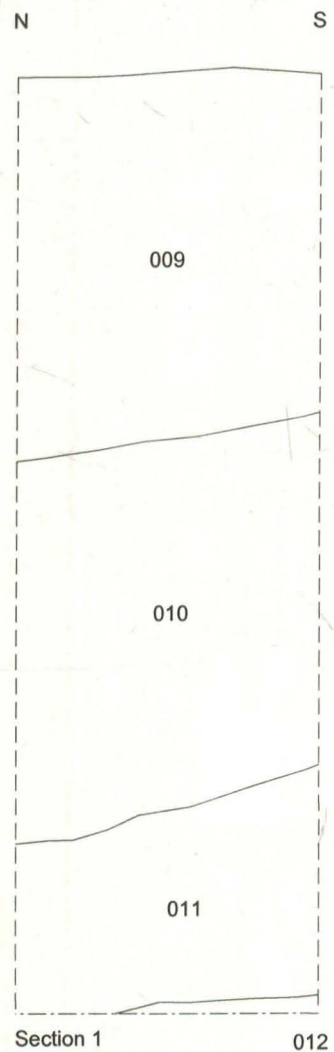


Figure 6 - Plan of features at northern end of works



b brick




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Morton Corner, Gainsborough		
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 108/04

Figure 7 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 General Site View, looking south towards former mill



Plate 2 General View, north side of former mill, looking southwest

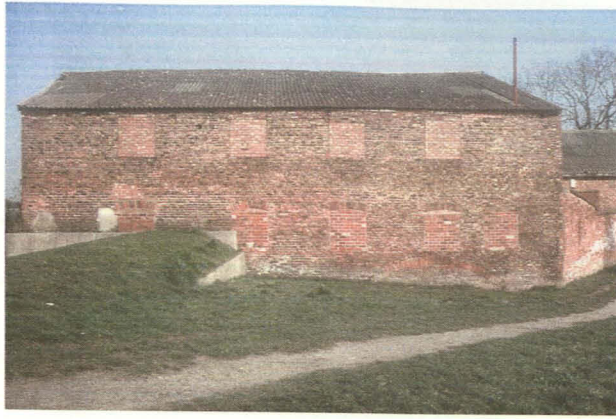


Plate 3 South Side of Former Mill, showing blocked windows, looking north



Plate 4 North Side of Former Mill, showing main entry and extension, looking southwest

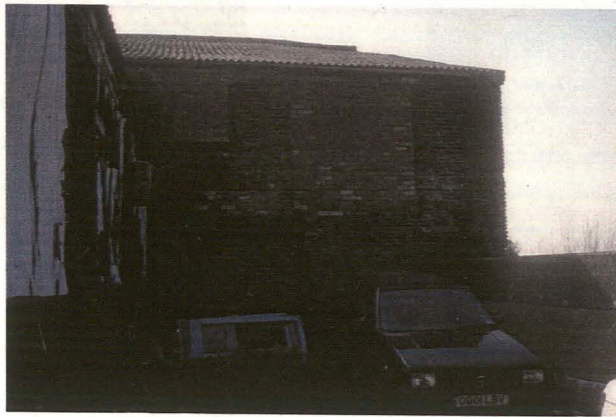


Plate 5 North Side of Former Mill, western end showing blocked entries, looking south



Plate 6 West Side of Former Mill, showing blocked entries, looking northeast



Plate 7 Detail, blocked door, west side of building, looking east



Plate 8 Detail, blocked windows toward eastern end of south side of mill, looking north

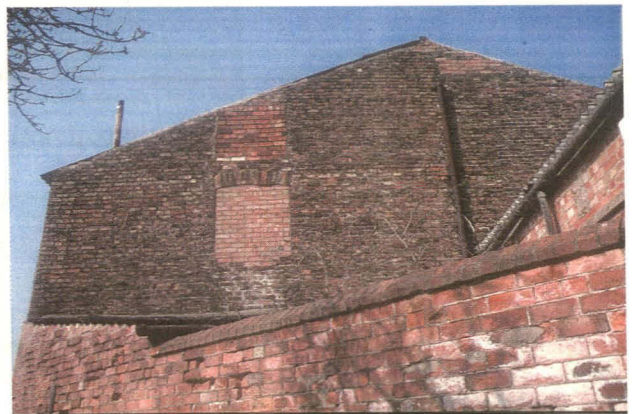


Plate 9 East Side of Former Mill, showing blocked and truncated windows, looking west



