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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE REAR OF
17/18 ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE,
STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 0319 0702

Site Code: GSST10

Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.45

Planning References: S09/0946/LB & S09/0949/FULL

PREPARED FOR MR. DAVID TODD

By

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with a contribution by Jane Young

May 2011

List of Contents:

- Summary
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Site Location and Description
- 3. Planning Background
- 4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring
- 5. Archaeological and Historical Background
- 6. Methodology
- 7. Results
 - 7.1 The Garage/Garden Store at the Rear of 18 St George's Square
 - 7.2 The Service Trenches at the Rear of 17 St George's Square
- 8. Discussion and Conclusions
- 9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating
- 10. Acknowledgments
- 11. Bibliography

List of Figures:

- Figure 1:** Extract from the Third Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1930 showing the location of the development site outlined in red, the converted building to residential dwelling in yellow and the location of the proposed new garage/garden store in blue.
- Figure 2:** Site location at an original scale of 1:1,250 showing the existing buildings on the site (extract from Architects plan).
- Figure 3:** Plan of the Monitored Foundations of the Garage/Garden Store & the location of **Sections 1-4** at a scale of 1:50 & of **Section 1** at a scale of 1:40.
- Figure 4:** **Sections 2-4** at a scale of 1:40.
- Figure 5:** Plan of the Location of the Monitored Garage/Garden Store & the Location of the Service Trenches at the Rear of 17, St. George's Square at a scale of 1:200 & of **Sections 5-6** at a scale of 1:20.

Appendices

- Appendix 1:** Plates
- Appendix 2:** List of Contexts

Appendix 3: The Pottery Archive & Stone Tile Archive by Jane Young

Appendix 4: The Archive

Appendix 5: Photographic Register

Appendix 6: OASIS Summary Sheet

Appendix 7: Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Summary

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new garage/garden store at the rear of 18 St. George's Square and of the excavation of service trenches to the south of an existing building (converted to residential usage) at the rear of 17 St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire was carried out by Marc Berger on the 30th of September and the 1st of October and by Neville Hall MIFA on the 14th of December 2010 respectively.

The archaeological monitoring of the garage/garden store revealed at least six undated clay extraction pits, which had all been cut into a natural horizon of alluvial clays. The backfills of these pits were overlain by a number of undated dump deposits. These deposits had probably been laid down in order to build up contemporary ground levels, possibly acting as flood alleviation measures as this site is situated to the immediate north of the River Welland. The date of this process is uncertain, though it is possible to speculate that it may be post-medieval in date following the demolition of the medieval town wall, the line of which extends along the southern site boundary. The dump deposits were characterised by their loose and unconsolidated nature and by the fact that they contained building demolition material, including angular limestone fragments in their make-ups. Several contained burnt material comprising burnt soil, ash and clinker. Unfortunately, none of these deposits yielded any datable finds.

These dump deposits were below a modern made ground deposit and a modern topsoil; the former of which yielded two residual sherds of 10th–mid 11th century pottery, one residual sherd of 18th century date, and six sherds of 19th–20th century origin.

The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of two service trenches to the south of an existing building (converted to residential use) identified two undated made ground deposits below a succession of compacted yard surfaces. These made ground deposits were similar to the dump deposits encountered in the first monitored area in terms of their lack of compaction and composition and are similarly interpreted as further evidence of flood alleviation. Unfortunately these deposits similarly did not yield any datable finds.

The line of the medieval town wall, (which follows the line of the southern boundary of the site) was not detected during the excavation of the second service trench to the gated entrance at Wharf Road.

1. Introduction

Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by David Todd on behalf of his clients to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new garage/garden store at the rear of 18, St. George's Square and of the external groundworks pertaining to the conversion of an existing building for residential usage at the rear of 17, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 0319 0702. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 30th of September, the 1st of October and on the 14th of December 2010.

The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by South Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and acting on the advice of Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the LPA. This is in accordance with the principles established in *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Jenny Young of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of South Kesteven District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

The development site to the rear of 17/18 St. George's Square is located within the historic core of the town of Stamford, at National Grid Reference TF 0319 0702, and at a height of approximately 29mAOD. The town of Stamford is located approximately 18km to the north-west of Peterborough, at the lowest crossing point of the River Welland where the flood plain of the river is at its narrowest [Figures 1 and 2].

The development site is located on undulating uplands of the Jurassic limestone escarpment that traverses Lincolnshire from south to north and to the immediate north of the River Welland. The development site is also situated on shallow and well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 3 Series that have in turn developed on limestones of the Middle Jurassic [BGS, 1978; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

Two planning applications for the proposed conversion of an existing building to residential accommodation at 17 St George's Square, Stamford (Planning reference: S09/0946/LB and a second for the proposed construction of a new garage/garden room at 18 St. George's Square, Stamford (Planning reference S09/0949/FULL) have been submitted to and granted consent by South Kesteven District, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, as the proposed development is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area, an archaeological condition was attached to these consents which stated that:

No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during construction work in accordance with written details which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event of important archaeological features or remains being discovered which are beyond the scope of the watching brief to

excavate and record and which require a fuller rescue excavation, then construction work shall cease until the applicant has secured the implementation of a further programme of

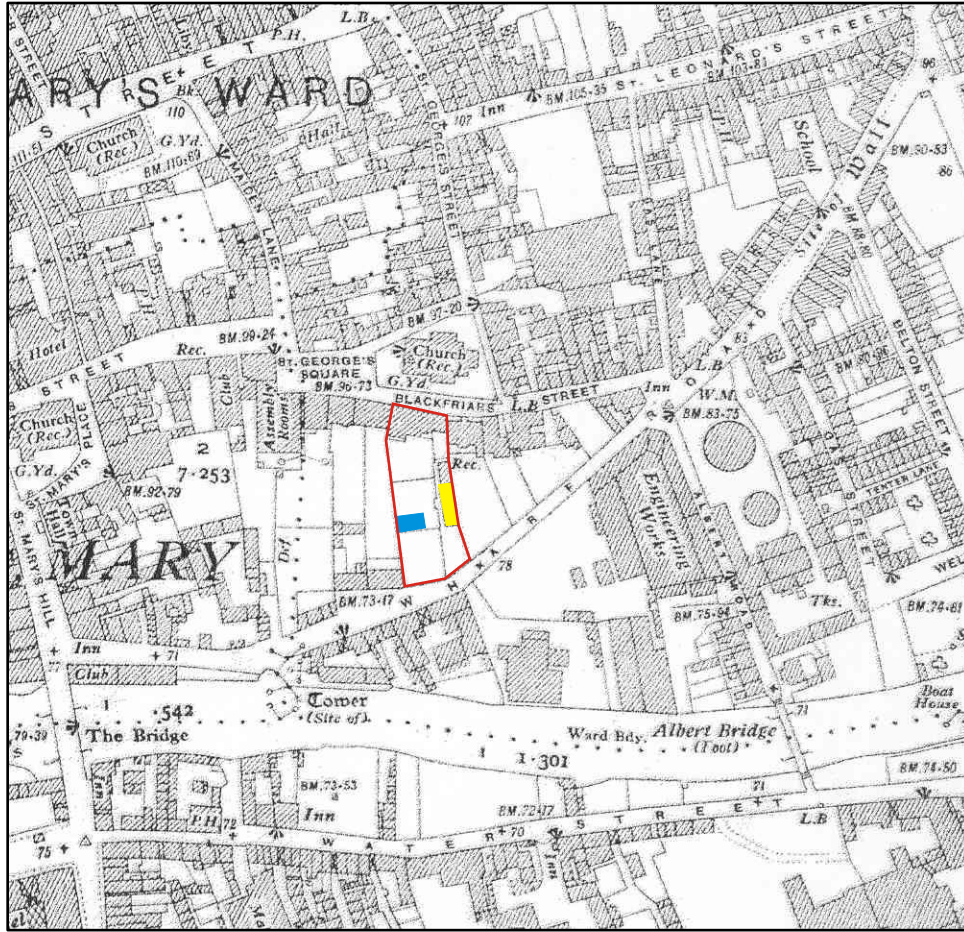


Figure 1: Extract from the Third Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1930 showing the location of the development site outlined in red, the converted building to residential dwelling in yellow and the location of the proposed new garage/garden store in blue (Crown Copyright reserved)

archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

A specification or a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the groundworks stage of development at the site was submitted to and approved by Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site works.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the erection of a new garage/garden store at the rear of 18 St. George's Square and of groundworks external to an existing building converted to residential usage at the rear of 17 St George's Square.



Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:1,250 showing the existing buildings on the site (extract from Architects plan)

The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site;

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered; and

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

As the development site is situated within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Stamford, the specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits and finds associated with these settlements. The development site is situated towards the rear of medieval burgage plots, so typical features such as pits, ditches etc. were expected to be encountered on this site.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 100m radius of the centre of the development site.

There is no evidence for prehistoric activity in Stamford. The Roman settlement at Casterton is two miles to the north of Stamford, with little evidence of Roman settlement in Stamford itself [RCHME, 1977].

In the 9th century Stamford became an important Anglo-Scandinavian centre. The Danish burh/settlement was established to the north of the Welland after AD877. The Danish occupation of Stamford lasted for approximately 40 years and was situated to the immediate north of St George's Square with the eastern boundary being formed by the present St George's Street [Sawyer, 1998; Lloyd, 1983].

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in AD918 Stamford was won back from the Danes by King Edward the Elder who established a settlement (or the Saxon *burh*) to the south of the Welland (now St Martins) and possibly built the first bridge over this river. By the late 10th century Stamford or *Steanforda* (AD922), *Stanford* (AD 944), *Stanforda* (c.AD1000) was one of the five boroughs or *burhs* of the Danelaw and had a market and a mint (from the time of King Athelstan) [RCHME, 1977; Sawyer, 1998; Lloyd, 1983; Cameron, 1998; Ekwall, 1991].

By the Domesday Survey of AD1086, Stamford or the 'stony ford' (i.e. over the River Welland) was referred to as 'the King's borough' and had at least four churches, a market and a fair. The Welland was navigable as far as the town, which provided important contact with the North Sea ports. Shortly after the Norman Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was constructed to the west of Mallory Lane. The medieval settlement expanded on the basis of the Danish and Saxon burhs and its boundaries were probably formalised by the construction of a curtain wall around the town in the early 13th century. In the early medieval period, cloth manufacture, iron working and pottery manufacture became important local activities. Stamford ware pottery was traded and known throughout eastern England and the Midlands [RCHME, 1977; Sawyer, 1998; Lloyd, 1983].

By the late medieval period there were fourteen churches, two Benedictine houses, four friaries and one hospital. By the 15th century, the woollen and cloth trades had deserted Stamford for East Anglia, and the subsequent decline in the towns' prosperity led to an amalgamation of a number of parishes in the town. The town was sacked by the Lancastrian army in 1461 [*ibid*].

The architectural character of the present town is of late 17th and 18th century origin with stone built houses and cottages, though with earlier medieval undercrofts and fabric behind later facades [*ibid*].

Dominating St George's Square is the Grade I listed church dedicated to St. George (HER 30603). This church has a 13th century foundation and underwent much alteration in the mid 14th century. There are two, three bay arcades which are Early English and which were heightened in the 14th century. The remainder of the church fabric is of the Perpendicular style of church architecture with the exception of the West Tower which is Decorated. The upper stage of the tower dates from the late 17th–early 18th centuries. There would have been a triangular shaped burial ground around the church. The earliest documentary reference to this church is from AD1199. A large hoard of 15th century coins were found at the eastern end of the church in 1866 (HER 30690). The site of the medieval parsonage to this church lay within the aforementioned churchyard (HER 30664) to the north of the present church and to the west of St George's Street.

The site of the medieval parsonage to St Mary's Church is situated to the west of St George's Square (HER 30647). A possible medieval culvert was found in a service trench outside No. 25 St Mary Street in 1979 (HER 30711). Four medieval stone piers were found in Maiden Lane in 1966 (HER 30754).

The line of Wharf Road as its name implies would suggest that there was a riverside wharf here. This is evidenced by the site of the Water Gate (HER 30634) close to the intersection of Wharf Road with Blackfriars Street, and one of the entrances into the medieval walled town from the south. The line of the south wall of the medieval town (which corresponds to the southern boundary of 17/18 St George's Square) is situated to the immediate north of the line of Wharf Road. There is the site of a bastion at the intersection of Wharf Road and Blackfriars Street and a gate at the western intersection of Wharf Road with St. Mary's Hill.

Several previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the vicinity of the development site. To the west a watching brief was carried out in 2001 on a site at the intersection of Wharf Road and Blackfriars Street (HER 35347, ELI1838). This identified undated industrial archaeological activity comprising two floor surfaces and deposits of ash, slag and cinder. To the south of this site and to the south of Wharf Road, an evaluation in 2003 located Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement activity comprising postholes, pits and ditches dating between the 9th and 14th centuries along with some suggested nearby medieval industrial activity represented by finds of iron slag from metalworking (HER 36476, ELI 4368). A prior evaluation on this site in 2000 and this 2003 evaluation also revealed the site of the 19th century Blashfield Terracotta factory (HER 30744).

The area that encompasses St George's Square lies within a much larger Conservation Area. St George's Square itself has been a residential area since at least the 18th century. No. 17 St George's Square is a Grade II listed cottage that incorporates a 13th century buttress, a string course and half of a semi-circular shaped arch in its east wall within its fabric (HER 38651). The neighbouring house at No. 18 is also Grade II listed and dates from the mid 18th century (HER 37217).

A number of other Grade II listed buildings are located on the Square. This includes two 18th century cottages at Nos. 2-4 (HER 37215); an early 19th century outbuilding to No. 12 (HER 37216); an 18th century house at No. 20 (HER 37218); an early 18th century house at No. 21 (HER 37219); three early 19th century houses at Nos. 5-7 (HER 37872); three further early 19th century houses at Nos. 10-12 (HER 37873); St George's Rectory at No. 16, dated to 1888 (HER 38267); an early 18th century cottage at No. 9 (HER 38608) and an 18th century house at No. 1 (HER 38880). There are also several additional Grade II* listed buildings in the Square comprising the Assembly Rooms at No. 22, dating to 1727 (HER 38760), two houses at Nos. 14 and 15 that incorporate medieval masonry in their fabric (HER 38609) and a 17th century house at No. 19 (HER 37874).

A limited map regression exercise was also carried out of the area of the proposed development site with copies of Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives. The Second Edition 25 inch scale O.S. map of 1901 shows the cottage and house at Nos. 17 and 18 St Georges Square fronting onto the southern side of the square with two outbuildings at the rear of No. 17. The remainder of the rear areas of these two properties are open ground with their southern boundaries fronting onto the north side of the Wharf Road. These are long, narrow linear plots of land that are typical burgage plots from the medieval period. The same site layout is shown on the Third Edition 25 inch scale O.S. map of 1930 [Figure 1].

6. Methodology

The archaeological monitoring at the development site was undertaken by Marc Berger on the 30th of September and the 1st of October 2010 and by Neville Hall MIFA on the 14th of December 2010. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of two initial phases of mechanical ground reduction within the area of the new build footprint followed by the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new garage/garden store at the rear of 18 St. George's Square and the monitored mechanical excavation of two service trenches that extended from the converted existing building on the site situated at the rear of 17 St. George's Square.

