
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING ON
LAND AT 7 ST LEONARD'S STREET,
STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(STLS 11)**

Work Undertaken For

John Cookson

January 2012

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at
 7 St Leonard's Street,
 Stamford,
 Lincolnshire
 (STLS 11)**

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Site Supervisor	Mark Peachey
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration	Mark Peachey
Photographic Reproduction	Mark Peachey
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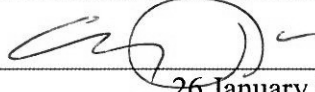
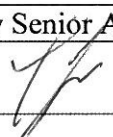
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 26 January 2012	Date: 26 January 2012

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken prior to a residential development on land at 7 St Leonard's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The area was archaeologically sensitive, situated at the eastern edge of the 9th century Danish burh and close to the postulated site of the medieval church of St Michael. Archaeological investigations undertaken just to the east had revealed medieval remains suggesting the location of St. Michael's church, while iron smelting furnaces of medieval date had been identified just to the west. The house at the street frontage is a Grade II Listed Building of 17th century date.

The investigation revealed further evidence for medieval iron working in the east side of Stamford in the form of a dump of iron smelting and smithing slag. This was buried beneath post-medieval layers prior to construction of the current house in the 17th century.

Finds comprised medieval and post-medieval pottery, a fragment of glazed medieval ridge tile, slag and animal bone.

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

Planning applications (S10/2872/FUL and S10/2873/FUL) were submitted to South

Kesteven District Council for the demolition of an existing rear extension and wall, the erection of a two-storey rear extension, a garage with room above and a new wall at the site. Permission was granted subject to an archaeological watching brief being undertaken during the development works. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr John Cookson to undertake this work which was carried out on 12th and 15th December 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stamford is located 30km southeast of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven in the southwest corner of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site lies on the eastern side of the town centre on the north side of St. Leonard's Street, close to its junction with George Street, centred on National Grid Reference TF 0325 0719 (Fig. 2).

The site lies at c. 32m OD on the south facing slope of the Welland valley. Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban, but on the basis of surrounding areas are probably Elnton 3 calcareous fine loamy soils over Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 181).

2.4 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. The site lies at the eastern limits of the burh (Mahaney 1982).

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 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).

An iron-working industry, known to have been established in Stamford during the late Saxon period, continued into medieval times. In 1962 a 9th to 12th century iron-working furnace was excavated to the west of the site at 32-34 High Street (Burchard 1982), whilst investigations to the north of the site on the frontage of Star Lane revealed the presence of a medieval iron smelting site and furnace (Bradley-Lovekin 2003). Iron smelting waste of 10th-11th century date was also recently revealed just to the north of that site, close to the Broad Street frontage (Peachey 2011). Evidence for both iron smelting and smithing was found to the west of the present site at the junction of St. Leonard's Street and St George Street (Cowgill 2001) and it now appears that a large area to the rear of the High Street may have been used for iron-working. Iron-working within towns was extremely rare during this period, Stamford is one of only three such towns where it is known to have occurred and it has been suggested that the development of the industry in Stamford is not paralleled in any other town (Cowgill, 2003).

St Leonard's Street was known as Cornstall in medieval times and St George's Street in the 18th century, only acquiring its present name in 1830. It was an early extension east of the Danish *burh*, and the church of St Michael in Cornstall or the Less was built on its north side in the 12th century (marked as 42 on Fig 2). It was amalgamated with St George's church in 1308 due to poverty and demolished

later that century (RCHME 1977). A previous investigation east of the development site revealed medieval remains including building debris with carved stone, pottery, slag and floor tiles, suggesting the location of the church.

An evaluation immediately to the northwest revealed a single 13th-14th century pit and post-medieval deposits (Bradley-Lovekin and Peachey 2008).

The building on the site is a Grade II Listed building of probable 17th century origin (Plate 1).

3. AIMS

The aims of the monitoring and recording were to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

The objectives of the investigation were to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered; as far as practicable, to recover dating evidence from them; and to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

A watching brief was maintained during the removal of rubble infilling the former extension and on the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension (Plate 2).

The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed 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 and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed in relation to fixed points on boundaries and on existing buildings.

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 revealed was very dark grey (almost black) clayey silt (013), a dump of industrial waste at least 0.2m thick. This was encountered at a depth of 0.85m in the east side footing adjacent to the extant house and contained three small sherds of, possibly redeposited, 12th century pottery, medieval slag and animal bone. It was overlain by a 0.25m thick patch of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (012).