Plate 10 Interior Main Mill Building, west end, showing offices and blocked entries, looking west



Plate 11 Interior Main Mill Building, east end, showing blocked entries, looking east



Plate 12 Detail, truncated brick arch, looking northwest



Plate 13 Interior of Eastern Extension, looking east



Plate 14 Interior of Eastern Extension, looking west



Plate 15 Interior of Northern Extension, looking north

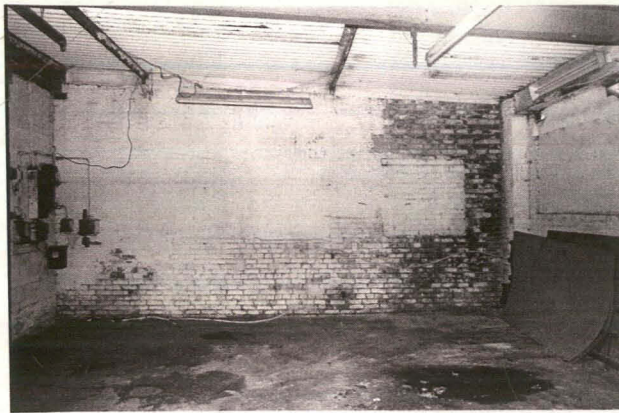


Plate 16 Interior of Northern Extension, showing blocked windows, looking south



Plate 17 Partially demolished mill building, showing retained brick arch, looking northwest

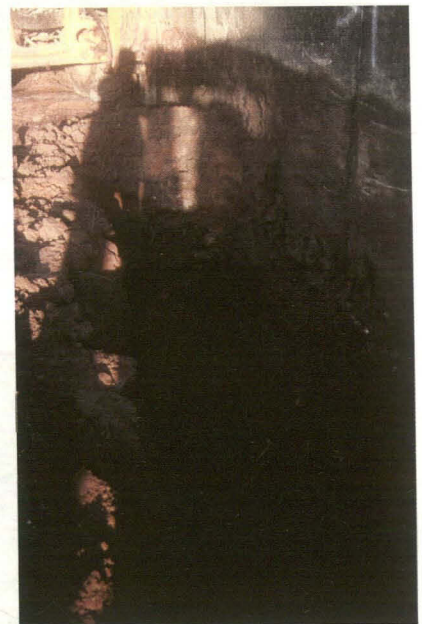


Plate 18 Timbers, Possible River Revetment, Revealed in Trench, looking north



Plate 19 Possible Millrace, looking east



Plate 20 Stripped Area, northern end of site, looking north



Plate 21 Floor and Wall, northern end of site, looking north



Plate 22 Millstone found in demolition rubble

Appendix 1

LAND AT MORTON CORNER, GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND BUILDING RECORDING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of building recording and a watching brief is required prior to and during development on land at Morton Corner, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, containing a post-medieval mill building.*
- 1.3 *The building recording will be undertaken prior to demolition of the mill and involves a photographic survey of the structure and its features, related to an accurate plan of the building.*
- 1.4 *Monitoring will also occur during demolition of the structure in order to record any items of archaeological/historic interest revealed by the works.*
- 1.5 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.6 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for a programme of building recording and an archaeological watching brief prior to and during development at Morton Corner, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Gainsborough is located 25km northwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. Morton is approximately 2km north of Gainsborough town centre, on the east bank of the River Trent. The site is at the southwestern corner of Morton, off Front Street and St Paul's Road, at national grid reference SK 8065 9141.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An enquiry was made to Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section regarding flood defence works at Morton Corner, Gainsborough. They advised that further information including desk-based study and buildings appraisal was required to assist their decision making process. This investigation was carried out and, as a consequence, planning permission was granted subject to conditions for further archaeological recording and monitoring.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is located on the east bank of the River Trent at approximately 6m OD on fairly flat land, though on a man-made rise formed by the river flood defence bank. As an urban area soils at the site have not been mapped though, on the basis of nearby deposits, are likely to be Romney Association calcareous coarse silty soils on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 302).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Gainsborough was a significant port in the post-medieval period with numerous seed crushing and other mills

