
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON PLOT 4 - GARAGE,
42 MAIN STREET,
BASTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAMSW 11)**

Work Undertaken For
Seagate Homes Limited
December 2011

Report Compiled by
Liz Murray BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 1165 1408
Planning Application: S11/2448/FULL
OASIS ID: archaeo11-116226
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APS Report No. **147/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
Watching Brief on
Plot 4 Garage, Main Street,
Baston, Lincolnshire
(BAMSW11)**

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Supervisor	Alex Beeby
Illustration	Liz Murray
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
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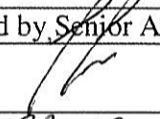
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 21/12/11	Date: 22-12-11

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a residential development at 42 Main Street, Baston, as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, near the historic core of the village. Previous work had been undertaken on the site, and the final stage was the monitoring of groundworks during the construction of a detached garage.

The site lay adjacent to Main Street which fossilizes the course of a Roman road. The Roman road King Street and Roman waterway the Car Dyke are also located nearby. Iron Age and Roman remains, a Saxon cemetery and Late Saxon and medieval settlement remains have been revealed close to the site. A trenching evaluation on the site revealed buried soils and a single pit, all of 12th to 15th century or later date. There was also evidence of substantial post-medieval sand and gravel extraction. Medieval pottery retrieved included locally-produced wares, some of which were wasters.

The watching brief revealed two ditches and two pits. No material remains were uncovered from the ditches and so they remain undated. The pits both contained Late Medieval pottery. One was interpreted as a cess pit and the other as a quarry. One ditch was cut by the cesspit indicating that it was earlier in date.

Finds from the pits included Stanion Lyveden and Bourne Ware, both 12th – 14th century in date.

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 may be disturbed or destroyed.” (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Further to earlier stages of work on the site at Main Street, Baston, a planning application (S11/2448/FULL) was submitted for the construction of a further single dwelling and detached garage. Following an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist advised that an archaeological watching brief was required during development.

The watching brief, on the garage footings, was carried out on the 12th December 2011, in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Baston is located approximately 6km south of Bourne and 11km northeast of Stamford, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

The site is in the eastern part of the linear village, on the south side of Main Street, at NGR TF 1165 1408 (Figure 2).

The site lies at approximately 6m OD on a gentle slope down to the east. Local soils are the Badsey 2 Association fine loamy soils developed upon a drift geology of terrace gravel which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101, BGS 1978).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Baston is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Evidence of earlier prehistoric activity is

limited, though a number of Neolithic stone axes have been found in the parish.

Iron Age enclosures have been identified to the west, around King Street.

Romano-British activity is indicated by the King Street Roman road, about 600m to the west, and the Baston Outgang which is fossilised by Main Street. Additionally, the Car Dyke Roman waterway is about 200m to the east of the site (Figure 2). Cropmarks thought to represent settlement of Roman date are evident on either side of King Street. Previous investigations immediately adjacent to the site revealed Roman remains including a possible burial (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1996; 1997; 1998).

Close to King Street, at Urns Farm, is the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of mid 5th to late 6th century date which contained few inhumations and many cremations (Mayes and Dean 1976, 6).

Investigations at Hall Farm, just to the southwest of the site, revealed remains of late Saxon settlement, including a rare example of an iron smithy, and medieval manorial and general settlement. Pottery wasters have also been found in the area indicating the likely presence of kilns (Taylor 2003).

The place-name Baston means ‘the enclosure/village of Bak(r)’, deriving from the Old Norse personal name *Bak* and Old English *tun* (Cameron 1998). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Baston comprised a manor and a berewick. Within the manor, held by Crowland Abbey, was a church and half a mill (Foster and Longley 1976).

Medieval and post-medieval remains have been found immediately to the east of the current site. Postholes, pits, some of them large, and small gullies and ditches were revealed. Perhaps functioning for gravel extraction and waste disposal, the large pits appeared to be concentrated in the

western part of the area (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1996; 1997; 1998). Where identified, linear features appeared to terminate within the development area, with none obviously extending into the present investigation site (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1998, fig 3).

The only extant medieval building is the parish church of St John the Baptist which dates to the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 129).

Number 42 Main Street stands within the proposed development area. This is a Grade II Listed Building (LBS Number 194416), an early 18th century cottage of coursed limestone rubble with ashlar quoins and dressings. The building is of a single storey with attics and has Collyweston slate roof and raised stone-coped gables (Heritage Gateway).