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at an original scale of 1:50 was compiled on the site of the monitored foundations of the garage/garden store. This is reproduced at that same scale on **Figure 3**. The various archaeological features and deposit sequences observed were recorded on site within four trench sections [designated as **Sections 1-4**] at a scale of 1:20. These are reproduced at a reduced scale of 1:40 on **Figures 3-4**.

A second plan of the monitored service trenches was compiled on site at an original scale of 1:100 along with two further sections [designated as **Sections 5-6**]. This plan is reproduced at a scale of 1:200 and these sections at their original scale on **Figure 5** of this report. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-36, Appendix 1**. A list of the contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figures 3-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-36]

7.1 The Garage/Garden Store at the Rear of 18 St George's Square

The first day of archaeological monitoring commenced with the setting out of the area of the new build footprint of the garage/garden store at the rear of 18 St. George's Square [Plate 1]. This was followed by an initial phase of ground reduction which comprised the mechanical removal of the turf and the upper levels of the underlying modern topsoil horizon (**001**). The average depth of this initial ground reduction was between 0.20-0.25m below ground levels [Plate 2]. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket.

This was followed by a second phase of mechanical ground reduction within the same area of the new build footprint. This consisted of the monitored mechanical removal of the remaining topsoil horizon (**001**) and the upper levels of the underlying modern made ground deposit (**002**). The depth of this secondary phase of ground reduction was between 0.40-0.45m below ground levels [Plates 3-4]. The modern made ground deposit (**002**) yielded one fragment of sandstone roof tile

and a small assemblage of pottery that included two residual sherds of 10th–mid 11th century pottery, one residual sherd of 18th century pottery and six sherds of 19th-20th century pottery. The 19th–20th century pottery has been discarded by Jane Young [**Appendix 3**].

The newly exposed surface was then tracked over and the surface compacted. The foundations for the new build were then set out within the area of secondary ground reduction [**Plate 5**].

The northerly west-east orientated foundation trench was the first to be excavated under archaeological supervision. This trench was excavated to a length of 9.40m, a width of 0.60m and to depths of between 1.28m at its eastern end to a maximum depth of 1.96m below ground levels at its western end. The deposit sequence within this foundation trench was recorded within the south facing **Section 1** [**Plates 6-7, 10-11 and 13-14**].

At the eastern end of this trench were two undated dump deposits (**006**) and (**007**), which appeared to be directly below the modern topsoil (**001**) [**Plate 8**]. These were undoubtedly the latest in a sequence of such deposits identified and recorded in this trench. Both deposits contained loose dumps of building demolition material composed largely of angular limestone fragments and fragments of plaster. These were in turn truncated by a modern north-south orientated service trench and fill (**010**) which ran alongside an existing standing garage at the rear of the adjacent property at 17 St George's Street.

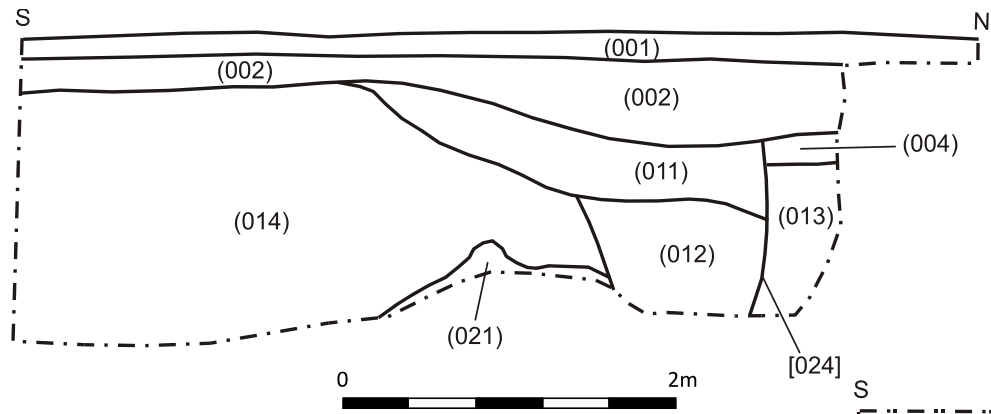
The dump deposit (**006**) in turn overlay a further substantial undated dump deposit (**005**), which similarly was of a very loose nature and was similarly composed of dumped building material, which in this instance comprised a high proportion of small-large angular limestone fragments within its make-up [**Plate 9**]. The deposit (**005**) was in turn below a fourth such undated dump deposit (**003**), which included much burnt material such as ash and clinker in its make-up [**Plate 12**]. The deposit (**003**) was sealed by the made ground deposit (**002**).

The undated dump deposit (**005**) also overlay a cobbled surface (**004**). This was confined to the western end of the foundation trench and was laid on the top of two horizontal bands of sand bedding. The lowest sand bedding in turn overlay the fill (**013**) of the pit cut [**008**] [**Plate 17**]. The pit fill (**013**) probably comprised redeposited river terrace deposits as it was composed of relatively clean coarse sands and gravels. The pit cut [**008**] appeared to be very substantial in nature, and only a proportion of its eastern vertical side was recorded in profile in section. The pit and fill extended to beyond a depth of 1.96m below ground levels at the western end of the foundation trench. The nature of this pit is uncertain, though it is certain that it was backfilled with redeposited natural sands and gravels. It is possible that it may have been a clay extraction pit, given the density of such features within the development area.

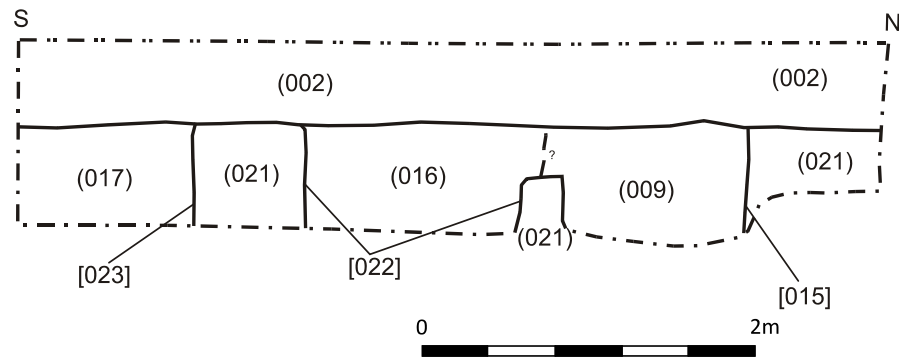
The pit cut [**008**] and the undated dump deposits (**005**), (**006**) and (**007**) overlay a horizon of clay (**021**) with inclusions of sand and gravel. This deposit was encountered at several points along the base of the foundation trench. This may represent a natural alluvial horizon, the product of river deposition.

This was followed by the monitored mechanical excavation of a second north-south orientated foundation trench that comprised the internal dividing wall between the garage and the garden store. This trench was excavated to a total length of 6.80m, a width of 0.60m and up to a maximum depth of 1.22m below reduced levels.

