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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING AT  
BELTON STREET,  
STAMFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(STBS 11)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Hallam Contracts**

August 2011

Report Compiled by  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY .....	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING .....	1
3.	AIMS .....	3
4.	METHODS .....	3
5.	RESULTS .....	3
6.	DISCUSSION .....	4
7.	CONCLUSION .....	4
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	5
9.	PERSONNEL .....	5
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	5
11.	ABBREVIATIONS .....	5

### Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. The Finds *by Anne Irving and Gary Taylor*
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

## **List of Figures**

- Figure 1      General location plan
- Figure 2      Site location plan
- Figure 3      Plan of the area of development showing section locations
- Figure 4      Sections 2, 3 and 4

## **List of Plates**

- Plate 1      General view of the development area
- Plate 2      View showing the brick foundations of the gasometer
- Plate 3      Section 2 showing the general sequence of deposits
- Plate 4      Section 4

## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Belton Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the stripping of overburden prior to residential development of the area.*

*The site lies within the precinct of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) Dominican friary established at Stamford in the early to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. The claustral buildings and church are likely to be located to the northeast of the site. Following the dissolution of the friary, a large post-medieval (AD 1540-1899) house was built close to the site. Previous investigations at the site had recorded a medieval stone wall and a 19<sup>th</sup> century stone building.*

*The investigations revealed a sequence of dumped deposits to stabilise the land after which the area became a gas works, as evidenced by fragments of coal in a number of deposits. No further traces of the medieval and post-medieval structures were revealed. Finds retrieved from the investigation consist of a 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and a fragment of post-medieval window glass.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Hallam Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Belton Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S07/0149/69. The watching brief was carried out between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project

Services and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer, Heritage Lincolnshire.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Stamford is situated 63km south of Lincoln and 23km southwest of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town lies on the north bank of the River Welland, close to its confluence with the Gwash which provides the eastern boundary of the town.

Belton Street is located 325m east of St. Mary's church and connects Wharf Road with the River Welland (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 0341 0698 the proposed development area lies at a height of 22m OD on fairly level ground adjacent to the river.

Stamford sits in a narrow valley of which the northern side cuts through the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, Upper Lincolnshire Limestone and the overlying Great Oolite. The site lies on alluvial deposits associated with the river which have formed above older First Terrace gravels (BGS 1978). Geotechnical investigations identified alluvium and terrace gravels to a depth of 5.6m overlying blue grey clay, of the Upper Lias Clay, to a depth of 7m (Komex Europe 2001, 14).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Stamford is mentioned as early as AD 658 as the site of a new monastic foundation, although the reference is generally considered unreliable. However, by the end of the ninth century Stamford was described as one of the five boroughs of the Danelaw. A reference to the visit of Edward the Elder in 918 indicates that the Danish *burh* lay north of the Welland and also records that the King commanded a new borough be built on the south side of the river (Mahaney *et al.* 1982, 3). This

was in response to the Danish army encamped in Stamford. Edward's sister, Æthelflaed, fortified the *burh*, after which the Danes surrendered (Stenton 1971, 329).

In the Domesday Book of c.1086, Stamford is referred to as a royal borough comprising six wards, five of these 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).

Previously *Steanford* and *Stanford*, the major place-name Stamford derives from the Old English *stan* and *ford*, meaning 'stony ford' (Cameron 1998, 116).

Stamford remained in the royal demesne until it was successfully besieged in 1153. Stone walls were erected around the town from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps replacing an earlier wooden circuit (Mahaney *et al.* 1982, 6).

Numerous religious establishments were founded in Stamford during the medieval period. Of particular relevance to the proposed development area was the Dominican friary established in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The exact date of its foundation and its original benefactor are unknown, although it was suggested by Francis Peck as being William de Fortibus, lord of Bytham and earl of Albermarle (Peck 1727, viii 4). This was concluded from the fact that William's son, Thomas, was buried there soon after 1260.

