
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING
AT 42 HIGH STREET
BRIGSTOCK
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ENN 108340**

Work Undertaken For
Stomp Homes Limited

August 2016

Report Compiled by
Andy Pascoe BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: 14/01990/FUL
National Grid Reference: SP 9457 8554
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-259498

APS Report No. **53/16**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
42 High Street
Brigstock,
Northamptonshire.
(BRHS16)**

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
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| Site Staff | Andy Pascoe |
| Finds Processing | Denise Buckley |
| Archiving | Sarah Pritchard |
| Illustration | Andy Pascoe |
| Photographic Reproduction | Andy Pascoe |
| Post-excavation Analyst | Andy Pascoe |

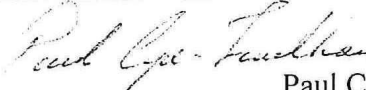
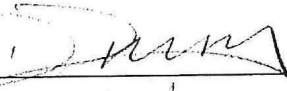
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| Checked by Senior Project Officer | Approved by team Leader (Archaeology) |
|  Paul Cope-Faulkner |  Denise Drury |
| Date: 30-08-16. | Date: 31/8/16 |

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation was conducted during the excavation of footings for a new dwelling at 42 High Street Brigstock, Northamptonshire.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, located within the core of the Saxon (AD 410-1066) and medieval (AD 1066-1540) settlement of Brigstock, best represented by the parish church of St Andrew's that has a Saxon tower. Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) and Romano-British (AD 42-410) remains are also known from the general vicinity.

The monitoring of the excavation of the footings revealed a possible early modern pit. No other archaeological features were recorded. A single sherd of 19th century date was retrieved but not retained.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 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.” (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning permission (14/01990/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a single dwelling in the rear garden of 42 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, with access leading from Back Lane.

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Stomp Homes Limited to undertake monitoring and recording during groundworks. The monitoring and

recording was carried out on the 27th July 2016 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Brigstock lies approximately 6km southeast of Corby and 28km southwest of Peterborough in the East Northamptonshire district of the county (Fig. 1).

The development area lies some 320m north of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Andrew, at National Grid Reference SP 9457 8554. It presently forms part of the rear garden to No. 42 High Street (Fig. 2).

The site lies at c. 62m OD on land that slopes down to the southwest, towards the minor watercourse, the Harpers Brook. Local soils are the Sherborne Association, typically clayey brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 310). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Jurassic Blisworth Limestone Formation (BGS 2002).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Brigstock is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Bricstoc*, the name derives from the Old English and means either ‘recently cut trees (stoc) surrounded by birch trees’ (Gover *et al.*, 1933, 158) or ‘a place, monastic cell (*stoc*), by a bridge’ (Ekwall 1989, 65).

The Domesday Survey records that Brigstock was a Royal manor and contained extensive arable land as well as woodland and meadow and a mill. Mention made of a priest may imply the presence of a church (Williams and Martin 1992, 591).

St Andrew's church has elements dating to the Saxon period, notably the tower staircase and nave (Pevsner 2002, 122). Saxon buildings have been identified in the

parish, though are not located (RCHM 1975). The remainder of the church is largely 12th – 13th century in date (Pevsner 2002, 122).

The site lies within the historic core of Brigstock between High Street and Back Lane which define the front and rears of medieval plot boundaries. There have been few archaeological interventions within Brigstock, although a watching brief undertaken at the junction of High Street and Back Lane revealed a pit and the footings of a possible stone building (Brown 2001).

Evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has also been identified within the village and the wider landscape.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Footings for a new domestic dwelling were excavated with a 0.6m wide bucket to a depth of 1m (Fig. 3).

Once excavated, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and examined for archaeological remains. Each deposit encountered was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible

(Appendix 2). 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

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

The earliest deposit encountered was a natural layer comprising a compact light yellowish brown sand and platy limestone (002). Sealing this was a subsoil consisting of loose mid grey sandy silt (005) also with platy limestone (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3, Plates 3 and 4).

Towards the northwestern edge of the footings, natural (002) was overlain by a friable dark grey brown sandy silt deposit (001) forming a turf-line/topsoil to the property adjacent to the site.

A single feature was identified, comprising a small pit cutting (001). This feature [003] had moderate straight sides and a concaved base (Fig. 4 Section 1, Plate 2). It was filled by a loose mid grey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of platy limestones (004), from which a single sherd of early modern pearlware pottery was retrieved (Appendix 2). A concrete footing to a fence line was noted cutting the easternmost corner of this feature.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of sand and platy limestone represents the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology of Blisworth Limestone. Above the natural was a subsoil layer which could imply that the site was formerly under an agricultural regime.