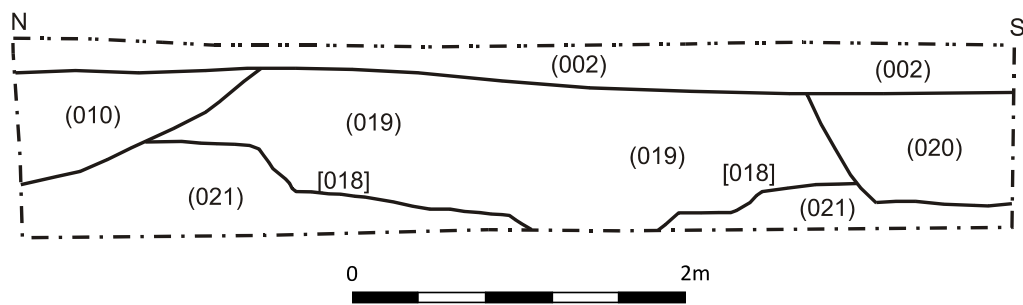
This second foundation trench was cut from a reduced level following the two phases of mechanical ground reduction. The archaeological features and deposit sequence identified in this trench were all recorded within the east facing **Section 3** [**Plates 15 and 17-20**]. Underlying the made ground deposit (**002**) were a succession of three undated clay extraction pits, which were all cut into the underlying natural clay with sands and gravel horizon (**021**). The most northerly of these was the pit cut [**015**] with fill (**009**) [**Plates 15-16**]. The fill (**009**) yielded one fragment of sandstone roof tile. To the south of this was the pit cut [**022**] with fill (**016**) and at the southern end



Section 2, East Facing Section, Scale 1:40



Section 3, East Facing Section, Scale 1:40



Section 4, West Facing Section, Scale 1:40

Figure 4: Sections 2-4 at a scale of 1:40

of this trench was the third pit cut [023] with fill (017) [Plate 17]. All of these features exhibited identical profiles with vertical sides. None of these features were bottomed and thus extended beyond the base of the trench excavations. All three pit fills similarly contained building demolition material comprising angular limestone fragments in their respective make-ups.

The third foundation trench to be mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision was the north-south orientated westerly foundation of the garage. This was excavated to a length of 6.0m, a width of 0.60m and to depths of between 1.65m and 1.76m below ground levels. The deposit sequences and archaeological features identified in this foundation trench were recorded within **Section 2** [Plate 21-24].

Below the modern made ground deposit (002) was an undated dump deposit (011) [Plate 23]. This contained much burnt material within its make-up including burnt soil, ash and cinders. This deposit also appeared to abut the cobbled surface (004), which was also recorded in the adjoining **Section 1**, though their exact relationship is uncertain. The deposit (011) also appeared to be above the pit fill (013) of the pit cut [008]; the latter of which was also recorded within the adjacent **Section 1**.

The dump deposit (011) was also above the pit cut [024] with fill (012) [Plate 22]. Two steeply sloping sides of this pit were recorded in profile in **Section 2**. The fill (012) contained much building demolition material comprising angular limestone fragments in its make-up including one fragment of sandstone roof tile. The pit cut [024] in turn truncated the adjacent pit cut [008] with fill (013) and the dump deposit (014).

The final deposit recorded in **Section 2** was the undated dump deposit (014) [Plate 24]. This was a very substantial deposit composed of very loose material, much of which consisted of building demolition rubble – angular limestone fragments. The deposit (014) was below the made ground deposit (002), the dump deposit (011) and was also truncated by the pit cut [024] with fill (012).

The fourth and final foundation trench to be excavated under archaeological supervision comprised the easterly north-south orientated foundation of the garden store. This was excavated to a length of 6.60m, a width of 0.60m and to depths of up to 1.08m below reduced ground levels. The deposit sequence and archaeological features were recorded here within the west facing **Section 4** [Plates 25-26].

Below the modern made ground deposit (002) and at the northern end of this trench was a modern service cut/fill (010). This continued into the adjoining foundation trench and was also recorded in **Section 1**. Also below the modern made ground deposit (002) was the fill (019) of a very substantial clay extraction pit cut [018] [Plate 25]. The fill (019) contained much building demolition material in its make-up which included mortar and plaster fragments as well as a large quantity of angular limestone fragments including one fragment of sandstone roof tile. The pit [018] was cut into the underlying natural clay horizon (021) at the base of the trench. The northern and southern sides of the pit were recorded in profile in **Section 4**. The pit cut [018] exhibited a wide and open profile. The pit fill (019) was truncated by the service cut/fill (010) and was below a later undated dump deposit (020).

Also below the modern made ground deposit (002) was the undated dump deposit (020). This was also substantial and similarly contained quantities of building demolition material- angular limestone fragments - within its make-up [Plates 26-27]. This was situated at the southern end of the foundation trench, and was similarly above the natural clay horizon (021) at the base of the excavation.

7.2 The Service Trenches at the Rear of 17 St George's Square

The hand and mechanical excavation of two linear service trenches that extended from an existing building (at the time being converted into a residential dwelling) at the rear of 17 St.

George's Square were extensively monitored and recorded. Both of these trenches extended southwards from the existing building.

The first service trench comprising a drainage trench extended south-westwards from the south-eastern corner of this building. The trench was both hand and mechanically excavated for a length of 3.80m to end in a new soakaway [Plate 30]. The trench was excavated to a width of 0.60m and to a relatively shallow depth of 0.35m below ground levels until it reached the soakaway. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a 5-ton 360° excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket.

Below a modern topsoil (025) and the present gravel yard surface was a modern made ground deposit (026), which extended to the base of the excavations. This sequence continued as far as the soakaway. The upper levels of the trench were in turn disturbed by the lines of modern services that comprised a BT cable trench and an electricity cable trench. The topsoil (025) was 0.07m in depth and the made ground deposit (026) >0.25m in depth in this trench. Several sherds of 20th century pottery were recovered from the deposit (025), but were not retained. The made ground deposit contained significant quantities of building demolition rubble in its make-up – angular limestone fragments, mortar and brick/tile fragments.

A new soakaway was mechanically excavated at the south-western end of this trench. This excavation measured 1.50m in length, 1.20m in width and extended to a depth of 1.10m below ground levels. Below the present gravel yard surface was the topsoil horizon (025) and the made ground deposit (026), which extended to the base of this excavation to a depth of at least 1.10m below ground levels. Thus this was a very substantial deposit. This deposit sequence in this soakaway was recorded within **Representative Section 5 [Plate 31]**.

The second service trench extended southwards from the south-western corner of the existing building for a length of 12.30m to the gated entrance to the site to connect with existing services [Plates 33 and 35-36]. This trench was 0.70m in width and was excavated to an average depth of 0.70m below ground levels. Below the current compact yard surface was a sequence of a further such compacted yard surfaces (027), (028), (029) and (030). These were composed of sand and gravels. These surfaces in turn overlay a second made ground deposit (031). This was a very substantial deposit which extended along the length of and to the base of these excavations. It was loose and unconsolidated and was largely made up of building demolition rubble consisting of angular limestone fragments, brick/tile fragments and mortar. This sequence was recorded within **Section 6 [Plate 34]**.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

Within the monitored area of the new garage/garden store at the rear of 18 St George's Square were a modern topsoil horizon and a modern made ground deposit, which extended over the whole of the monitored area. Below the modern made ground deposit were a number of undated dump deposits. These were characterised by their generally loose and unconsolidated nature and by the fact that they contained large quantities of building demolition material, particularly of angular limestone fragments in their respective make-ups. Several of these deposits also contained burnt material comprising burnt soil, ash and cinders in their make-up.

These dump deposits are interpreted as being laid down in order to build up contemporary ground levels and possibly also to backfill at least six undated clay extraction pits. These had been cut into and in turn probably extracted a natural clay horizon which was found at the base of the foundation excavations. This clay was probably a natural fluvial alluvial deposition deposit.

Unfortunately none of the dump deposits or pit backfills yielded any datable finds and although the modern made ground deposit did produce two sherds of 10th–mid 11th century pottery and one

sherd of 18th century date, these are considered to be residual. The remainder of the finds from the modern made ground deposit were of pottery of 19th–20th century date.

This site is situated to the immediate north of the River Welland, so it is possible that this build up of material constituted possible flood alleviation measures. It is considered likely in turn that these measures may have post-dated the demolition of the medieval town wall, (the site of which is situated along the line of the modern Wharf Road, to the immediate south of this site), and so it is possible to speculate that these floor alleviation measures may have been of post-medieval origin.

