
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
STAR LANE,
STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(STSL 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Hereward Homes Limited**

April 2011

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application Nos: S10/2559/FUL and
S10/0701/FUL

National Grid Reference: TF 0318 0727

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Star Lane, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for new shops and apartments.

The site lies within the postulated Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) burh in an area where iron smelting was known to be undertaken. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay close to the church of St Andrew which has yet to be located. A previous investigation at the site identified further evidence for Late Saxon iron working and has suggested that a pottery kiln of the period also lay in close proximity to the site. A later medieval building may also have been located close by, although this was identified from a demolition deposit containing glazed and stone tile.

The investigation revealed a sequence of Late Saxon, post-medieval and modern deposits. A layer of slag, previously encountered during the evaluation of the site, was also recorded during the present investigation. This was overlain by a number of dumped deposits, a possible surface and more recent demolition deposits. Finds retrieved from the investigation include medieval and later pottery, slag and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Hereward Homes Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential and commercial development at Star Lane, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning applications S10/2559/FUL and

S10/0701/FUL. The work was carried out between the 7th and 10th March 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Stamford is located 30km southeast of Grantham and 15km southwest of Bourne in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 225m northeast of St Mary's church at National Grid Reference TF 0318 0727 (Fig. 2). The site lies immediately west of Star Lane at a height of c. 36m OD on the south facing slope of the Welland Valley.

As an Urban area, local soils have not been mapped but are likely to be of the Elmton 3 Association, typically calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 181). These soils are developed over a solid geology of Jurassic Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS 1978).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Documentary evidence suggests that there has been settlement in Stamford since at least the end of the 9th century AD when it was a Danish town, one of the five boroughs of the Danelaw. A reference in 918 indicates that the Danish *burh* lay to the north of the River Welland. It has been suggested that the site lay within the proposed northeast corner of the *burh* as postulated by Mahaney (1982, 8) due to the arrangement of Star Lane and Broad Street. No archaeological evidence supports this hypothesis, although a Late Saxon ditch has been recorded to the south of the site.

During the Late Saxon period the site lay within an industrial area, primarily concerned with iron smelting. Excavations on the High Street in the 1960s revealed a

working surface, where iron ore was roasted, overlain by two furnaces. The furnaces were sealed by dumped waste from other furnaces which lay in the vicinity but were not seen during the excavation (Burchard 1982, 105).

In the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086, Stamford is referred to as a royal borough comprising six wards, five of which lay north of the river. A bridge spanned the river and in the wards to the north were over four hundred messuages, three and a half mills and a castle. In addition, four churches, one dedicated to St Peter, were located in the northern part of the town (Foster and Longley 1976, 9).

Numerous religious establishments were founded in Stamford during the medieval period. Of particular relevance to the development site was the parish church of St Andrew which is first mentioned in the late 12th century (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 21). The site of the church is not known but it has been suggested that it lay on the corner of Broad Street and Star Lane or immediately adjacent to the site.

An evaluation undertaken in 2001 50m west of the site revealed deposits of slag and iron ore which directly overlie natural clay (Snee 2001, 1). Although the presence of both roasted ore and slag indicated that iron smelting was being undertaken at the site, it was unclear due to later truncation whether the material represented *in situ* remains of smelting or the dumping of material from elsewhere. These deposits were undated, but they had been cut by a 13th-14th century ditch.

A further evaluation was undertaken at the site itself in 2003 which also revealed evidence for iron smelting dating to the 10th – 12th century. Pottery of a similar date was also recovered and appears to have not been used, suggesting that it may be wasters from a nearby kiln. A deposit containing Collyweston slate and glazed roof tile was also recorded which may

indicate the demolition of a later medieval building in the 15th-16th centuries (Bradley-Lovekin 2003, 7).

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

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, piles were inserted into the underlying geology. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine and were between 0.45m and 0.6m wide and up to 1.25m deep. Following excavation, the sides of the trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 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 during the watching brief was a dumped layer of reddish brown slag (009) that measured in excess of 0.1m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3). Pottery of mid 9th – 10th century date was retrieved from this layer along with slag.

This was overlain by a further dumped deposit of brown clayey silt (008) that contained brick and limestone fragments.

Towards the southwest of the site, a layer of dark brown clayey silt (006) was recorded. Identified as a former topsoil it measured over 100mm thick (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 2) and contained Late Saxon pottery. Sealing this was a thin spread of yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone fragments (005). Perhaps representing a former surface it measured up to 60mm thick.