and warehouses. The site is one such former mill, and is believed to have been built about 250 years ago. It has been reputed to be the mill that inspired George Eliot's novel *The Mill on the Floss*, first published in 1860. However, detailed research has shown that this is not the case (Archaeological Project Services 2003). There is some limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity and the site is a short distance from the medieval core of Morton village (*ibid.*). The building is located on the flood defence bank of the river.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the building recording will be:
 - 7.1.1 To provide a record of and interpret the standing building and its features prior to demolition.
- 7.2 The objectives of the building recording will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Fully record by photography the building and to correlate the photographs with an accurate plan of the structure.
 - 7.2.2 Ensure that all features and alterations to the building are fully recorded by photography and interpreted.
- 7.3 The aims of the watching brief and monitoring of demolition will be:
 - 7.3.1 To record and interpret any structural or archaeological features exposed during the development work involving demolition of the building and excavations or other ground disturbance.
- 7.4 The objectives of the watching brief and monitoring of demolition will be to:
 - 7.4.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological and structural features encountered;
 - 7.4.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological and structural features encountered;
 - 7.4.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological and structural features, and
 - 7.4.4 Establish the sequence of the structural and archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - 8.1.3 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.
- 8.2 Methodology
 - 8.2.1 The building recording will be undertaken prior to the demolition of the structure. An archaeologist will photograph the building exteriors and, where safe to do so, interiors, together with any architectural or decorative detail using 35mm cameras fitted with 28-70mm lenses. The photographs will be related to plans of the buildings and will be accompanied by written records. The recording will largely correspond to a Level 1 survey according to Royal Commission guidelines (RCHME 1996).
 - 8.2.2 The watching brief and monitoring will be undertaken during the demolition of the buildings and also the groundwork phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - 8.2.3 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - 8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - 8.2.5 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.5.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

8.2.5.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.6 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-FIELDWORK

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigations will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming 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 and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the 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.

9.2 Stage 2

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

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

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation (combining the building recording, monitoring and watching brief) will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation site, with reference to previous desk-based study of the area.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the building recording and watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the results of the building recording and the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation results.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the building and archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the building and the archaeological remains exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the building, its features, the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; West Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval date; *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Industrial Archaeology Review* for finds of post-medieval or industrial significance.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The building recording will be undertaken prior to demolition of the building and will take one day. A supervisor with experience of buildings recording will carry out the work.
- 15.2 The watching brief and monitoring during demolition of the building will be integrated with the programme of development and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.3 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake this aspect of the work.
- 15.4 Post-fieldwork analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 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.

Task

Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

WATCHING BRIEF AND BUILDING SURVEY AT MORTON CORNER, GAINSBOROUGH

Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	Anglo-Saxon-later - J Young, Independent Specialist J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 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.
- 18.4 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.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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RCHME, 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings, A Descriptive Specification* (3rd ed)

Specification: Version 1, 22-08-03

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Solid grey concrete, 1.28m E-W by 1.2m N-S, up to 0.2m thick	Surface
002	Mixed stone and brick surface, 2.7m N-S, 1.3m E-W, 0.2m thick	Floor/surface
003	Loose brown sandy silt and gravel with frequent crushed brick	Bedding layer for (002)
004	E-W mortared brick wall, >1.5m long, half-brick wide	Wall
005	Mixed dark grey with mid brown patches of silts, crushed coal, clay and sand, with frequent brick rubble and moderate slate and glass	Dumped deposit
006	Light brown silt with moderate brick rubble	Made ground/dumped deposit
007	E-W mortared brick, >1m long, up to 0.7m wide	Foundation?
008	Soft yellow sandy silt, up to 0.2m thick	Subsoil
009	Soft brown silt with occasional sub-rounded stone, pebbles and brick, c. 0.6m thick	Subsoil
010	Soft grey and brown silt and rubble with brick, mortar, stone and metal, c. 1.6m thick	Dumped deposit/made ground
011	Blackish grey organic silt with moderate brick and stone and occasional wood, including possible poles, c. 1m thick	River margin and possible revetment
012	Yellowish-brown sand and silt, >0.25m thick, wet	Flood silts
013	Dark grey clay silt with moderate brick rubble and pottery, 0.3m thick	Buried topsoil
014	Solid light grey concrete, 75mm thick	Concrete floor of mill
015	Mixed red and brown rubble, 0.3m thick	Bedding layer for (014)
016	Red brick surface, 0.12m thick	Floor/surface
017	Light yellow-brown silt, 0.65m thick	Flood silt
018	Blackish grey cinder with occasional CBM, >0.22m thick	Dumped deposit
019	Light yellowish grey stone and cement with occasional brown silt and grey ash	Dumped deposit/made ground
020	Yellow-brown silt with sand and occasional CBM, stone and ash	Dumped deposit
021	Concrete wall	River defence wall
022	Brick arch, >1m high	Possible millrace