The monitoring of the two service trenches at the rear of 17 St George's Square revealed that below the present yard surface were at least four compacted yard surfaces and undated made ground deposits, one of which was very substantial. These deposits were very similar in terms of composition and lack of compaction to the dump deposits and pit backfills encountered in the first monitored area. And so consequently probably had a similar function, to build up contemporary ground levels acting as flood alleviation. No datable finds were retrieved during the course of this later monitoring. In addition, the line of the medieval town wall (which follows the line of the southern boundary of the site) was not detected during the course of the excavation of the second service trench to the gated entrance to the site at Wharf Road.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the nature of the archaeological activity and of the deposit sequences on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposits and archaeological features observed. A more detailed level of archaeological assessment and investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm and record the nature of this archaeological activity and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. David Todd for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Jenny Young of Heritage Lincolnshire, and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record, the Lincolnshire Archives and the Lincoln Central Library for their kind assistance.

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Appendix 1: Plates

The Garage/Garden Store



Plate 1: Pre-groundworks, from the south



Plate 2: Completed mechanical removal of turf & partial removal of topsoil (001), from the north-west



Plate 3: Secondary ground reduction, mechanical removal of the remainder of the topsoil (001) & the upper levels of the made ground deposit (002), from the west



Plate 4: Completed secondary ground reduction, from the north



Plate 5: Set out foundations for the new build within secondary area of ground reduction, from the south



Plate 6: Section 1, (west), from the south-east



Plate 7: Section 1, from the south



Plate 10: Section 1 & excavated foundation trench, from the south-east



Plate 8: Dump deposits (006) & (007), from the south



Plate 11: Section 1 & excavated foundation trench, from the south-east



Plate 9: Dump deposit (005), from the south



Plate 12: Dump deposit (003), from the south



Plate 13: Section 1 & excavated foundation trench, from the south-west



Plate 14: Section 1, with cobbled surface (004) & pit fill (013), from the south



Plate 15: Section 3 showing the pit cut [015] with fill (009), from the east



Plate 16: Excavation of the internal dividing wall foundation trench between the garage & garden store showing the pit fill (009), from the north



Plate 17: Section 3, showing the pit cut [022] with fill (016), from the east



Plate 18: Completed excavation of the internal wall foundation trench, showing **Section 3**, from the north



Plate 19: As **Plate 18**, from the south-east



Plate 20: **Section 3**, showing the pit cut **[023]** with fill **(017)**, from the east



Plate 21: Completed mechanical excavation of the westerly foundation trench showing **Section 2**, from the south



Plate 22: **Section 2**, showing the pit cut **[024]** with fill **(012)**, from the east



Plate 23: Section 2, showing the dump deposit (011), from the east



Plate 26: Section 4, showing the undated dump deposit (020), from the west



Plate 24: Section 2, showing the dump deposit (014), from the east



Plate 27: Undated dump deposit (020), from the north-west



Plate 25: Section 4, showing the pit cut [018] with fill (019), from the west



Plate 28: Completed foundation excavations of the new garage/garden store, from the south

The Service Trenches



Plate 29: Pre-groundworks, from the west



Plate 31: Representative Section 5, soakaway, from the south-west



Plate 30: Work in progress, excavation of the first service trench, from the south-west



Plate 32: View of the location & extent of the first service trench & pre-groundworks, second trench, from the south



Plate 33: Work in progress, excavation of the second service trench, from the south-west



Plate 34: Section 6, showing the sequence of compacted yard surfaces & underlying dump deposit (**031**), from the west



Plate 35: Work in progress, excavation of the second service trench, from the south-west



Plate 36: Completed excavation of the second service trench, from the north

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

The Garage/Garden Store

- 001** Modern topsoil horizon/turf. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small angular & rounded stones. Above **(002)**. Depth – 0.20-0.25m.
- 002** Modern made ground deposit. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with small-large limestone fragments & small-medium angular stones 5%. Below **(001)**. This deposit yielded two residual sherds of 10th–mid 11th century pottery, one residual sherd of 18th century pottery, six sherds of 19th–20th century pottery and one sandstone roof tile. Depth – up to 0.50m.
- 003** Undated dump deposit that included burnt material including ash, cinders, etc. within a matrix of a friable, dark red grey brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium limestone fragments. Recorded in **Section 1**. Below **(002)** & above **(005)**. Depth – 0.54m.
- 004** Undated cobbled surface. Constructed of rounded cobbles set on beddings of orange sand & yellow sand. Recorded in **Section 1**. Below **(005)** & above **(013)**. Depth – 0.26m.
- 005** Undated dump deposit. Composed of very loose building demolition material that consisted of small-large limestone fragments 40% within a matrix of a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Section 1**. Below **(003)** & **(002)** & above **(021)** & **(004)**. Depth – 0.63m
- 006** Undated dump deposit. Composed of loose building demolition material that consisted of small-large fragments of limestone, small-medium fragments of plaster within a matrix of friable, light grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Section 1**. Above **(005)** & **(021)** & below **(001)** & **(007)**. Depth - >0.88m.
- 007** Undated dump deposit. Composed of loose building demolition material that consisted of small-large limestone fragments 10% with lenses of orange sand 15% & frequent small angular & rounded stones & small brick/tile fragments within a matrix of a friable, dark red grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Section 1**. Below **(001)** & **(010)** & above **(006)** & **(021)**. Not bottomed. Depth - >0.95m.
- 008** Cut of a pit. One vertical side only recorded in **Section 1**. Below **(005)** & cut into the deposit **(021)**. Not bottomed. Width - >2.50m, depth - >1.08.
- 009** Fill of the pit cut **[015]**. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with medium-large angular & rectangular shaped limestone blocks & frequent small angular stones. Recorded in **Section 3**. Below **(002)**. Not bottomed. This yielded one sandstone roof tile. Depth - >0.63m.
- 010** Cut & fill of a modern service trench situated alongside an existing garage. Filled with modern orange sand. Recorded in **Sections 1** and **4**. Truncated **(007)** & **(019)** & below **(001)**. Depth – 0.66m.
- 011** Undated dump deposit. Friable, dark red grey brown sandy silt with much burnt material in its make-up including burnet soil, ash and cinders etc. & moderate small rounded stones. Recorded in **Section 2**. Below **(002)** & above **(013)**, **(012)** & **(014)**. Depth – 0.33m.
- 012** Fill of the pit cut **[024]**. Friable, orange/yellow sand with small-large angular limestone fragments 60%, building demolition material. Recorded in **Section 2**. Below **(011)**. Not bottomed. This yielded one sandstone roof tile. Depth – >0.65m.

- 013** Fill of the possible pit cut [008]. Extended to depth, not bottomed. Composed of red stained coarse sands & gravels, possibly redeposited natural river terrace gravels. Recorded in **Sections 1** and **2**. Below (004), (011) & (012). Depth - >1.08m.
- 014** Undated dump deposit. Very substantial & very loose. Friable, mid orange grey brown sandy silt with small-large angular limestone fragments 40% - building demolition material & moderate small orange/yellow mortar fragments & charcoal flecking. Recorded in **Section 2**. Below (002) & (011) & above (021). Truncated by the pit cut [024]. Depth - >1.42m.
- 015** Cut of a clay extraction pit. Two vertical sides recorded in profile in **Section 3**. Not bottomed. Cut into the natural clay horizon (021). Width – 1.06m, depth - >0.63m.
- 016** Fill of the pit cut [022]. Friable, light grey brown sandy silt with small-large angular limestone fragments 10%. Not bottomed. Recorded in **Section 3**. Sealed by (002). Depth - >0.49m.
- 017** Fill of the pit cut [023]. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small-medium angular limestone fragments. Not bottomed. Recorded in **Section 3**. Below (002). Depth - >0.57m.
- 018** Cut of a large and very substantial possible clay extraction pit, the northern and southern sides of which was recorded in profile in **Section 4**. The profile was wide and open and extended southwards beyond the area of development. Cut by the cut/fill of modern services (010) and in turn cut into the natural clay horizon (021). Width - >4.35m, depth – >0.72m.
- 019** Fill of the pit cut [018]. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with small-large angular limestone fragments 40%, small-large mortar & plaster fragments 30% and small-medium angular stones 10%. Includes much building demolition material in its backfill. Recorded in **Section 4**. Cut by (010) & below (002). This yielded one sandstone roof tile. Depth - >0.72m.
- 020** Undated dump deposit. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with small-large angular limestone fragments 5%, (building demolition material) & small-medium angular stones 5%. Recorded in **Section 4**. Above (019) & below (002) & (021). Depth – 0.64m.
- 021** Natural horizon, fluvial deposition deposit. Soft, light grey brown silty clay with inclusions of coarse sand & gravel 20%. A number of clay extraction pits were cut into this horizon. Recorded at the base of **Sections 1-4**. Depth - >0.62m.
- 022** Cut of a clay extraction pit. Two vertical sides recorded in profile in **Section 3**. Not bottomed. Cut into the natural clay horizon (021). Width – 1.26m, depth - >0.60m.
- 023** Cut of a clay extraction pit. One vertical side recorded in profile in **Section 3**. Not bottomed. Cut into the natural clay horizon (021). Width – >1.02m, depth - >0.60m.
- 024** Cut of a pit. Two steeply sloping sides were recorded in profile in **Section 2**. Truncated the pit [008] and fill (013), the dump deposit (014) and the natural clay horizon (021). Not bottomed. Width – 0.95m depth - >0.65m.