A trenching evaluation on the site revealed buried soils and a single pit of 12th to 15th century or later date. There was also a substantial sand and gravel quarry of 14th to 16th century or later date, along with late post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits. A small assemblage of medieval pottery retrieved from the site included locally-produced wares, some of which were wasters (Mellor 2011).

A further watching brief on the site uncovered similar features. Several sand and gravel pits dating from the 11th/12th century up to the 17th-18th century were revealed. A medieval boundary ditch containing 13th – 14th century pottery and two undated ditches were also recorded (Peachey 2011).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to record and interpret the deposits and archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

The objectives of the work were to

determine the type, spatial arrangement, date, function, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological features present within the site, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the residential development.

Selected sections of the trenches were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Some of the features were machine excavated by the developers as 'soft spots' and subsequently recorded in section.

Each deposit exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled using colour digital and black and white print formats. Plans of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposits encountered across the site were naturally-deposited layers of sand and gravel (072). These deposits represent the drift geology of terrace gravel. The sand and gravel was cut by several pits and ditches.

At the north of the footings trenches was a north-south aligned ditch [070], 1.7m wide x 0.55m in depth. It had a single dark brownish grey silty fill, with occasional flint gravel inclusions (071).

In the south-western corner of the footings trenches was a further possible ditch [077], although the feature was only seen in section, not in plan. The ditch was 0.3m in depth, but was truncated by a further feature to the west. The ditch had a single fill of greyish brown friable silt (078). It is possible that this ditch was a continuation of [070] to the north.

Ditch [077] was cut by a pit, [075], measuring 0.7m deep x 1.3m wide. The pit had steep, almost vertical, sides and a flat base. The single fill was a dark grey brown silt with lenses of darker humic material (076). Occasional large pieces of a pale grey concreted soil, perhaps cassy, were present in the fill, along with pieces of 12th – 14th century pottery and mollusc shells. Some of the pottery was coated with a cassy deposit (Appendix 2).

In the east of the footings was a large sub-circular pit [079] observed in several of the footings sections. At the base was 0.2m thick deposit of dark greyish brown clay (080). This was overlain by a mid grey brown silt with occasional charcoal and flint gravel (081), up to 0.9m in thickness. Pottery of 12th – 14th century date was recovered from (081).

Extant across the footings area was a dark grey brown silt subsoil (074) overlain with a humic silt topsoil (073). A fragment of 17th – 18th century pottery was retrieved from (074).

6. DISCUSSION

As with the evaluation and previous monitoring, the watching brief revealed a number of pits and ditches cutting the natural sand and gravel.

The two ditches (070, 077) observed in the north and south of the footings trench may be a continuation of the same single ditch. No material finds were recovered from either of the fills and so the ditches remain undated.

The large pit [079] in the east of the footings contained a single fill from which was retrieved several sherds of Stanion Lyveden Ware, which can be dated to the 12th or 13th century. Although the function of the pit is unclear, other large pits observed during previous work on site have been interpreted as quarry pits for the extraction of sand and gravel.

The pit in the south-western corner of the site also contained sherds of 12th – 14th century pottery, one of them stained with cess. Concreted soil also retrieved from the fill has been interpreted as cess, which would suggest that the pit was used as a cesspit.

Although no definitive date can be given to ditch [077], the fact that it was cut by pit [075] suggests that it predates it and, hence, no later than the 12th – 13th centuries.

Only a single fragment of pottery was recovered from the subsoil – a brown glazed earthenware dating to the 17th – 18th century.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was maintained on groundworks during a residential development at 42 Main Street, Baston as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying near the historic core of the village.

The watching brief revealed several features. Two ditches – possibly two sections of a continuing ditch, remain undated.

Two pits, probably a cess pit and a quarry pit, both date to the Late Medieval period. One ditch was cut by the cess pit, demonstrating that it is earlier in date.