The first mention of the friary dates to 1241 when 2 shillings were granted to the friars in a will and Henry III gave them oaks for a refectory and conduit in 1243-4 (Page 1906, 226). Stalls were being set up in the choir in 1293 and aisles on the church were built in 1297 (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 61). The church was rebuilt

before 1310, when license to dedicate the new church was given by Bishop Dalderby (Page 1906, 226). Within the friary precinct was a chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 62).

The friary was a large foundation and is recorded as housing between 34 to 42 brethren between 1299 and 1337 although by the time the house was dissolved there were only nine brethren (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 62).

Medieval industries were located to the immediate west of the Dominican friary where four acres of land called the Tenter Meadows and, beyond that, the tanning yards were located (Drakard 1822, 439).

The house was surrendered in 1538. The glass within the church and brewing vessels were sold and the plate sent to London (Page 1906, 227). The friary comprised 10 acres of land, a conduit, a close or meadow with gardens and pools and 2 acres of waste land. A David Vincent became tenant of the site in 1539 although soon appears to have completely owned the house and surrounding property (*ibid.*).

The Vincent family sold the friary land in 1574 to Sir Edward Heron who subsequently built a large house there. An account dating to 1615 describes '*Yt is very well walled round about; and in the mydst a fayre hows that was built by Baron Hearon. There is a good deal of wood of yt, fishponds and other comodytis*' (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 62). This house may have incorporated elements of the old friary as 17<sup>th</sup> century maps of the area depict this arrangement, although a drawing entitled a '*Prospect of Stamford*' depicts an ordinary house in this location (Peck 1727, frontispiece). Part of the former monastic land was enclosed in 1583, although it was opened up in 1587 before reverting to common (Drakard 1822, 440). Heron's house was sold in

1611, possibly to the Cave family, who subsequently sold the house and lands to Richard Cust in 1654 (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 62).

The main house stayed with the Cust family until it was demolished in 1775 after falling into disrepair. The property is well documented and included gardens, coach house, stables, granaries, a brewhouse and other accommodation (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 62). Occupation of the former friary site continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Drakard 1822, 195).

The site of the friary subsequently came into the hands of the 1<sup>st</sup> earl Brownlow who divided the area into streets and building plots which were subsequently sold at three auctions between 1840 and 1844 (RCHME 1977, 69). The pattern of streets to the east of the proposed development site dates from this period.

Gas works were constructed by the Stamford and Saint Martin's Gas Light and Coke Company in 1824 immediately west of Gas Street (White 1856, 884). Coal for the works was brought into Stamford by way of the Welland Navigation, possibly to a wharf located at the southern end of Gas Street, until the railways provided cheaper transport costs about the 1860s (Birch 1999, 14). In 1839, a gasometer was capsized in a strong gale and in 1885 one of the gas holders was enlarged (*ibid.*). By 1950 the southern part of Gas Street, including the proposed development site, was incorporated into the gas works and a number of ancillary buildings were constructed. Structures associated with the original gas works (to the west of Gas Street) were demolished in 1971 and the remainder by 1991 (Komex Europe 2001, 7).

An evaluation carried out at the site identified a 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century stone wall, which may relate to the former friary, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century stone built house (Holt 2003, 6).

### 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 construction of new houses, the ground level across the site was reduced to remove contaminated deposits. Following excavation, the stripped area was examined for archaeological deposits. The sides of the exposed areas were also 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 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 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 in the base of the stripped area towards the north of the site was a layer of mixed grey silty sand (016). Identified as a possible levelling deposit, it measured in excess of

20mm thick (Fig. 4, Section 4; Plate 4). Sealing this was a layer of grey silt (015), perhaps also a levelling deposit, which was 0.28m thick.

To the north of the site, a further levelling deposit was identified and comprised a 0.35m thick layer of mixed orange brown and greyish brown clayey silt (014). This was in turn sealed by a layer of brown clayey silt (013). Perhaps representing a former topsoil, it was 0.15m thick and contained pottery of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date and earlier, perhaps 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century, window glass.

Above this was a layer of greyish brown clayey silt (012) that incorporated coal fragments. Sealing this were two dumped deposits, a lower of yellow sand (011) and an upper of brown silty clay (010).