The Service Trenches

- 025** Modern topsoil deposit encountered during the excavation of the first service trench. Friable, dark grey black sandy silt with small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 10%. Recorded in **Representative Section 5**. Depth – 0.10m.
- 026** Undated made ground deposit encountered below **(025)** and the present compacted yard surface. Loose, unconsolidated & very heterogeneous in make-up composition. Composed of building demolition rubble consisting of a friable light buff mortar fragments 30%, small-large angular limestone fragments 20% & small-medium brick/tile fragments & ash & charcoal fragments 20% within a matrix of a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Representative Section 5**. Depth – >1.10m.
- 027** Former compacted yard surface below current yard surface. Composed of gravel Recorded in **Section 6**. Above **(028)**. Depth – 0.07m.
- 028** Former compacted yard surface below **(027)**. Composed of gravel in a light grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Section 6**. Above **(029)**. Depth – 0.06m.
- 029** Former compacted yard surface below **(028)**. Composed of gravel in a dark grey brown sandy silt. Recorded in **Section 6**. Above **(030)**. Depth – 0.07m.
- 030** Former compacted yard surface below **(029)**. Composed of gravel in a light buff sand. Recorded in **Section 6**. Below **(029)** & above **(031)**. Depth – 0.06m.
- 031** Undated made ground deposit. Loose & unconsolidated. Friable, light-mid grey brown sandy silt matrix with small-large angular limestone fragments 40%, small-medium mortar fragments 20%, small-large brick/tile fragments 10%. Recorded in **Section 6**. Below **(030)**. Depth - >0.25m.

Appendix 3: The Pottery Archive & Stone Tile Archive by Jane Young

Pottery Archive for Rear of 17/18 St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire (GSST 10)

Jane Young

A small unremarkable group of nine sherds ranging in date from the Late Saxon to early modern periods was recovered from the site. The early modern pottery has been discarded in agreement with the Collection, otherwise the remaining pottery should be retained.

context	ename	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
002	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	light grey	bottle	1	183		base	discarded	19th to 20th
002	LERTH	Late earthenwares	fine orange	small flower pot	1	29		base	discarded	19th to 20th
002	LERTH	Late earthenwares	fine orange	small flower pot	1	1		rim	discarded	19th to 20th
002	LERTH	Late earthenwares	fine orange	flower pot	1	4		BS	marked . VE_ discarded	19th to 20th
002	TPW	Transfer printed ware		bowl	1	5	blue floral	BS	discarded	19th to 20th
002	TPW	Transfer printed ware		plate	1	2	blue print	BS	discarded	19th to 20th
002	STMO	Staffordshire/lincolns mottled-glazed		mug ?	1	1		BS		18th
002	EST	Early Stamford ware	Fabric A	jar	1	8		BS	not-unglazed	16th to mid 17th
002	EST	Early Stamford ware	Fabric A	bowl ?	1	49		base	knife trimmed/unglazed	16th to mid 17th

Stone Tile Archive for Rear of 17/18 St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire (GSST 10)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description
002	STILE	Stone tile	calcareous sandstone	1	88	12mm perforation
009	STILE	Stone tile	calcareous sandstone	1	807	12mm perforation
012	STILE	Stone tile	calcareous sandstone	1	765	13mm perforation
019	STILE	Stone tile	calcareous sandstone	1	926	small 5mm perforation & larger broken 18mm perforation,mortar

Appendix 4: The Archive

The archive consists of:

Thirty-one context records
One site plan at a scale of 1:50
One site plan at a scale of 1:100
Six section drawings at a scale of 1:20
One context register
One photographic register

All records are currently held at:

30 Valley Road
Waddington
Lincoln
LN5 9BE

And will be deposited in due course at:

The Collection
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Under the accession number **LCNCC: 2010.45** and site code **GSST10**

Appendix 5: Photographic Register

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

Camera No.	Date Loaded / /	Time Loaded :	Comments		B&W Col. Digi. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frame	Comments	View	Scale	Init & Date	Site
	Identification Shot	N/A	N/A		
1	Pre-groundworks	S		MB 30/10/10	GSST 10
2	Completed mechanical w/ removal of turf & partial removal of topsoil (001)			" "	"
3	Secondary ground w reduction mechanical removal of the remainder of the topsoil (001) & the upper levels of the made ground deposit (002)			MB 30/10/10	GSST 10
4	Completed secondary ground reduction			MB 30/10/10	GSST 10
5	Set out foundations for the new build within secondary area of ground reduction	S		MB 30/10/10	GSST 10
6	Section 1 (w)	SE		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
7	"	S		" "	"
8	Dump deposits (006) & (007)	S		" "	"
9	Dump deposit (005)	S		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
10	Section 1 & excavated foundation trench	SE		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
11	Section 1 & excavated foundation trench	SE		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
12	Dump deposit (003)	S		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

Camera No.	Date Loaded / /	Time Loaded :	Comments		B&W Col. Digi. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frame	Comments	View	Scale	Init & Date	Site
	Identification Shot	N/A	N/A		
13	Section 1 & excavated Foundation trench	SW		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
14	Section 1 with cobbled surface (004) & pit fill (012)	S		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
15	Section 3 showing the pit cut (015) with fill (009)	E		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
16	Excavation of the internal dividing wall foundation trench between the garage & garden stone showing the pit fill (009)	N		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
17	Section 3 showing the pit cut (022) with fill (016)	E		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
18	Completed excavation of the internal wall foundation trench, showing Section 3	N		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
19	As 18	SE		MB 1/11/10	G55T10
20	Section 3 showing the pit cut (023) with fill (017)	E		" "	"
21	Completed excavation of the westerly foundation trench showing Section 2	S		MB 1/11/10	G55T10

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

Camera No.	Date Loaded / /	Time Loaded :	Comments		B&W Col. Digi. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frame	Comments	View	Scale	Init & Date	Site
	Identification Shot	N/A	N/A		
22	Section 2 showing the pit cut (024) with fill (012)	E		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
23	Section 2 showing the dump deposit (011)	E		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
24	Section 2 showing the dump deposit (014)	E		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
25	Section 4 showing the pit cut (018) with fill (019)	W		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
26	Section 4 showing the undated dump deposit (020)	W		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
27	Undated dump deposit (020)	NW		MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
28	Completed Foundations excavations of the new garage/garden store			MB 1/11/10	GSST 10
29	Service trenches, pre-groundworks	W		At 14/12/10	GSST 10
30	Work in progress, SW excavation of the first service trench			At 14/12/10	GSST 10
31	Representative Section S, subsoil	SW		At 14/12/10	GSST 10
32	View of the location & extent of the first service trench & pre-groundworks, second trench	S		At 14/12/10	GSST 10