This deposit was truncated by north-south wall construction cut [011] which contained limestone wall [010] (Fig 4, Section 2, Plate 3), forming the east side of the footings trench. The wall, probably a former garden wall and/or property boundary was 0.75m high. It appeared to continue alongside the house, beneath the current tarmac, towards the street.

The industrial waste layer was seen in the base of the east side footings for a distance

of 4.5m and was overlain by mid yellowish brown clayey silt/limestone rubble (008) which was at least 0.3m thick (Fig 4, Section 3). Above this was 0.28m thick dark brownish grey clayey silt subsoil (007) which contained two sherds of 15th-16th century pottery and was sealed by 0.35m thick dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (004) which contained a residual fragment of late medieval glazed ridge tile along with 19th and early 20th century pottery. A probable former garden soil, it was cut by vertical-sided, flat-bottomed feature [006] which was filled by brick and limestone rubble (005) (Fig 4, Section 1, Plate 4).

A remnant of the concrete floor (003) of the extension, which had truncated the topsoil and subsoil deposits, remained immediately to the rear of the house. On the initial visit a red brick north-south aligned partition wall in stretcher bond [002] (Plate 5) was observed laid on the concrete. A thick deposit (001) of brick, concrete, slate and stone rubble mixed with topsoil, which had infilled the extension area, was removed (Plate 6). Several sherds of redeposited 19th and early 20th century pottery were retrieved from this.

6. DISCUSSION

The dump of industrial waste (013) contained common slag from both iron smelting and iron smithing. This shows that not only the smelting of iron ore to produce blooms, but also primary smithing, to turn them into ingots, was undertaken in the vicinity. The slag is broadly medieval, while the associated pottery, although redeposited, is of 12th century date. This would indicate that the footings of the extant post-medieval house cut the industrial deposit rather than the latter having built up against them. The adjacent garden or property boundary stone wall [010] overlay the industrial deposit and did not extend as deep as the

house footings.

The industrial deposit provides further evidence of the important medieval iron working industry in Stamford, much evidence for which has previously been found to the northwest and west of the site.

An undated levelling layer of limestone rubble sealed the industrial deposits above which was a subsoil layer containing fresh sherds of 15th to 16th century pottery. This was overlain by a former garden soil of 19th to early 20th century date.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 7 St Leonard's Street, Stamford, because the area was archaeologically sensitive, lying at the eastern edge of the 9th century Danish burh and close to the postulated site of the medieval church of St Michael.

The investigation revealed further evidence for medieval iron working in the eastern part of Stamford in the form of industrial residue. This had been buried beneath post-medieval layers prior to construction of the current house in the 17th century.

Finds comprised medieval and post-medieval pottery, a glazed medieval ridge tile, slag and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of John Cookson 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 South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
 CAD Illustration: Mark Peachey
 Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

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RCHME 1977 *An Inventory of Historical Monuments: The Town of Stamford*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England