The majority of pottery recovered during the watching brief dates from the 12th - 14th century.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Adrian Sovereign of Seagate Homes Ltd who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
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 CAD Illustration: Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Liz Murray

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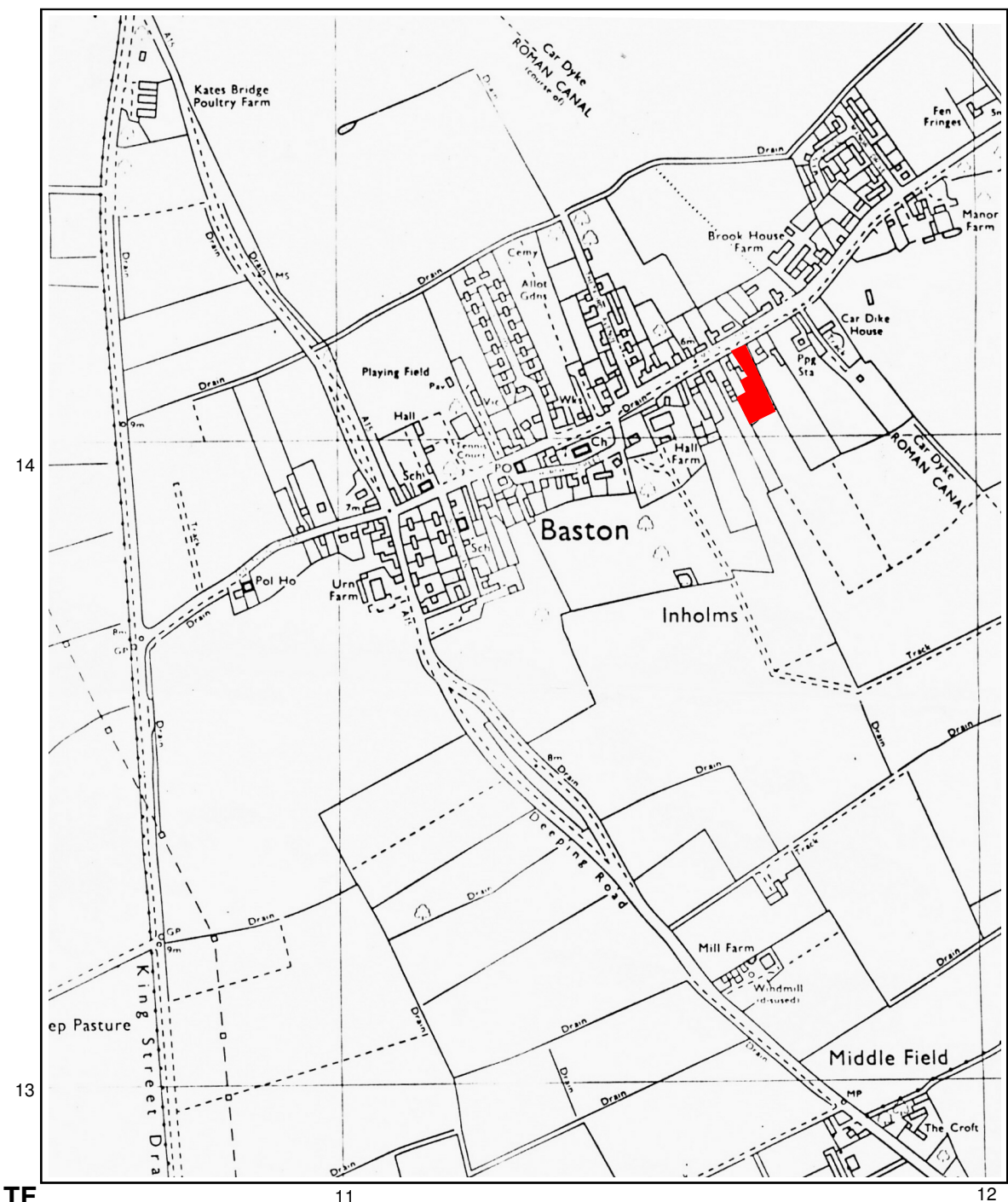
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

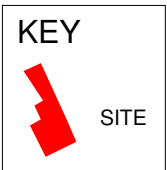
APS	Archaeological Project Services
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LAS	Lindsey Archaeological Services
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
OS	Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 General location map



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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Baston, Main St - Plot 4		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 147/11