The only archaeological feature recorded during the investigation was a discrete pit which is of 19th century date as indicated by a fragment of pearlware pottery.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land at 42 High Street, Brigstock. The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area lying within the core of medieval settlement on former tenements between the High Street and Back Lane.

No medieval or earlier deposits were encountered during the investigations. A single pit was identified which was dated by associated pottery to the early modern period (the pottery sherd has not been retained).

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Stomp Homes Limited for commissioning this investigation and post excavation analysis. The work was co-ordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who edited this report along with Denise Drury. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Supervisor: Andy Pascoe
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Archiving: Sarah Pritchard
 Photographic reproduction: Andy Pascoe
 Illustration: Andy Pascoe
 Post-excavation analysis: Andy Pascoe

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 CifA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
 RCHM Royal Commission on Historic Monuments

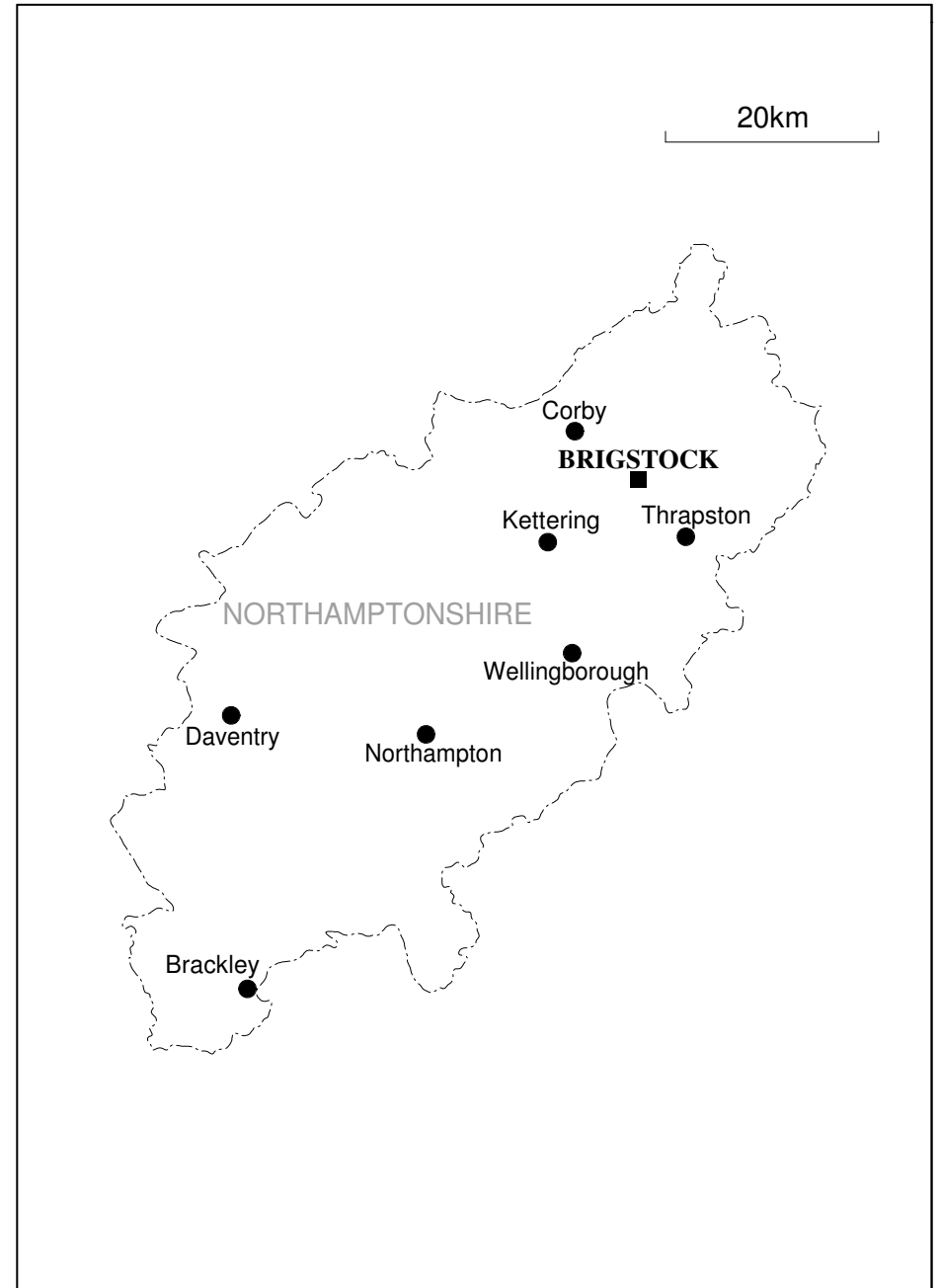
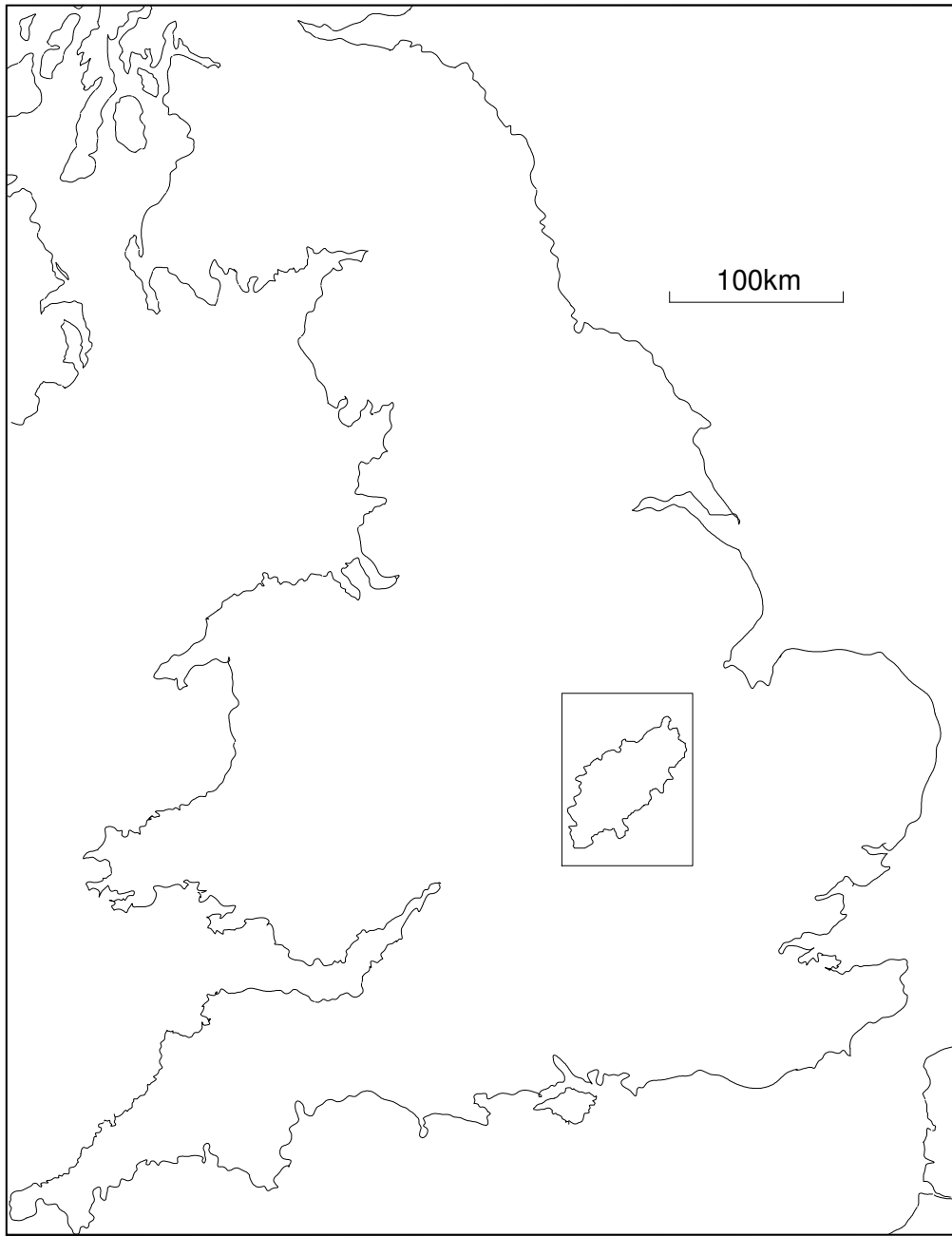
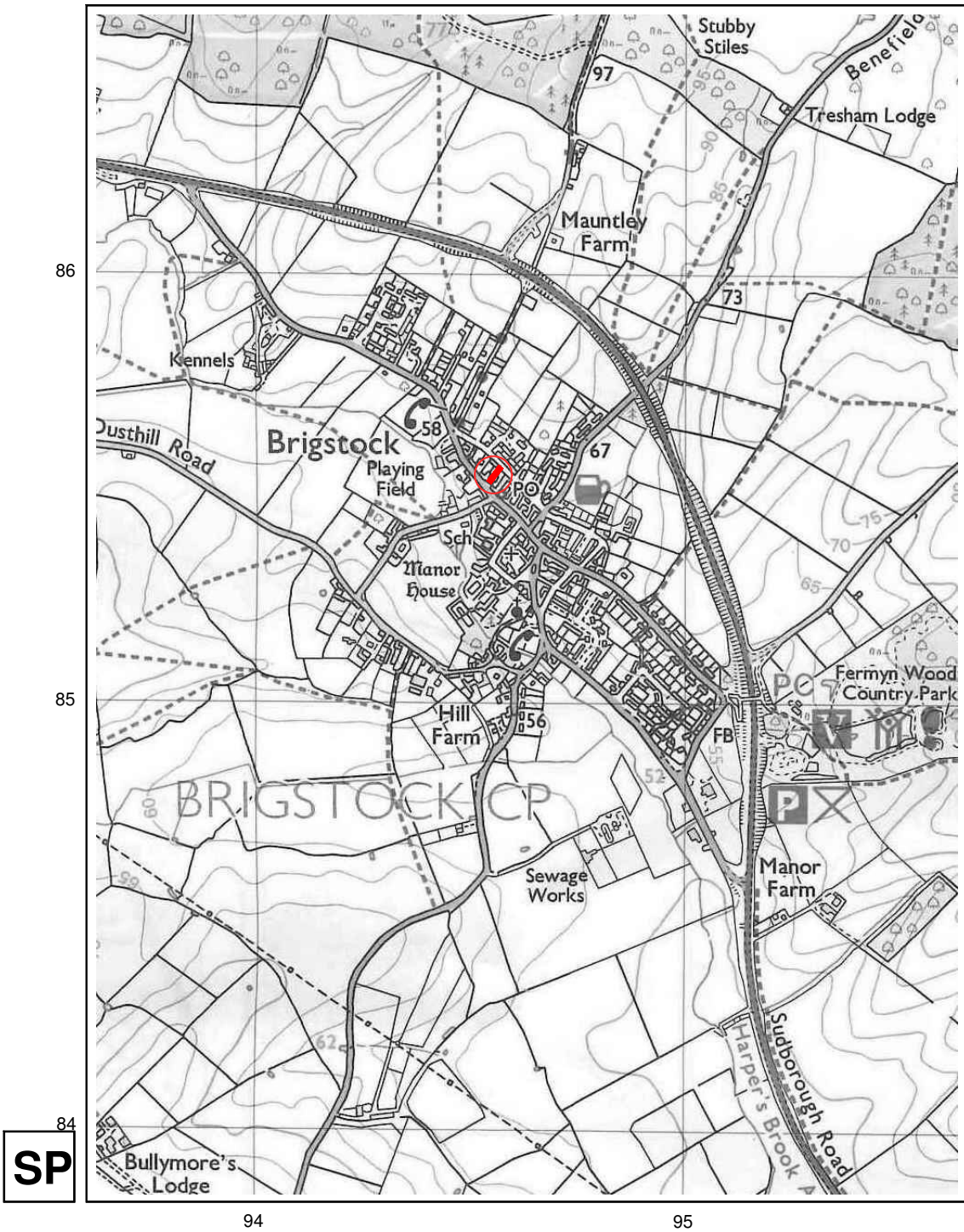