Towards the east of the site, overlying the possible levelling deposit (015) was a layer of yellowish brown silty clay (004) that measured in excess of 0.15m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3). This was sealed by a dumped deposit of brownish grey silty clay with coal fragments (003).

Perhaps representing the same deposit as (004) was a layer of brown silty sand (008). This measured over 0.5m thick. Inserted into this was a rectangular brick wall (007) that defined an area measuring 2.5m long by over 1.1m wide. The wall was 2 courses thick and was 0.3m wide (Fig. 4, Section 3). Contained within the walls was a deposit of brown silty sand with brick and coal fragments (006).

An iron pipe (009), which was partly covered in plastic, was recorded close to the western boundary of the site. No cut was observed for the pipe which was over 6m in length.

Sealing all deposits across the site was a make-up layer of limestone fragments (002 and 005) for a concrete slab base (001).

This had been partly removed in places across the site.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The initial deposits encountered during the investigation comprise levelling deposits for the raising and consolidation of the ground surface. No natural deposits were encountered which indicates that further archaeological deposits may lie buried at depth. No further traces of the medieval stone wall and post-medieval building were found during the investigation.

The levelling deposits and a topsoil layer appear to immediately pre-date the construction of the gas works at the site. The use of the site as a gas works is evidenced by a number of deposits that contain coal fragments, as well as the gasometer walls. Additionally, a brick cellar wall was recorded which may relate to the ancillary buildings of the works.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a single 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd and a fragment of post-medieval window glass.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Belton Street, Stamford, as the site lay within the precincts of a medieval friary and close to previously recorded post-medieval buildings.

However, no medieval remains were encountered and no further evidence of the stone post-medieval building was seen. Instead, a series of levelling deposits to stabilise the ground prior to the construction of the gas works were recorded. A brick cellar was also noted.

Finds from the investigation comprise a single 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and post-medieval window glass.



## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Hallam Contracts for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Senior Historic Environment Officer, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisors: Bob Garland, Bryn Leadbetter, Mark Peachey, Russell Trimble  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