Figure 2. Site location plan

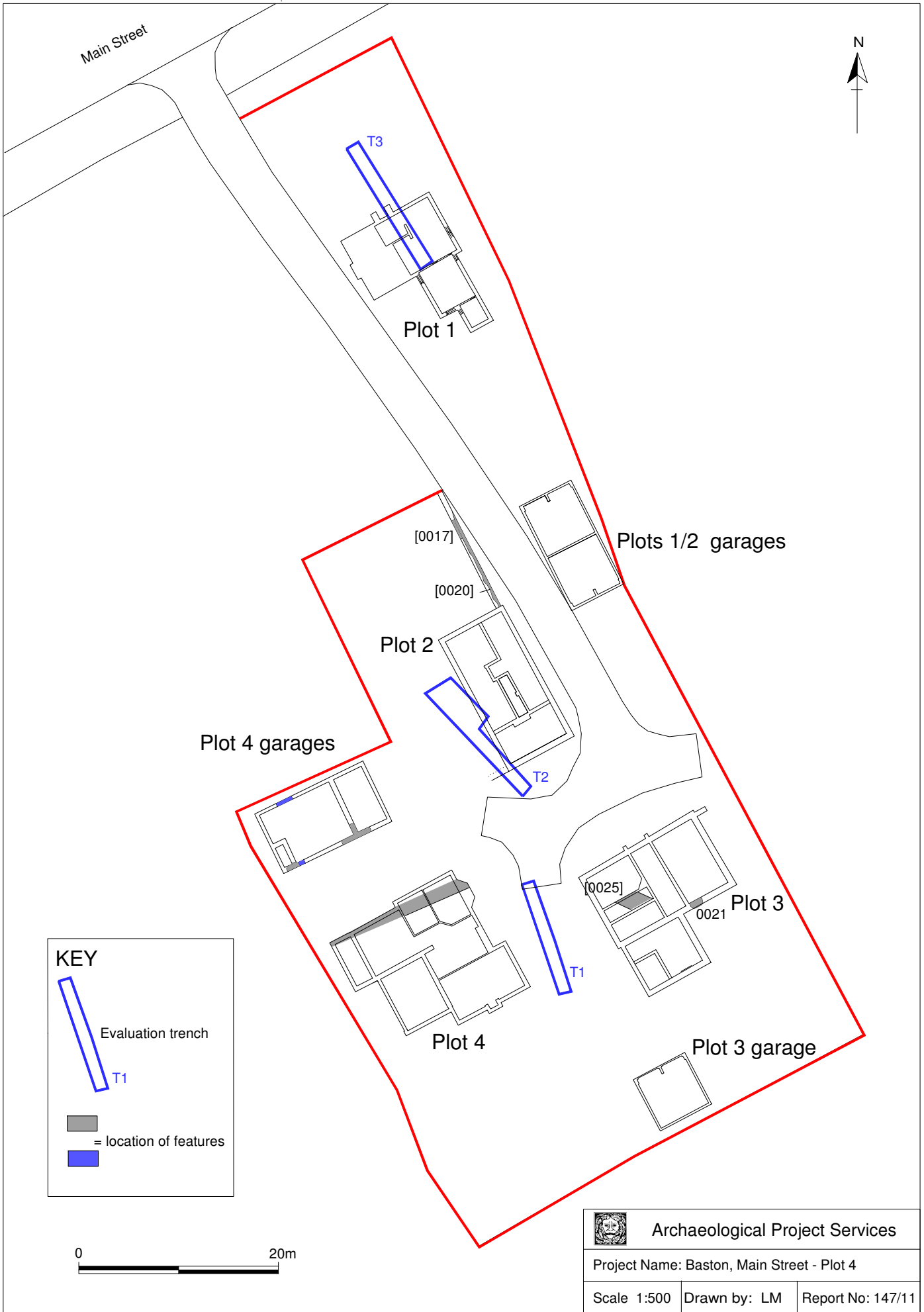


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

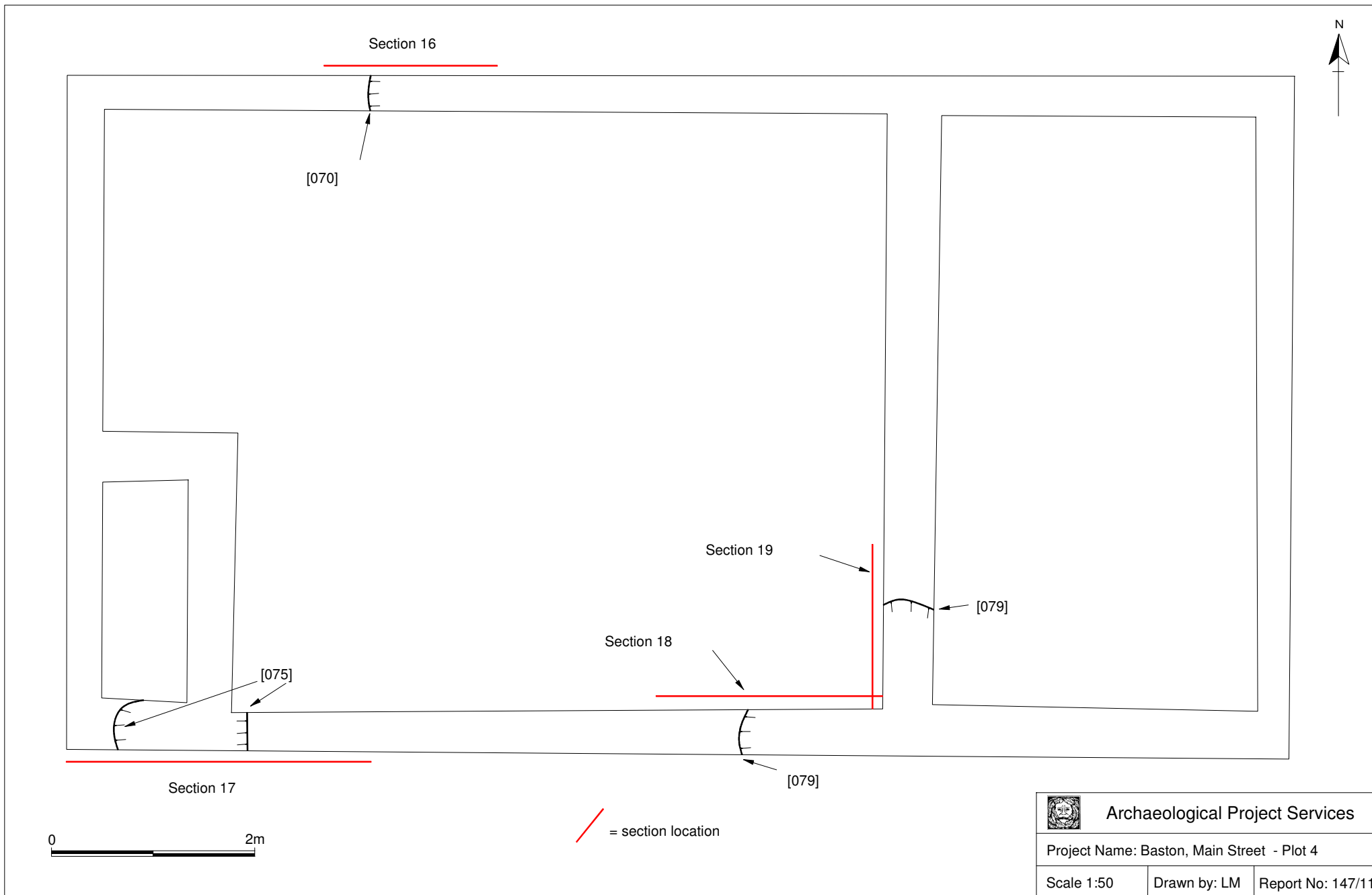

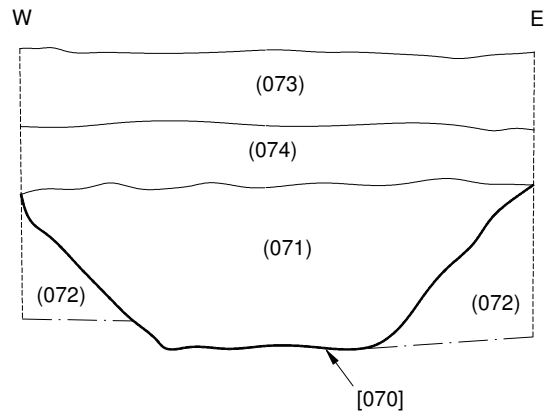


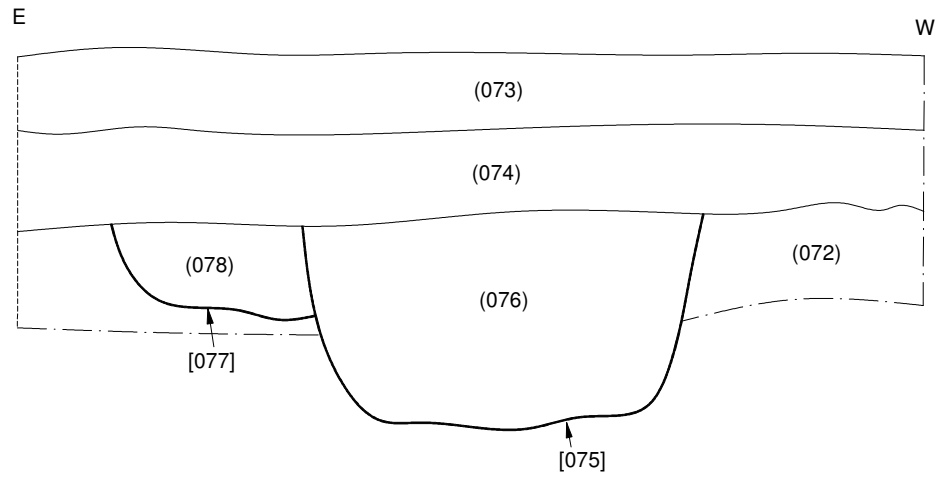
Figure 4 Footings plan