Figure 1 - General location plan

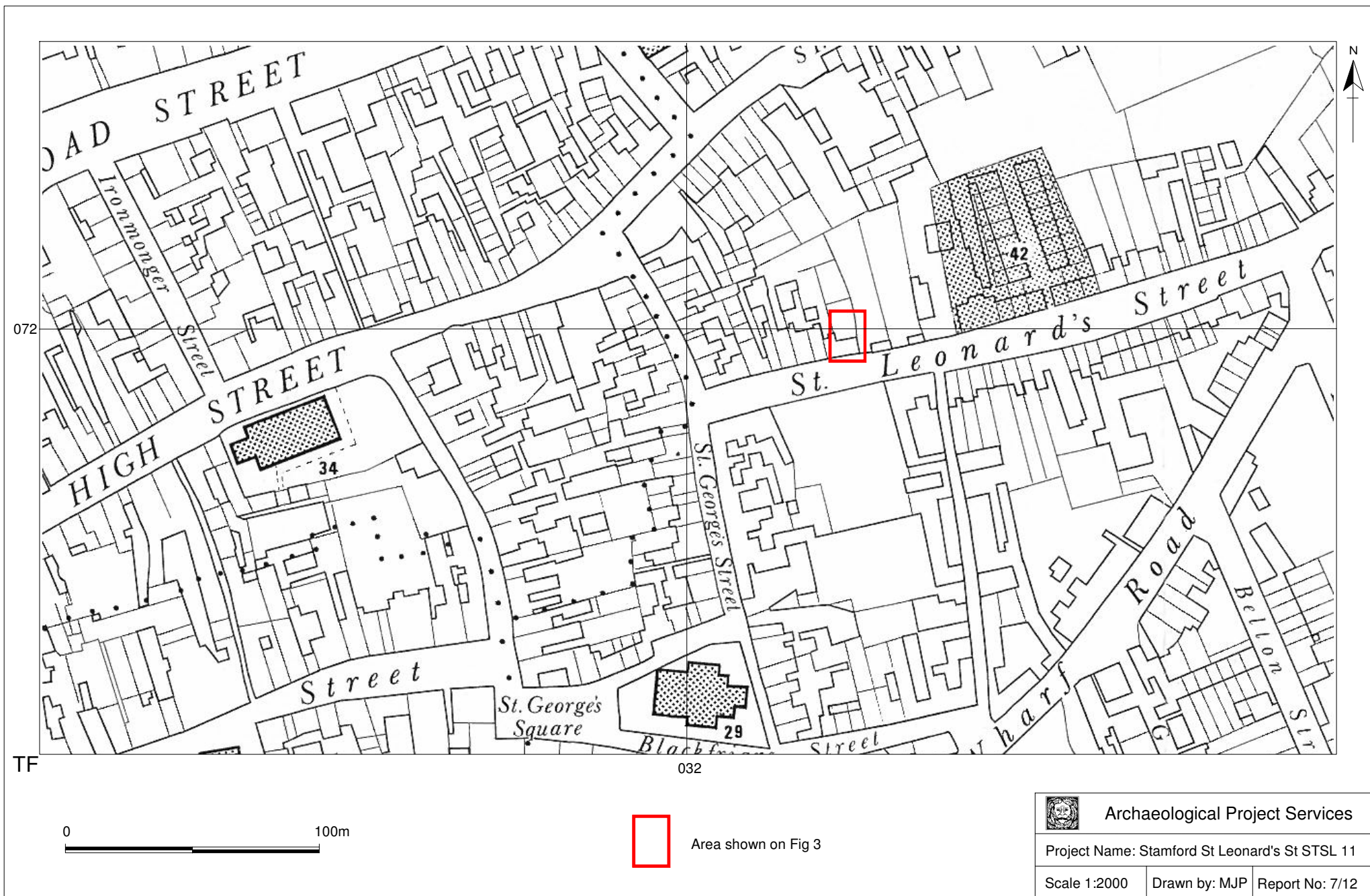

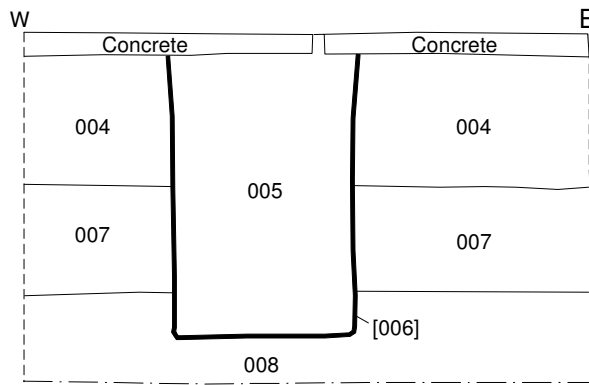


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

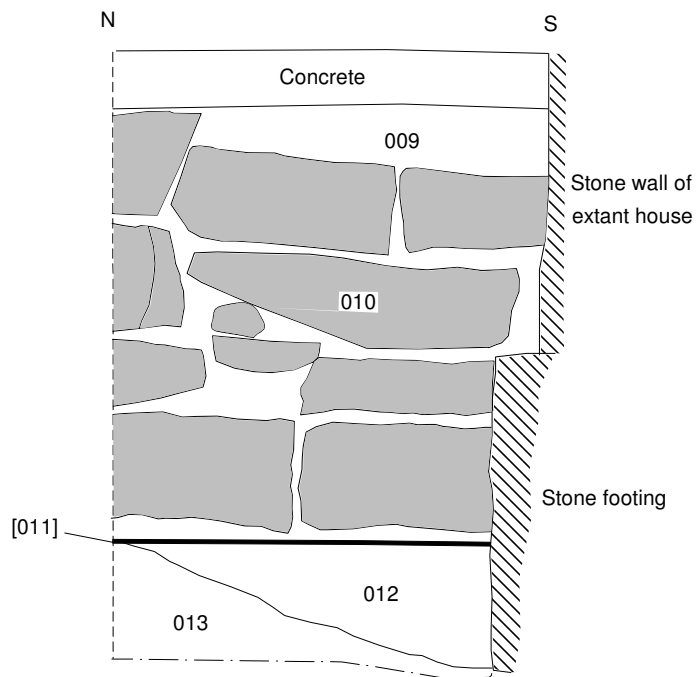


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

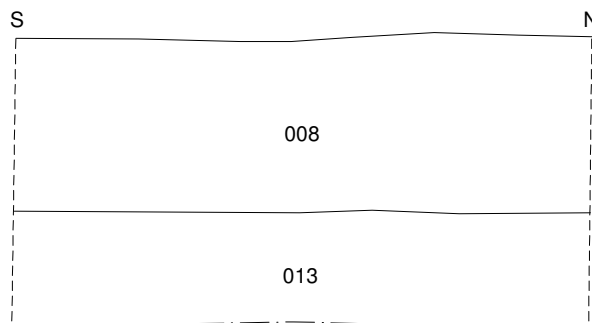
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Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Stamford St Leonard's St STLS11

Scale 1:20 | Drawn by: MJP | Report No: 7/12

Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1. General view of 7 St Leonard's St with work in progress to rear



Plate 2. General view of footings looking south



Plate 3. Wall [010], deposit (013), Section 2, and house footings looking southeast



Plate 4. Representative section 1 at north end of site, looking north



Plate 5. View showing exposed stone footings of house, and wall [002], looking south



Plate 6. Excavating rubble from area of former extension, looking west

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with about 50% brick (including frogged), concrete, slate and stone rubble	Dumped deposit in area of former extension	
002	Red brick wall, in stretcher bond, 2.5m long, 0.25m wide, up to 0.65m high. individual bricks 220 x 100 x 65mm	Internal partition of demolished extension	
003	Hard light grey concrete, largely broken out but survived around and below wall 003	Concrete floor	
004	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small angular brick and limestone fragments, 0.35m thick	Former garden soil	
005	Loose dark grey 60% brick and limestone rubble mixed with topsoil, 0.75m thick	Fill of [006]	
006	Vertical sided, flat bottomed cut not seen in plan. 0.48m wide, 0.75m deep	Probable wall foundation cut	
007	Friable mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone fragments, 0.28m thick	Subsoil	Mid 15 th -16 th century
008	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey silt with common limestone fragments, at least 0.25m thick	Dumped deposit	
009	Sticky mid brown clayey silt, 0.75m thick	Fill of wall cut [011]	
010	N-S aligned limestone wall, at least 7.5m long, 0.75m high, breadth not seen: limit of development	Former garden wall	