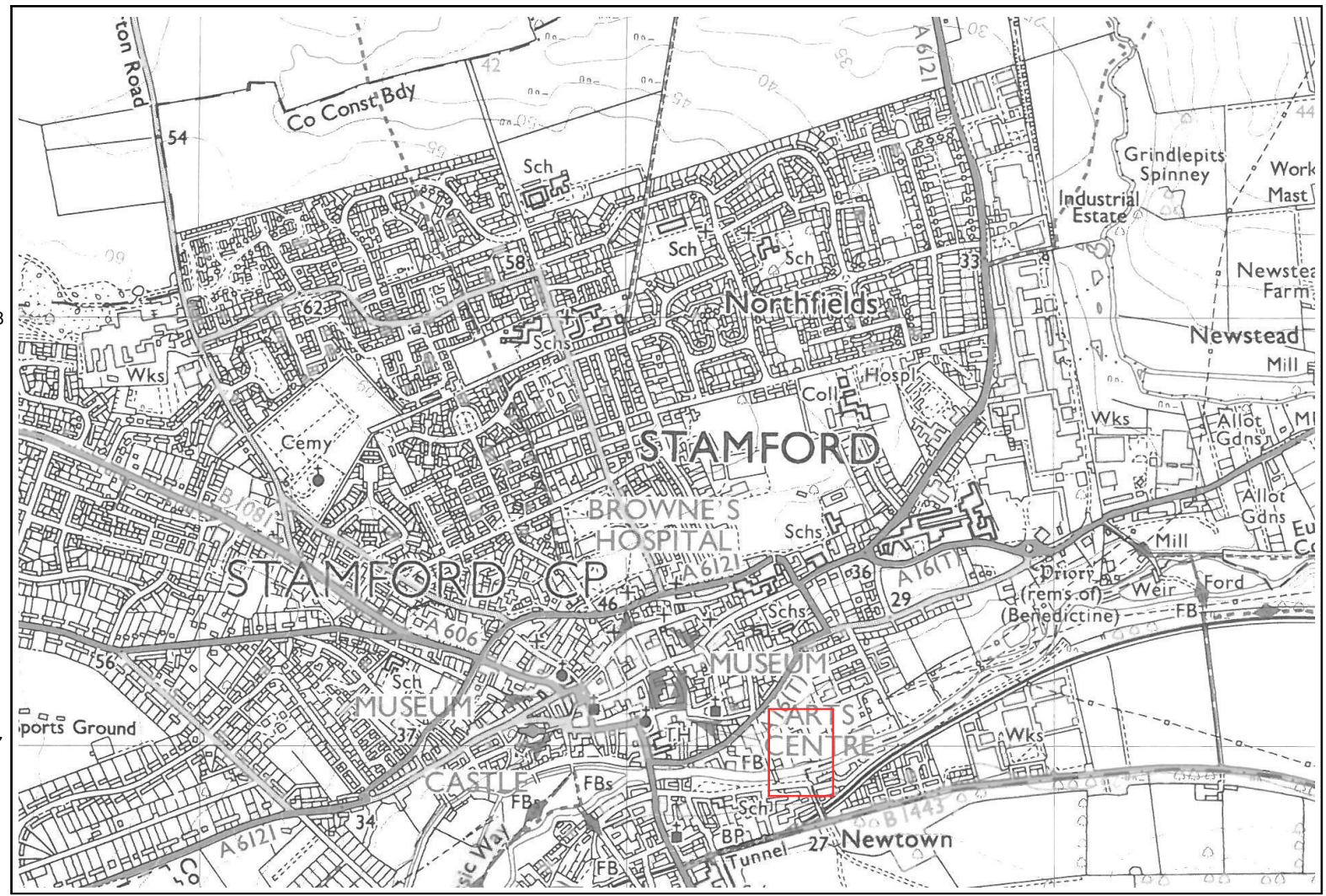
BGS British Geological Survey

RCHME Royal Commission on Historic Monuments England