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Baston, Main Street - Plot 4		
Scale 1:50	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 147/11

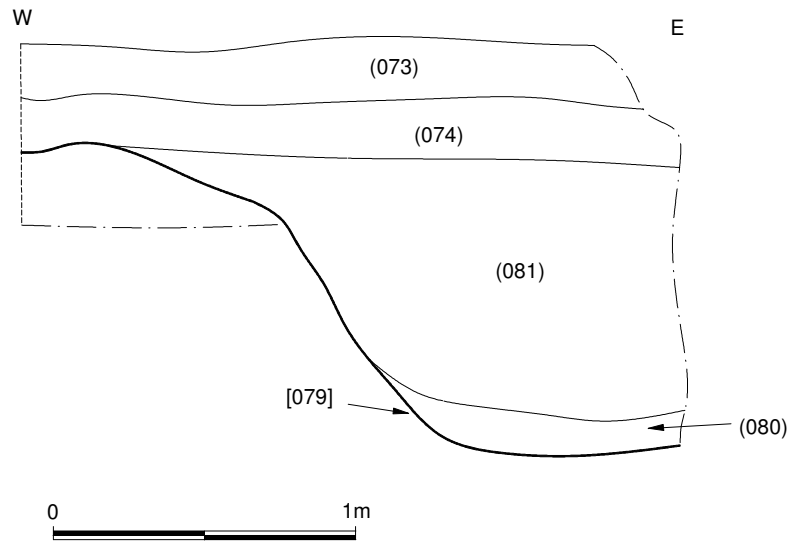
Section 16



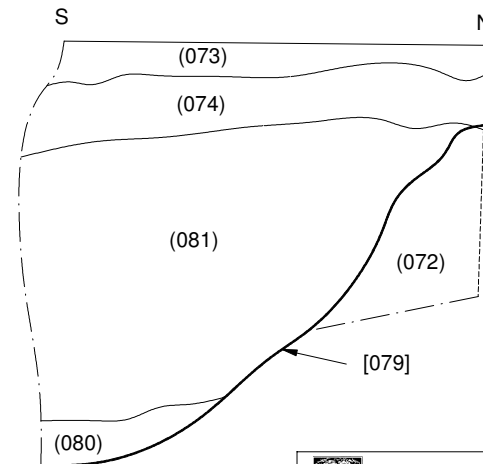
Section 17



Section 18



Section 19




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Baston, Main Street - Plot 4		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 147/11

Figure 5 Sections 16 - 19

Plates



Plate 1 – Ditch [070] in south facing section of footings trench



Plate 2 – Pit [075] cutting ditch [077]