Figure 1 General location map



 Development site

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|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
|  | Archaeological Project Services | |
| Project Name: High Street, Brigstock | | |
| Scale 1:15000 | Drawn by: AP | Report No: 53/16 |

Figure 2 - Site location plan

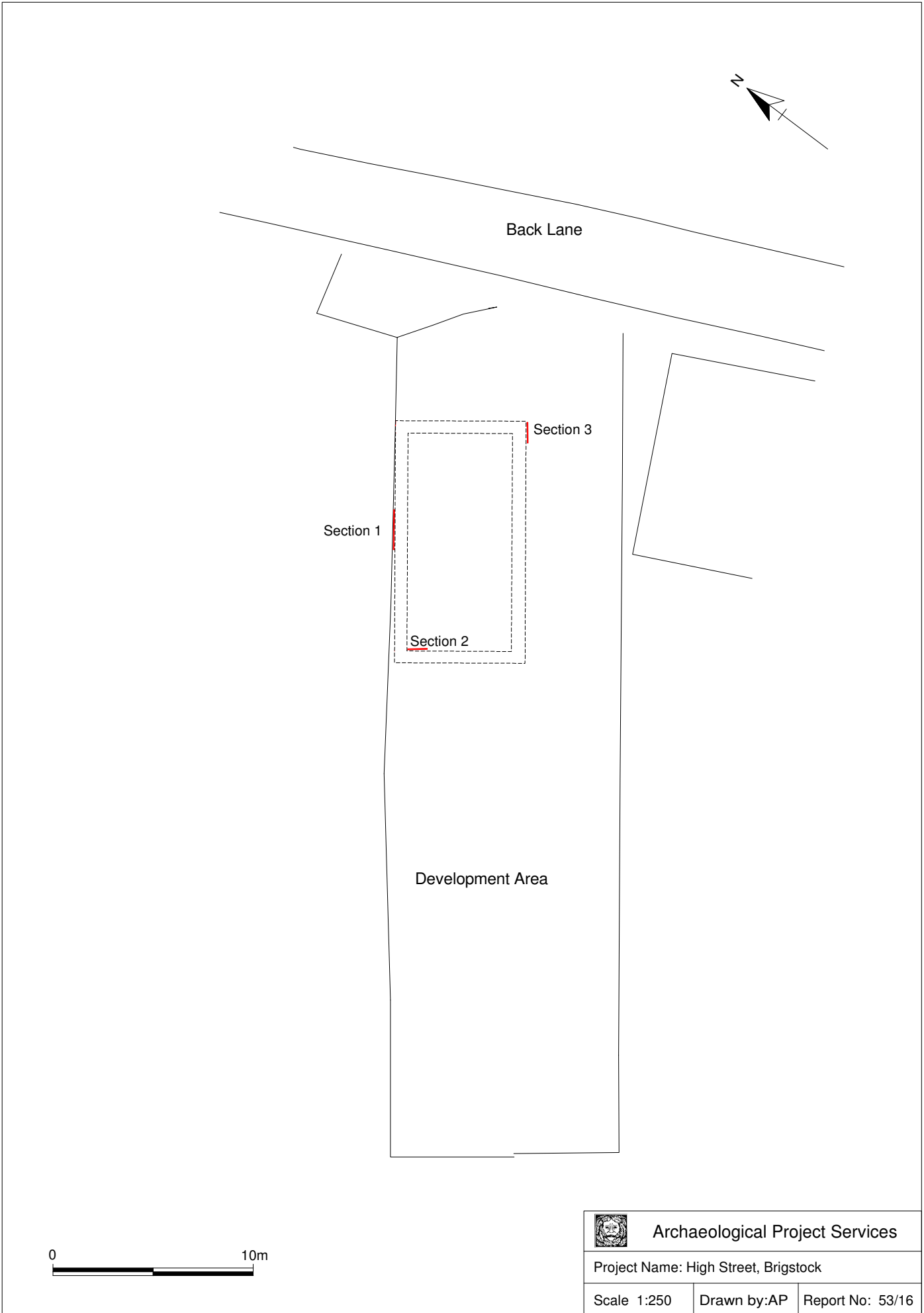
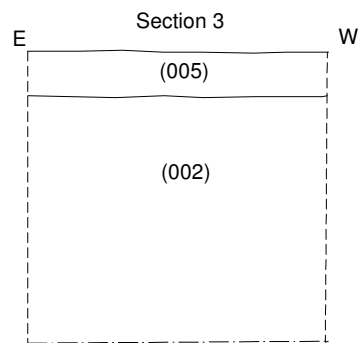
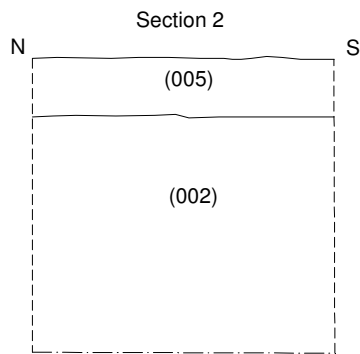
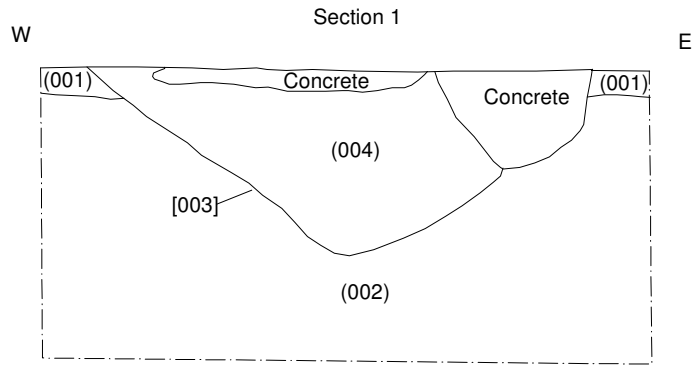