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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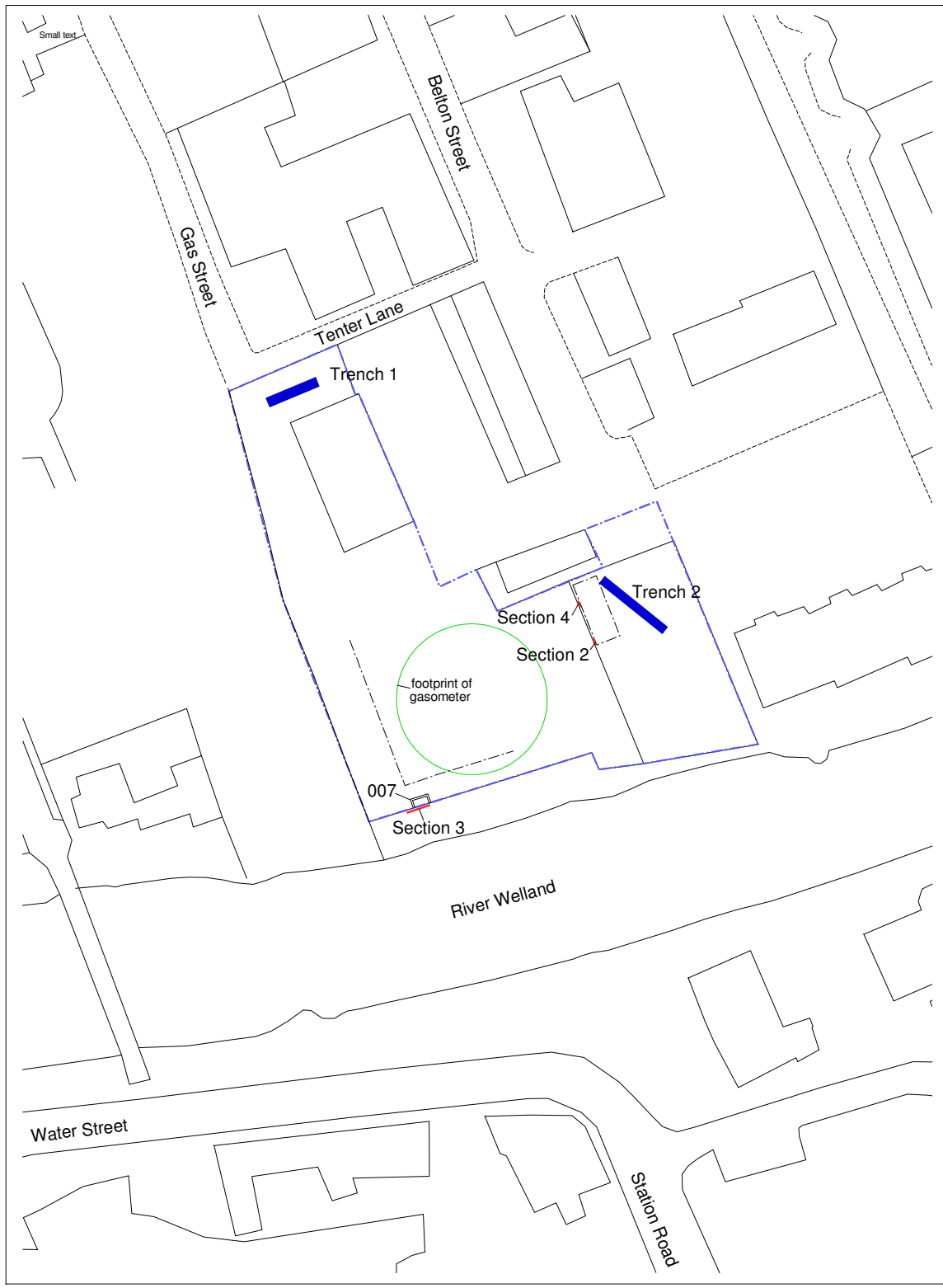