Plate 3 – Pit [079], evident in several of the sections

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Plot	Description	Interpretation
070	4 garages	Linear feature, approx 0.55m deep, sharp sloping break, relatively straight sides, flat base, aligned north/south	Cut of linear ditch
071	4 garages	Friable/loose, dark brownish grey silt, occasional angular and rounded flint gravel, extant across[070]	Fill of [070]
072	4 garages	Loose, pale grey brown sand and gravel, extant across foundation area, very badly disturbed by bioturbation	Natural sand and gravel deposit
073	4 garages	Friable, dark grey brown, humic silt, occasional flint gravel	Topsoil
074	4 garages	Friable, dark grey brown silt, occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecks, approximately 0.2m thick, frequent bioturbation	Subsoil, heavily disturbed by root action
075	4 garages	Feature, shape in plan unknown, 0.7m deep x 1.3m wide, sharp break of slope to steep side, sharp break to flat base,	Cut of large pit
076	4 garages	Friable, dark grey brown with darker lenses, silt, occasional large pieces of pale grey burnt clay up to 100mm in diam	Fill of large pit [075]
077	4 garages	Features, not seen in plan – possibly linear, 0.3m deep width unknown, curved sides with gentle break of slope to flat base, truncated by [075]	Cut of probable linear – possibly same as [070]
078	4 garages	Dark grey brown, friable silt, occasional flint gravel,	Fill of [077]
079	4 garages	Circular feature, although not seen in plan, 1m deep x 3m wide, gently sloping sides with flat base	Cut of large pit
080	4 garages	Plastic, dark grey brown clay, moderate charcoal, 0.2m thick,	Fill of [079]
081	4 garages	Friable, mid grey brown silt, occasional flint gravel and occasional charcoal, 0.9m thick	Fill of [079]

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) 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 seven vessels, weighing 113 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 early medieval to the late post medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is fragmentary but not overly abraded. One fragment of pottery has a thick yellowy white deposit over the broken edge, this is probably due to direct contact with cess after deposition. Sherds from several vessels show evidence of use, one piece is sooted internally, whilst a second has an external soot deposit. Sooting of this kind is suggestive of use over a hearth or fire. A single sherd has leached internal shell inclusions, probably from being used to hold acidic contents.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fab	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
074	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenwares		Hollow	BS		17th-18th	1	1	4
076	BOUA	Medieval Bourne Ware	B/C	Jug or Jar	BS	Thin misfired glaze; thick yellow-white cess deposit over broken edge	M12th-14th	1	1	29
076	STANLY	Stanion Lyveden Ware	A	Jug or Jar	BSS	Joining sherds	M12th-M13th	2	1	7
081	STANLY	Stanion Lyveden Ware	A	Jar	BS	Leached; sooted exterior	M12th-M13th	1	1	5
081	STANLY	Stanion Lyveden Ware	A	Jug or Jar	BS		M12th-M13th	1	1	13
081	STANLY	Stanion Lyveden Ware	A	Large Jug or Jar?	Base	Either large vessel or bowl	M12th-M13th	1	1	22
081	BOUA	Medieval Bourne Ware	A/C	Jar	BS	Sooted internally	M12th-14th	1	1	33
Total								8	7	113

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from pits [075] and [079] as well as subsoil (074).

Range

There are eight sherds within this group, seven of which derive from jugs or jars in Medieval Bourne Ware (BOUA) or Stanion and Lyveden Ware (STNLY). Both pits [075] and [079] produced a similar mix of the material suggesting a

broadly contemporary date, probably in the mid 12th to 13th centuries. A single sherd of brown glazed earthenware (BERTH) was also recovered from the subsoil in this area.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Medieval pottery probably dating from the mid 12th-13th centuries was recovered from two pit features during the watching brief.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A total of 2 (3g) fragments of faunal remains were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from a pit fill.

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
076	mussel	shell		1	1	complete
	Garden snail	shell		1	2	Near-complete

Summary

Two mollusc shells were recovered. The mussel is food waste but the garden snail is a natural inhabitant of the site.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Two other finds weighing a total of 162g were recovered.

Condition

The other finds are in good condition.

Results

Table 3, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
076	soil	Concreted soil, possibly cessy concretion	2	162	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from a pit fill.

Range

Only concreted soil, possibly concreted due to the presence of cessy material, was recovered.

Potential

Although providing some possible functional evidence, for the disposal of cess or for the use of the pit as a cess pit, the other finds are of limited potential and could be discarded.

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
074	17th-18th	Subsoil, based on a single sherd
076	M12th-14th	Probably M12th-13th
081	M12th-14th	Probably M12th-13th

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and 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, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) 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 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
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
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, Denmark and adjacent areas.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

12	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
4	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Bag of Finds

All primary records 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: 2011.11

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BAMSW11

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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