Appendix 6: OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Rear of 17/18 St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire - Neville Hall MIFA

OASIS ID - nevilleh1-102758

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall MIFA	nevillehallmifa@googlemail.com	7 June 2011

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	Yes	Grey literature report filename/s	Sent by other means
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	

[Upload boundary file](#) | [Request record re-opened](#) | [Printable version](#)

[Email Heritage Trust Lincolnshire about this OASIS record](#)

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/formctl.cfm?OID=nevilleh1-102758 for this page

Appendix 7: Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

**Specification for Archaeological Monitoring
at the rear of 17/18 St. George's Square,
Stamford, Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Mr. David Todd

National Grid Reference: TF 0319 0702

Site Code: GSST 10

Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.45

Planning References: S09/0946/LB & S09/0949/FULL

**Prepared by Neville Hall MIFA, Freelance Field
Archaeologist & Consultant**

March 2010

Non-technical summary

A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring is required during the conversion of part of an existing listed building to form a new dwelling and the construction of an extension to provide a new garage/garden store at the rear of 17/18 St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The proposed development site is situated within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Stamford. The development site at 17/18 St George's Square is located within the area of two narrow linear medieval burgage plots, with the southern boundaries of these plots probably fronting onto the south curtain wall of the medieval town. The proposed development site is located towards the rear of these plots, so it is anticipated that archaeological features and/or deposits and finds associated with typical settlement activity usually found in these areas such as pits, ditches etc may well be encountered during the groundworks stage of development.

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the excavation of new foundations and services for the conversion and the garage/extension. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

Site location and description [Figure 1]

The development site is situated at the southern frontage of St George's Square, which is in turn located within the centre and the historic core of the town of Stamford, at National Grid Reference TF 0319 0702, and at a height of approximately 29mAOD. The town of Stamford is located approximately 18km to the north west of Peterborough, at the lowest crossing point of the River Welland and where the flood plain of the Welland is at its narrowest.

The development site is located on undulating uplands of the Jurassic limestone escarpment that traverses Lincolnshire from south to north and to the immediate north of the River Welland. The development site is also situated on shallow and well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 3 Series that have in turn developed on limestones of the Middle Jurassic.

Planning background

This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring which is required during the conversion of part of an existing listed building to create a new dwelling and during the construction of a new rear garage/extension, (Planning references: S09/0946/LB & S09/0949/FULL). This document has been prepared in accordance with a Planning Brief issued by Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of South Kesteven District Council, (the Local Planning Authority), and will be submitted to same for approval prior to the commencement of the on-site archaeological monitoring.

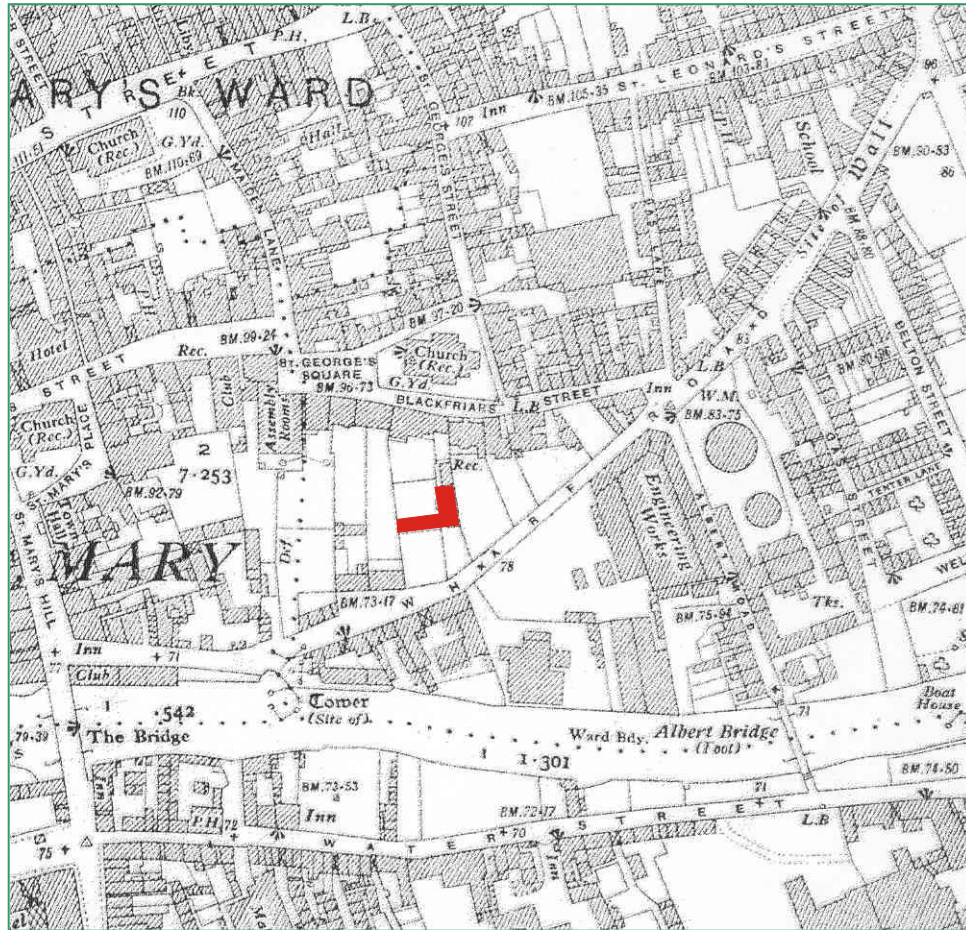


Figure 1: Extract from the Third Edition 25 inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map showing the site location in red.

Historical and Archaeological Background

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 100m radius of the centre of the development site.

There is no evidence for prehistoric activity in Stamford. The Roman settlement at Casterton is two miles to the north of Stamford, with little evidence of Roman settlement in Stamford itself.

In the 9th century Stamford became an important Anglo-Scandinavian centre. The Danish burh/settlement was established to the north of the Welland after AD877. The Danish occupation of Stamford lasted for approximately 40 years and was situated to the immediate north of St George's Square and with the eastern boundary being formed by the present St George's Street.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in AD918 Stamford was won back from the Danes by King Edward the Elder who established a settlement (or the Saxon *burh*) to the south of the Welland (now St Martins) and possibly built the first bridge over this river. By the late 10th century Stamford or *Steanforda* (AD922), *Stanford* (AD 944), *Stanforda* (c.AD1000) was one of the five boroughs or *burhs* of the Danelaw and had a market and a mint (from the time of King Athelstan).

By the Domesday Survey of AD1086, Stamford or the 'stony ford' (i.e. over the River Welland) was referred to as 'the King's borough' and had at least four churches, a market and a fair. The Welland was navigable as far as the town, which provided important contact with the North Sea ports. Shortly after the Norman Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was constructed to the west of Mallory Lane. The medieval settlement expanded on the basis of the Danish and Saxon burhs and its boundaries were probably formalised by the construction of a curtain wall around the town in the early 13th century. In the early medieval period, cloth manufacture, iron working and pottery manufacture became important local activities. Stamford ware pottery was traded and known throughout eastern England and the Midlands.

By the late medieval period there were fourteen churches, two Benedictine houses, four friaries and one hospital. By the 15th century, the woollen and cloth trades had deserted Stamford for East Anglia, and the subsequent decline in the towns' prosperity led to an amalgamation of a number of parishes in the town. The town was sacked by the Lancastrian army in 1461.

The architectural character of the present town is of late 17th and 18th century origin with stone built houses and cottages, though with earlier medieval undercrofts and fabric behind later facades.