011	N-S aligned linear cut with flat base, at least 7.5m long, 0.75m deep	Wall construction cut	
012	Sticky mid yellowish brown clayey silt, up to 0.25m thick	Dumped deposit	
013	Soft very dark grey, almost black, clayey silt with common slag, at least 0.28m thick	Dump of industrial waste	12 th century

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). All of the material was split and individually bagged by fabric type for archive storage. A total of 14 sherds from 12 vessels, weighing 322 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. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxon-Norman/Early Medieval to the Early Modern period.

Condition

The pottery is a mix of small fragmented pieces and larger fresh sherds. Two vessels have external soot deposits, this is often an indication of domestic use over a hearth or fire. None of the pottery is noticeably abraded.

Results

Table 1 Post Roman Pottery Archive

Period	Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Saxo-Norman -Early Medieval	ST	Stamford Ware	1000	1200	3	2	23
Late Medieval - Post Medieval	BOU	Bourne "D" Ware	1400	1600	2	2	202
Early Modern	CREA	Creamware	1800	1850	3	3	53
	NCBW	19th-Century Buff Ware	1800	1900	1	1	8
	PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	3	2	26
	PORC	Porcelain	1800	1900	1	1	3
	WHITE	Modern Whiteware	1850	1950	1	1	7
Total					14	12	322

Provenance

Pottery came from dump deposits (001) and (013), as well as former garden/topsoil (004) and subsoil (007).

Range

Most of the pottery is early modern in date, with vessels in modern Whiteware (WHITE), Creamware (CREA), Porcelain (PORC), 19th Century Buffware (NCBW) and Pearlware (PEARL) represented. These common mass produced types were recovered from former garden soil (004) and dumped deposit (001).

Subsoil (007) produced two large fresh sherds from jugs or cisterns in a smooth type Bourne "D" Ware fabric. These are likely to date to the 15th-16th century. One of these vessels has a finger pressed base suggesting a date after 1450 AD.

Dump deposit (013) yielded three sherds from two vessels in Stamford ware (ST). Although these pieces are likely to date to around the 12th century, they are small and may well be redeposited.

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive.