Overlaying the dumped deposit (008) and the possible former surface (005) was an extensive dumped layer comprising brown clayey silt with limestone fragments (004) and brown and yellowish brown clayey silt (007). This measured 0.6m thick. Pottery of mid 11th to early 12th century date was recovered from (004).

Overlying this layer was a recent demolition deposit of yellowish brown limestone fragments with brick (003). This measured 0.25m thick and was sealed by a layer of brown silt and rubble (002).

Above (007) in Section 3 (Fig. 4; Plate 4) was a sequence of deposits relating to dumping and the pathway. The lowest was a layer of orange brown sand (015) over which were dumped deposits comprising brown clayey silt with limestone fragments (014) and black sandy silt and charcoal (013). A layer of brown clayey silt with brick and mortar fragments (023) provided

a levelling deposit for a concrete bed (011) for concrete slabs (010).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit of slag and 9-10th century pottery accords well with a similar deposit encountered during the evaluation which was dated to the 10th – 12th centuries (Bradley-Lovekin 2003, 4). This was only exposed in the southeast corner of the site and indicates it extends for approximately 7m across the area.

A buried topsoil was encountered in the southwest of the site which may be contemporary. Further dumping was also recorded which dates to the medieval period and later. A recent demolition deposit and layers associated with the make-up for the adjacent footpath were also revealed.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include locally produced pottery dating from the 9th to 12th centuries. A small quantity of slag was also recovered along with a stone roof tile, plaster and a collection of animal bone.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Star Lane, Stamford, as the site lay within an area of Late Saxon metalworking and in close proximity to a medieval church

Further evidence for Late Saxon metalworking was identified in the form of a dumped layer of slag. Further dumping was also recorded along with a Late Saxon buried soil. Later demolition and make-up deposits were also encountered during the works.

Late Saxon pottery of local manufacture was recovered from the site along with

post-medieval pottery, slag, roof tile and a small assemblage of animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J Gibbison of Hereward Homes Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisor: Bryn Leadbetter
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

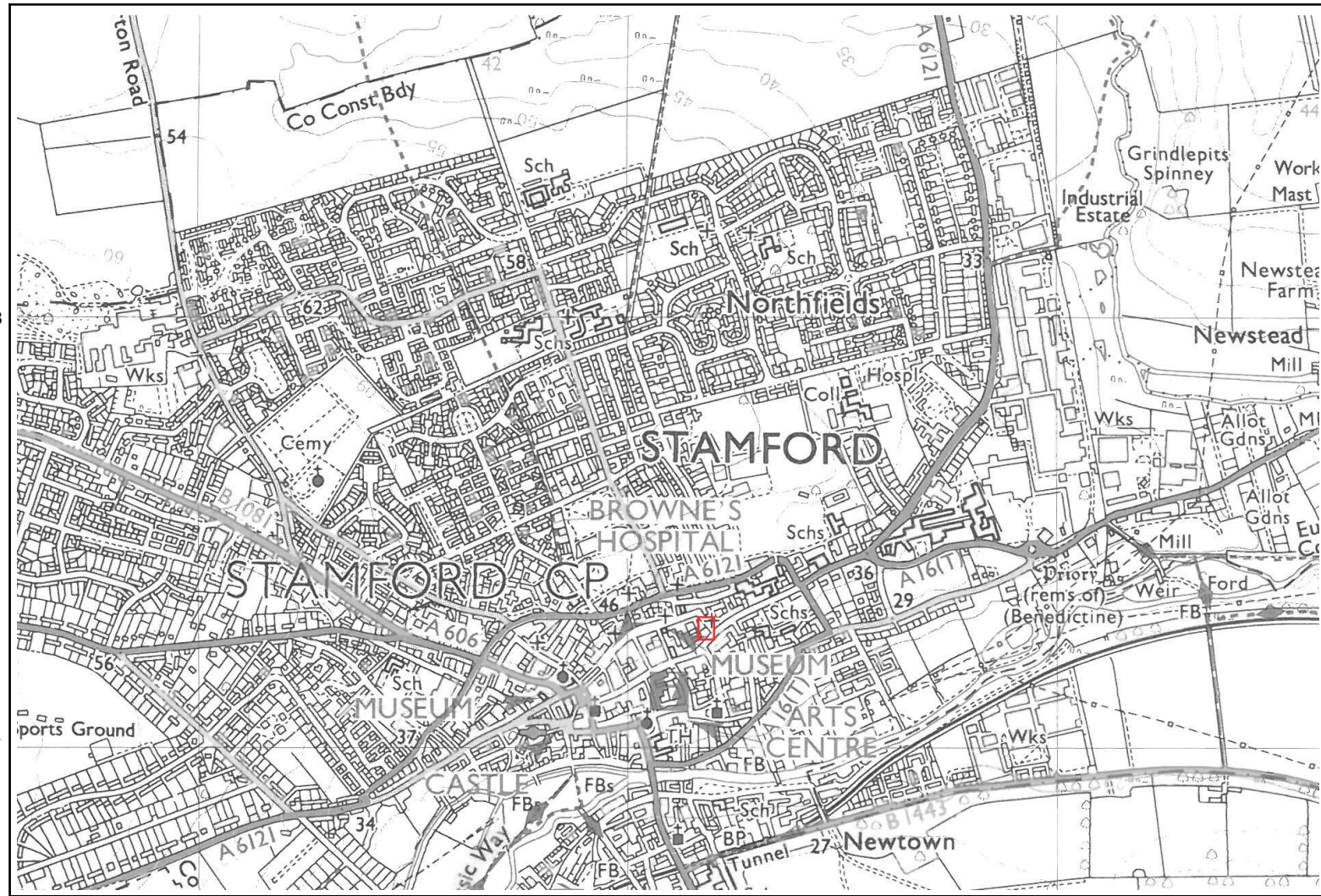
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan

TF



Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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Archaeological Project Services		
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Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 44/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan

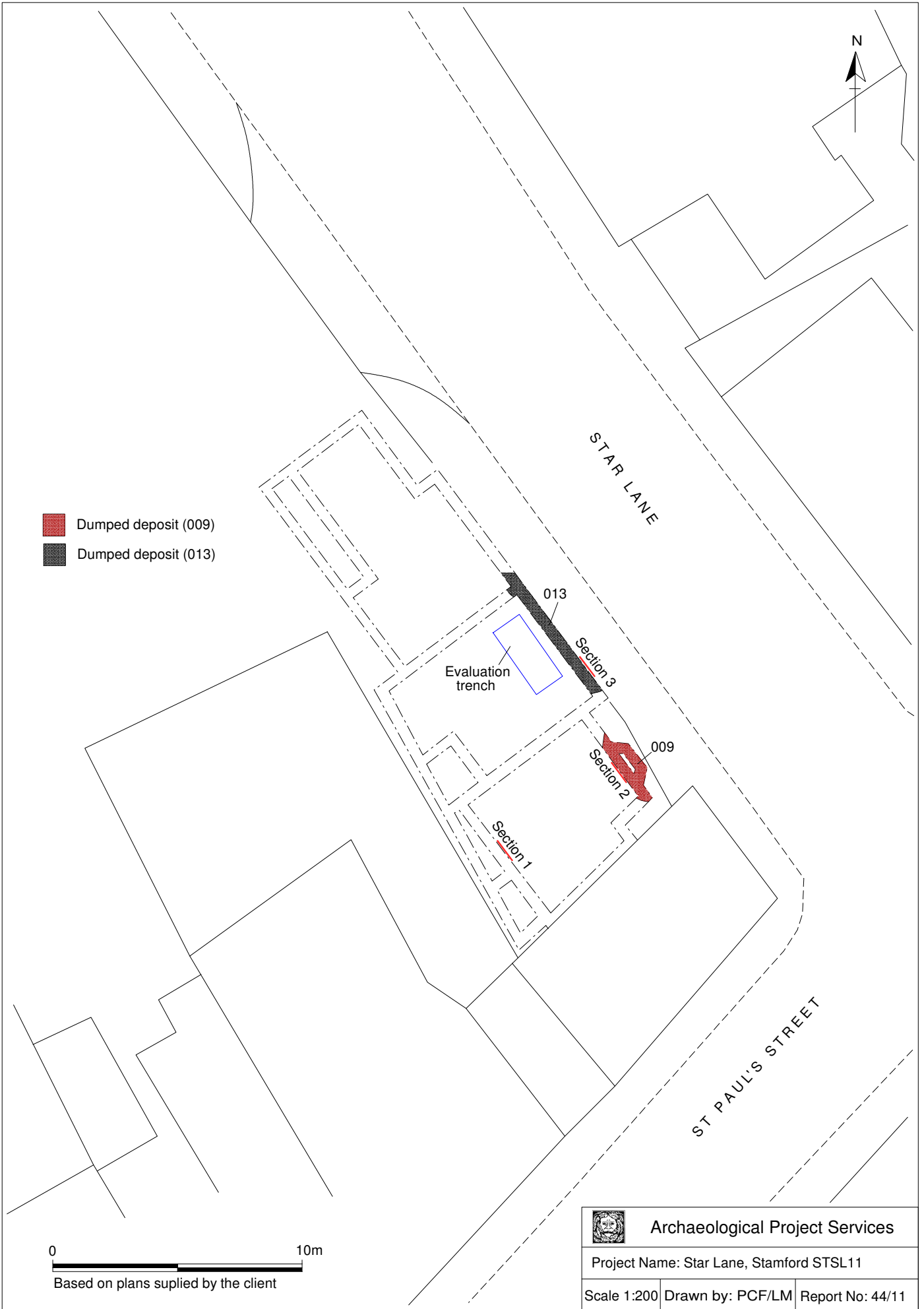
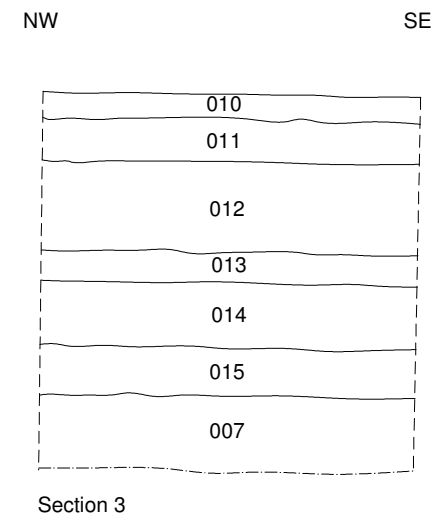
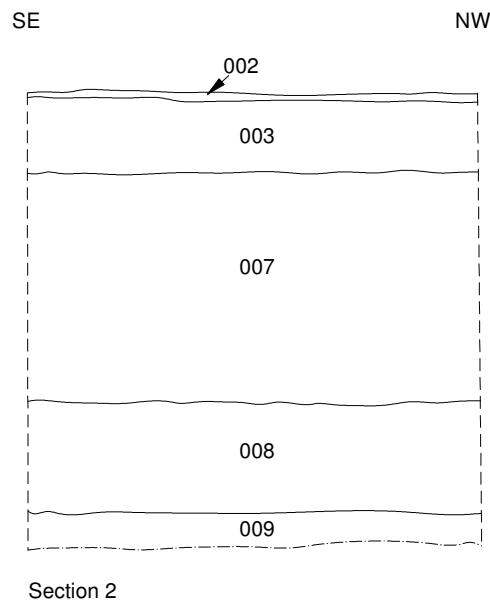
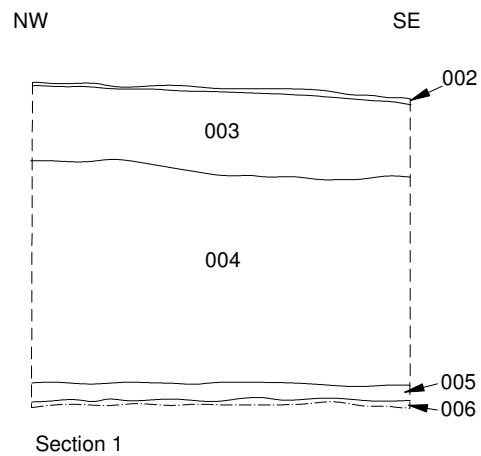


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations




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Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 – View across the development area, looking southeast



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking southeast



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Unstratified finds retrieval	
002	Loose mid brown silt and rubble, 100mm thick	Dumped deposit
003	Loose and friable light yellowish brown limestone fragments with occasional brick, 0.25m thick	Demolition deposit
004	Friable dark brown clayey silt with frequent small limestone fragments, 0.6m thick	Dumped deposit
005	Friable and loose mid yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone fragments, 50-60mm thick	?former surface
006	Friable dark brown clayey silt, >10mm thick	Former topsoil
007	Friable and loose mid brown and light yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.6m thick	Dumped deposit
008	Friable dark brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Dumped deposit
009	Loose and friable dark reddish brown slag, >100mm thick	Dumped deposit
010	Concrete slabs, 70mm thick	Footpath
011	Concrete, 110mm thick	Foundation for (010)
012	Friable dark to mid brown clayey silt with brick and mortar fragments, 0.24m thick	Make-up for (011)
013	Loose and friable black sandy silt and charcoal, 80mm thick	Dumped deposit
014	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments, 0.17m thick	Dumped deposit
015	Friable and loose light orange brown sand, 0.13m thick	Dumped deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of eight sherds from five vessels, weighing 139 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the Early Modern period.