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Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 90/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan



 Evaluation trench




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Belton Street, Stamford STBS11		
Scale 1:1000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 90/11

Figure 3 - Plan of the area of development showing section locations

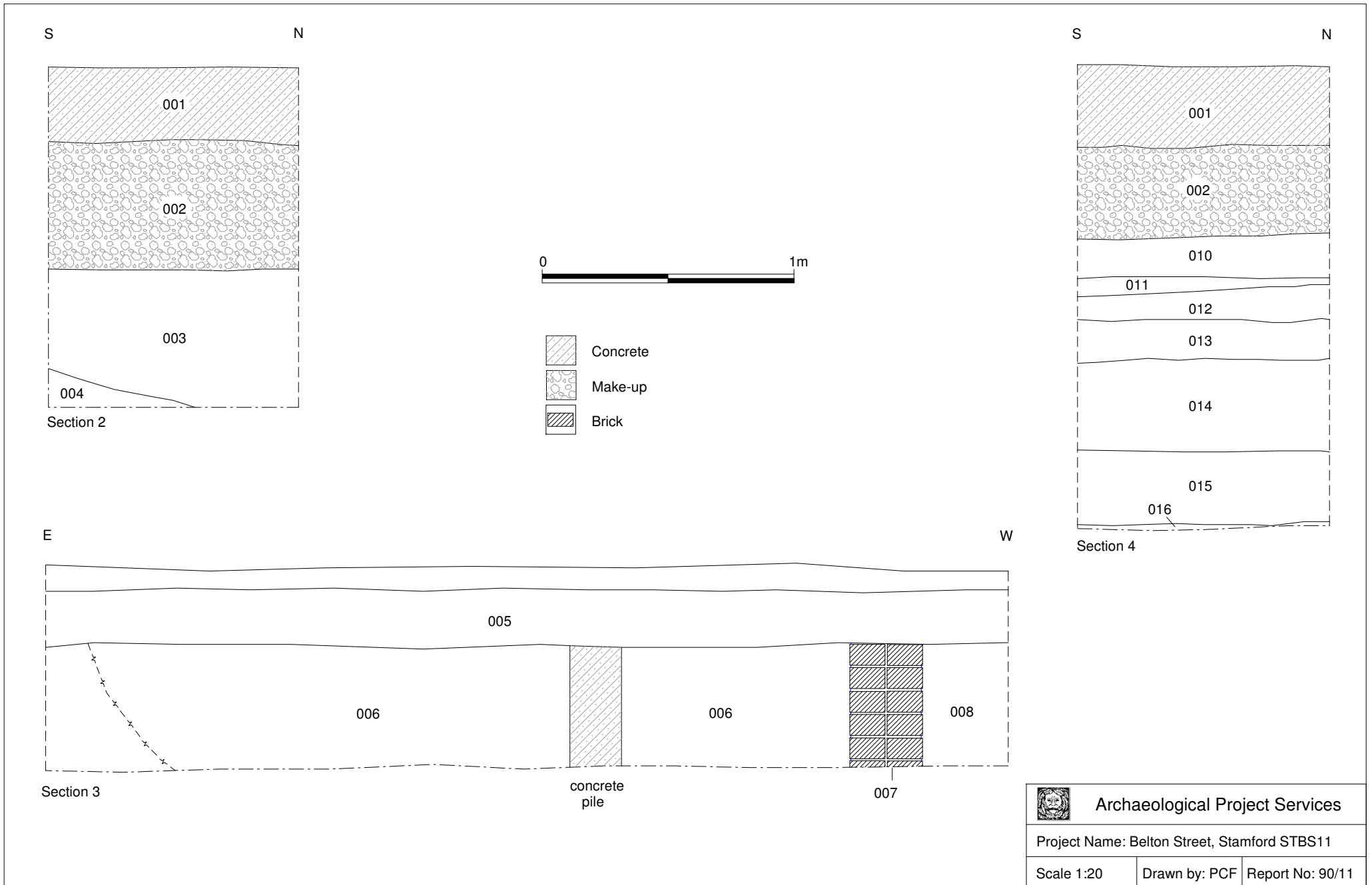


Figure 4 - Sections 2, 3 and 4





Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking north



Plate 2 – View showing the brick foundations of the gasometer





Plate 3 – Section 2 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking southwest



Plate 4 - Section 4, looking southwest

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Indurated light grey concrete, 0.3m thick	Concrete base
002	Friable light brown limestone fragments, 0.5m thick	Make-up for (001)
003	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay and black coal, 0.55m thick	Dumped deposit
004	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, >0.15m thick	Levelling deposit
005	Firm light brown limestone fragments, 0.2m thick	Make-up for (001)
006	Loose dark brown silty sand	Fill contained within (007)
007	Brick structure, aligned north-south, 0.3m wide	Cellar wall
008	Loose to firm mid brown silty sand, >0.5m thick	Levelling deposit
009	Black iron pipe	Modern pipe
010	Friable mid brown silty clay, 0.17m thick	Dumped deposit
011	Loose mid yellow sand, 70mm thick	Dumped deposit
012	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Dumped deposit
013	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	?former topsoil
014	Friable mixed mid orange brown and greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Levelling deposit
015	Soft mid grey silt, 0.28m thick	Levelling deposit
016	Firm mixed light and dark grey silty sand, >20mm thick	Levelling deposit
017	Brick structure	Gasometer wall



## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

#### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By 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 single sherd weighing 10 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.

##### Condition

The pot is in good condition and is archive stable.

##### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Date
013	ENGS	English stoneware	bottle	1	1	10	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century

##### Provenance

The pottery was retrieved from a possible former topsoil (013).

##### Potential

As a single sherd it has limited potential.

#### GLASS

By Gary Taylor

##### Introduction

A single piece of glass weighing 2g was recovered.

##### Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in moderate-good condition. It exhibits severe iridescent decay.

##### Results

Table 2, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
013	Pale green window glass, fire-rounded edge, very heavy iridescence	1	2	?17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century

##### Provenance

The glass was recovered from a former topsoil (013).

##### Range

A single piece of post-medieval window glass was recovered.

**Potential**

The glass has moderate potential and provides dating evidence and perhaps also suggests the presence of post-medieval buildings in the area.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 3, Spot dates*

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
013	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Based on 1 pot

**ABBREVIATIONS**

CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

**REFERENCES**

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

<b>Alluvium</b>	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	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.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

17	Context records
6	Daily record sheets
2	Photographic record sheets
6	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: LCNCC: 2011.12

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: STBS 11

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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