Figure 3 - Footings location




| | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|
|  Archaeological Project Services | | |
| Project Name: High Street, Brigstock | | |
| Scale 1:25 | Drawn by: AP | Report No: 53/16 |

Figure 4, Sections 1-3



Plate 1, General site shot looking east



Plate 2, Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 3, Section 2, looking east



Plate 4, Section 3, looking south



Plate 5, Post-excavation, looking west

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Description | Interpretation |
|-----|--|--|
| 001 | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt. Deposit 0.16m thick. | Garden soil |
| 002 | Compact/hard Light yellowish brown sand and platy limestone with moderate medium limestones. | Natural |
| 003 | Cut to circular pit with sharp break of slope and moderate straight sides and concaved base. 0.62m deep, 1.3m wide. Filled by (004). | Modern pit |
| 004 | Loose mid grey brown sandy silt and large platy limestone stone pieces. With medium lime stones. Deposit 0.62m thick. | Fill of [003]. Post-medieval |
| 005 | Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with platy limestone and moderate medium limestones. Deposit 0.2m thick. | Subsoil/ interface between turf layer and natural. |

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A concordance with the Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type series (CTS) (Blinkhorn, 1996, unpublished) is also included in Table 1 below. A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 23 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was viewed and then weighed by individual vessel within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the early modern period.

Condition

The sherd is in a fresh condition.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

| Cxt | Cname | CTS Code | Full Name | Form | NoS | NoV | W(g) | Part | Description | Date |
|-----|-------|----------|-----------|-------|-----|-----|------|---------|--------------------------|------|
| 004 | PEARL | F1000 | Pearlware | Plate | 1 | 1 | 23 | Profile | Small plate; undecorated | 19th |

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from fill (004) within pit [003].

Range

There is a single sherd from a small plate in Pearlware (PEARL). This is a common domestic type of the 19th century.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The sherd was not worthy of retention and has been discarded.

Table 2, Spot dates

| Cxt | Date | Comments |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|
| 004 | 19 th | Based on a single sherd |

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| BS | Body sherd |
| CXT | Context |
| NoS | Number of sherds |
| NoV | Number of vessels |
| W (g) | Weight (grams) |

REFERENCES

- Blinkhorn, P. 1996, *Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type Series*, unpublished report
 Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
 Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004]. |
| Cut | A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. 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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s). |
| Iron Age | A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50. |
| Layer | A layer is a term used to describe 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 (q.v.) occupants of Britain. |
| Post hole | The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground. |
| Post-medieval | The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800. |
| Romano-British | Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain. |
| Saxon | Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany |

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Context register sheet |
| 5 | Context record sheets |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 1 | Section record sheet |
| 1 | Daily record sheets |
| 1 | Sheets of scale drawings |

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Museum Accession No: | ENN108340 |
| Archaeological Project Services Site Code: | BRHS16 |
| OASIS No: | archaeo11-259498 |

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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OASIS ID: archaeol1-259498

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Archaeological monitoring and recording at 42 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire ENN 108340 |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological monitoring and recording behind 42 High Street, Brigstock. For the excavation of footings to a new dwelling. One modern pit observed, no other archaeology was noted. |
| Project dates | Start: 27-07-2016 End: 27-07-2016 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | BRHS16 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ENN108340 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| Monument type | PIT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRIGSTOCK 42 High Street, Brigstock. Northamptonshire |
| Postcode | NN14 3EF |
| Study area | 0 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | SP 9457 8554 52.459233228372 -0.60798676962 52 27 33 N 000 36 28 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 1.2m Max: 1.2m |

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services

Project brief originator Northants County Council

Project design originator Paul Cope-Faulkner

Project director/manager Paul Cope-Faulkner

Project supervisor Andy Pascoe

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive notes Single sherd of 19th century pottery was discarded

Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Project Services

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Northampton Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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