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

Appendix 3

THE FINDS
by 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. Seven fragments of pottery weighing a total of 128g were recovered from three separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other items, metal, glass and wood, comprising 5 objects weighing 1874g (excluding the two large pieces of wood) were collected. No faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from the fill of a pit (005).

The pottery was made in Staffordshire. The glass, although a Yorkshire product, had contents manufactured locally in Gainsborough.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, basin/bowl, 19 th century	2 (link)	7	19 th century
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, handle, 19 th century	1	10	
011	PORC	Hard paste porcelain, gilded, saucer	1	15	19 th century
013	LPM	Cornish ware, bowl, 20 th century	1	63	20 th century
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	24	
	UGE	Plant pot, 19 th -20 th century	1	9	

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
011	Wood	Peg, 187mm long, 28mm max width, point 25mm long	1	75	Late post-medieval
	Iron	Retaining spike, 455mm long, circular section 21mm wide, chisel point, late post-medieval	1	1234	
013	Glass	Codd bottle, embossed	1	565	After 1880
unstrat	Wood	Approx triangular segments of timber, points removed, one side concave; short sides 0.41m long, long, curved side 0.73m long, max width 0.25m, thickness 0.105m; one piece has 40mm diameter circular drilled hole through thickness; concave sides of both appears very smooth/worn	2	-	Post-medieval

The peg from (011) is of round wood that has been sawn down its sides to give faceted faces in the lower half. The point is a flat-ended, 4-sided pyramid, apparently produced by sawing. The nature of the preservation of the wood, and its manufacture by sawing, rather than by chisel, suggest it is fairly recent, probably no older than the 18th century.

WATCHING BRIEF AND BUILDING SURVEY AT MORTON CORNER, GAINSBOROUGH

The unstratified pieces of timber had been reused as spandrels in doorway, but were possibly parts of mill machinery/fittings originally. An alternative use may have been as parts of stands or supports for barrels or casks. These were not retained.

A complete glass bottle was recovered from (013). This is a Codd bottle and is embossed with both manufacturers' and trade markings. On the rear of the bottle is the legend:

PATENT SAFE GROOVE

4

SOLE MAKERS
DAN RYLANDS L^D
BARNSELY

This bottle design was patented by Hiram Codd in 1870 and were made by Ben Rylands in Barnsley by 1874. Dan Rylands took over from his father Ben in 1881 (Ashurst nd, 89).

On the front of the bottle is:

JOHN DAVIES
TRADE MARK
REGISTERED
PURE
AERATED WATERS
GAINSBORO

and a scene of two birds, storks or similar, in water.

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 previous archaeological investigations at Gainsborough that are the subjects of reports. Moreover, there has been previous study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the site and its vicinity. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small collection of late post-medieval and early modern artefacts is of limited local potential and significance but does suggest habitation of the 19th-20th century at the site or in the immediate proximity.

The lack of any material earlier than about the 18th 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.

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Context	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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Rubber	Soft brick that can be sawn and rubbed to the required shape, used for making arches.
Segmental heads/arches	Arch with its centre below the springing-line, thereby forming a very gentle arc compared to the width of the opening it spans.
Spandrel	Short timber brace placed diagonally between the upright and horizontal supporting timbers.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

22	Context records
11	Daily Record Sheets
6	Sheets of annotated designer's plans
11	Sheets of scale drawings
3	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
2	Bags of finds

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: 2003.82

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: GMC 03

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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