Dominating St George's Square is the Grade I listed church dedicated to St. George (HER 30603). This church has a 13th century foundation and underwent much alteration in the mid 14th century. There are two, three bay arcades which are Early English and which were heightened in the 14th century. The remainder of the church fabric is of the Perpendicular style of church architecture with the exception of the West Tower which is Decorated. The upper stage of the tower dates from the late 17th–early 18th centuries. There would have been a triangular shaped burial ground around the church. The earliest documentary reference to this church is from AD1199. A large hoard of 15th century coins were found at the eastern end of the church in 1866 (HER 30690). The site of the medieval parsonage to this church lay within the aforementioned churchyard (HER 30664) to the north of the present church and to the west of St George's Street.

The site of the medieval parsonage to St Mary's Church is situated to the west of St George's Square (HER 30647). A possible medieval culvert was found in a service trench outside No. 25 St Mary Street in 1979 (HER 30711, ELI 52). Four medieval stone piers were found in Maiden Lane in 1966 (HER 30754).

The line of Wharf Road as its name implies would suggest that there was a riverside wharf here. This is evidenced by the site of the Water Gate (HER 30634) close to the intersection of Wharf Road with Blackfriars Street, and one of the entrances into the medieval walled town from the south. The line of the south wall of the medieval town (which corresponds to the southern boundary of 17/18 St George's Square) is situated to the immediate north of the line of Wharf Road. There is the site of a bastion at the intersection of Wharf Road and Blackfriars Street and a gate at the western intersection of Wharf Road with St. Mary's Hill.

Several previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the vicinity of the development site. To the west a watching brief was carried out in 2001 on a site at the intersection of Wharf Road and Blackfriars Street (HER 35347, ELI1838). This identified undated industrial archaeological activity comprising two floor surfaces and deposits of ash, slag and cinder. To the south of this site and to the south of Wharf Road, an evaluation in 2003 located Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement activity comprising postholes, pits and ditches dating between the 9th and 14th centuries along with some suggested nearby medieval industrial activity represented by finds of iron slag from metalworking (HER 36476, ELI 4368). A prior evaluation on this site in 2000 and this 2003 evaluation also revealed the site of the 19th century Blashfield Terracotta factory (HER 30744).

The area that encompasses St George's Square lies within a much larger Conservation Area. St George's Square itself has been a residential area since at least the 18th century. No. 17 St

George's Square is a Grade II listed cottage that incorporates a 13th century buttress, a string course and half of a semi-circular shaped arch in its east wall within its fabric (HER 38651). The neighbouring house at No. 18 is also Grade II listed and dates from the mid 18th century (HER 37217).

A number of other Grade II listed buildings are located on the Square. This includes two 18th century cottages at Nos. 2-4 (HER 37215); an early 19th century outbuilding to No. 12 (HER 37216); an 18th century house at No. 20 (HER 37218); an early 18th century house at No. 21 (HER 37219); three early 19th century houses at Nos. 5-7 (HER 37872); three further early 19th century houses at Nos. 10-12 (HER 37873); St George's Rectory at No. 16, dated to 1888 (HER 38267); an early 18th century cottage at No. 9 (HER 38608) and an 18th century house at No. 1 (HER 38880). There are also several additional Grade II* listed buildings in the Square comprising the Assembly Rooms at No. 22, dating to 1727 (HER 38760), two houses at Nos. 14 and 15 that incorporate medieval masonry in their fabric (HER 38609) and a 17th century house at No. 19 (HER 37874).

A limited map regression exercise was also carried out of the area of the proposed development with copies of Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives. The Second Edition 25 inch scale O.S. map of 1901 shows the cottage and house at Nos. 17 and 18 St Georges Square fronting onto the southern side of the square with two outbuildings at the rear of No. 17. The remainder of the rear areas of these two properties are open ground with their southern boundaries fronting onto the north side of the Wharf Road. These are long, narrow linear plots of land that are typical burgage plots from the medieval period. The same site layout is shown on the Third Edition 25 inch scale O.S. map of 1930.

Aims and objectives of the project

The aims of the project are the **continual archaeological monitoring** of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will include the conversion of part of an existing listed building to form a new dwelling and the construction of a new extension to provide a new garage/garden store.

The objectives of the project are:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

As the development site is situated within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Stamford, the specific objectives of the project will be to record any archaeological features, finds, structures and/or deposits associated with these settlements. The development site is situated towards the rear of two medieval burgage plots, so typical settlement features such as pits, ditches etc may be expected to be encountered on this site.

Methodology

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the **continual monitoring** of any topsoil stripping, of the excavations of foundation and service trenches, and of any other ground disturbance, using where possible a toothless ditching bucket.

All work will be carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards, and will be under the management of a Member of the IFA (MIFA).

All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.

A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.

Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.

Any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks will be excavated as far as reasonably possible to meet the objective of the Planning Brief.

Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 will be made of any archaeological features identified in the course of the groundworks, including representative sections of trenches at appropriate intervals. These will be related to a site plan drawing at a scale of 1:50, which may also record archaeological features and/or deposits identified. Any significant archaeological features in plan will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20.

Written descriptions detailing the nature of archaeological features and/or deposits encountered will be compiled on pro-forma context record sheets. A single context recording system will be used.

Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.

Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996) and Code of Practice, will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office within fourteen days.

Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting, and during as well as after completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

Should environmental sampling be required, a suitable archaeological scientist (probably James Rackham) will be requested to make a site visit in order to advise on an appropriate sampling and recording strategy.

The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

Post-fieldwork methodology

On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.

All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.

An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.

Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.

The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).

Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

Monitoring arrangements

Provision will be made for Ms Jenny Young (Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of South Kesteven District Council, the Local Planning Authority)) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.

Ms Jenny Young, Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire, will be notified as soon as possible of the start date of works on the site. This notification period will be at least of fourteen days prior to this start.

All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.

Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire.

Arrangements will be made for the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire (Ms Jenny Young) for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.

Ms Jenny Young shall be regularly updated on the project's progress and shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological monitoring and recording programme.

Archive preparation and deposition

The documentation, records, and artefacts, (comprising the archive) generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.

Following written authorisation from the landowner, the archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln.

A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.

Reporting procedures

A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.

The report will consist of:

A title page, with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;

A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;

A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;

An introduction, site description and location;

Planning background to the project;

A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;

A description of the methodology used in the project;

A section describing the results of the monitoring;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project in a local and regional context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

A complete bibliography of all sources consulted;

Illustrations including scaled site location plans, scaled plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including representative trench sections); and

Appendices comprising appropriate digital photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections and a list of contexts, and any specialist reports on finds from the site.

An online record will be initiated with OASIS prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

Publication and dissemination

Copies of the report will be deposited with the clients; the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire; the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record; (including a digital copy in .pdf format) and the Planning Department of South Kesteven District Council within two months of the completion of the site fieldwork.

A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.

The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 1998).

Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

Other factors (including contingency)

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 Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire.

Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources will be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

Appropriate financial contingencies have been made in the event of the finding of prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery; and medieval and post-medieval pottery, brick and tile.

Any additional financial 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 Senior Historic Environment Officer of Heritage Lincolnshire and the client.

Variations to the proposed scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

Resources

The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA using standard archaeological field techniques during the appropriate duration of the groundworks programme of the construction stage of development. It is anticipated that the monitoring of the groundworks programme will require at least two days on site.

Post-excavation analysis and report preparation (up to three days in duration) will be undertaken by Neville Hall; and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ruth Leary	Anglo-Saxon and Roman Ceramics
James Rackham	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology
Jane Cowgill	Metallurgy

Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

Insurance statement

Public indemnity of £2,000,000 with the Council for British Archaeology.

Copyright

Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

Ownership

It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the monitoring be donated along with the archive and deposited with The Collection, Lincoln.