Condition

The pottery is relatively fragmentary and the condition is mixed. There are no abraded sherds, although a single piece has sooting over a broken edge and a second is burnt. These effects are indicative of post depositional burning, which perhaps occurred during rubbish disposal. A fragment from one other vessel is sooted externally, suggesting use over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
004	ST	Fabric G	Jar		rim to upper wall	deep hollow everted rim; sooted over break; ID?	M11th-E12th	1	1	32
006	EST	Fabric A/D	Jar		rim neck	hollow everted rim; sooted	M9th-10th	1	1	9
009	EST	Fabric A/D	Bowl	trapezoidal roller-stamp on rim	rim	In-turned flanged rim; burnt	M9th-10th	1	1	15
009	EST	Fabric A/D	Jar		rim	plain everted rim	M9th-10th	1	1	4
012	PEARL		Flat	moulded frill on rim; blue hand painted edge	rims; base		19th	4	1	79
Total								8	5	139

Provenance

The pottery came from dump deposits (004) and (009), former topsoil (006) and makeup layer (012).

Range

There are three sherds in late Saxon type, Early Stamford ware (EST) present, all of which are in fabric type A/D. Vessels represented include two jars and an in-turned rim bowl. This last piece has trapezoidal roller-stamped decoration along the outer edge of the rim.

Additionally, as well as early modern material, there is also a single piece from a jar in Saxo-Norman Stamford ware (ST); interestingly the fabric of this vessel would seem to be the less common oxidised type G variant.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Domestic pottery from four sherds dated to between the mid 9th and early 12th century was recovered during archaeological monitoring at Star Lane. The presence of this material suggests occupation of this date here.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 29 (211g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The faunal remains were recovered as unstratified material (001), from a former topsoil (006) and from a dumped deposit (013).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
001	dog	humerus	3	53	all join
	dog	radius	2	27	
	dog	ulna	1	16	
	dog	metacarpal	5	9	
	dog	carpal	1	2	
	dog	vertebra	1	1	
	unidentified	unknown	4	8	
006	cattle	humerus	2	38	
013	cattle	ulna	1	17	juvenile
	large mammal	rib	2	8	
	medium mammal	femur	1	12	
	medium mammal	vertebra	1	6	
	medium mammal	rib	2	7	
	medium mammal	unknown	1	4	
	pig	phalange	1	2	
	mussel	shell	1	1	

Summary

The assemblage has little potential other than to say that dog, pig and cattle were present at the site. The remains of the dog, comprising part of the fore limbs, is likely to be a pet burial. The other bone entered the site as food waste. The bone is in a stable condition and should be retained as part of the site archive.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A large quantity of other material, 69 items weighing a total of 3347g, was recovered. Most of the material was slag.

Condition

All of the other finds are in good condition.

Results

Table 3, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	plaster	Plaster, painted white, yellow, red	6	610	modern
009	stone	Ironstone, natural, some possibly burnt	4	15	medieval
	slag	Iron smelting slag, medieval	57	2653	
013	stone	Roof tile, 10mm thick, post-medieval	1	63	Post-medieval
	coal	coal	1	6	

Provenance

The other finds were retrieved as unstratified material (001) and from dumped deposits (009, 013).

Range

There is material from buildings, and the quantity of plaster suggests that the buildings were on site. However, the plaster is decorated with clearly recent paint, indicating the buildings survived to the modern period. Structures may, however, have been of post-medieval origin, and there is a roof tile of this period.

A moderately large quantity of slag was recovered, all of it apparently from smelting. There are also a few pieces of natural ironstone, though some of it burnt. This material may be ore, with the burnt examples being partially processed ore. The slag indicates iron smelting and slag dumping at the site or in the immediate proximity during the medieval period.

Potential

The slag indicates iron smelting on site or, at the very least, dumping of slag from nearby smelting. This industrial activity occurred in the medieval period. As a result, this is of high potential. There is also evidence of buildings at the site, but these were post-medieval or modern, and the finds indicating this structural activity are of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	modern	Unstratified
004	Mid 11th-Early 12th	Based on single sherd
006	Mid 9th-10th	Based on single sherd
009	Mid 9th-10th	Also contains medieval slag
012	19th	
013	Post-medieval	Based on 1 stone

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Burh	Old English (Saxon) term for a fortified town or dwelling.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Message	A dwelling and the land surrounding it.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
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:

15	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:	2011.10
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	STSL 11
OASIS Record Number:	archaeo11-99535

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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