Summary

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during archaeological investigations. The finds include Medieval, Post Medieval and Early Modern pottery from stratified layer deposits.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 108 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out, viewed and then weighed. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

The fragment is fresh.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Sub Fabric	NoF	Weight	Decoration	Description	Date
004	GRID	BOUA	C	1	108	Applied crest; incisions along base of crest	Thick olive green glaze; raised longitudinal crest; with triangular point	13th-14th

Provenance

The piece came from former garden soil (004).

Range

There is a single fragment from a glazed ridge tile (GRID) in a oolitic Bourne Ware type fabric (BOUA fabric C). This is medieval in date and likely to belong to the 13th-14th centuries. It is residual in this context.

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

There is a single fragment from a medieval ridge tile; this piece is residual.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 4 (20g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The bone was retrieved from a dumped deposit of industrial waste.

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
013	large mammal	long bone	-	1	8	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	2	
	medium mammal	rib	-	1	4	
	sheep/goat	astragalus	-	1	6	

Summary

As a small assemblage the animal bone is of limited value. None of the bone shows evidence for having been involved in any industrial use and it is likely to have entered the deposit as butchery waste.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A quantity of other finds, 22 items weighing over 2kg, was recovered. Hammerscale, a small bag weighing 17g, was also retrieved.

Condition

The other finds are in good condition.

Results

Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
013	Slag	Iron smelting slag, 1 with fuel impressions, medieval	10	599	medieval
	Slag	Iron smithing slag, 1 with flake hammerscale adhering	12	1418	
	Slag	Plate and spheroidal hammerscale	-	17	

Provenance

The other finds were all recovered from a dump of industrial waste (013).

Range

All of the other finds are of industrial residue, but are of various types. Slags from both iron smelting and iron smithing occur in quantity. This indicates that not only the production of iron by smelting its ores occurred in the area, but also that the smelted blooms then underwent primary smithing to turn them into ingots. Hammerscale from the two processes was also recovered. Spheroidal debris derives from the primary smithing of blooms to ingots. Plate hammerscale is also produced in this process but is also formed in secondary smithing of ingots into objects (English Heritage 2001, 14). The smelting slag is broadly medieval in appearance, probably dating between the 9th and 14th centuries.

Potential

The other finds are of moderate to high potential and indicate the smelting and primary smithing of iron at the site during the medieval period.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	L19th	
004	19th	
007	M15th-16th	
013	12th	Also contains medieval slag

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
001	CREA		Plate	1	1	10	Blue transfer print; "willow pattern"	Base		L19th
001	CREA		Flat	1	1	5	Blue transfer print "sponged" rim	Rim		EM19th
001	PEARL		Bowl?	1	1	3	Blue transfer print; rustic or Chinoiserie	BS		19th
001	PEARL		Cup	2	1	23	Blue sponged dec	Rim to Lwall with handle	Unusual angular handle	L19th
001	PORC		Flat	1	1	3	Blue transfer print; floral design	Rim		19th-E20th
004	CREA		Drinking Jug	1	1	38	Brown painted stripe; blue painted area	Lwall to Base	Poorly finished; copying continental Westerwald type stonewares	19th
004	NCBW		Hollow	1	1	8	White slip lines; blue dendritic dec	BS		19th
004	WHITE		Flat	1	1	7	Blue transfer print; "willow pattern"	Base	Stained crazed glaze	19th-E20th
007	BOU	Smooth	Jug or Cistern	1	1	49		Rim Neck	White wash; abraded; misfired yellow/green glaze	15th-16th

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
007	BOU	Smooth	Jug or Cistern	1	1	153	Slight finger pressing at base	Base	White wash; external soot; fresh	M15th-16th
013	ST	A/D	Jar	2	1	12		BSS	Unglazed; burnt; sooted	11th-12th
013	ST	C/G	Pitcher	1	1	11		BS	Thick dark yellow glaze	12th

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 Smelting	The process of obtaining Iron from ore. In a bloomery furnace this is achieved by creating a reducing atmosphere of carbon monoxide in the furnace by the reaction of oxygen in the air with carbon in the fuel (charcoal). The carbon monoxide penetrates the ore particles and reacts with the iron oxide to form carbon dioxide, reducing the iron oxide sequentially to metal. In a bloomery furnace some of the iron oxide reacts with the other oxides present (e.g. silica and alumina) to form slag, the waste product of iron smelting. Bloomery furnaces were in use from the Iron Age to the Medieval period. Blast furnaces were introduced into Britain by at least 1496 and are used to make cast iron. The temperature in a blast furnace is much higher turning the metal in the ore into a molten liquid which is then poured into moulds. Cast Iron is brittle and not suitable for tools such as nails or knives
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.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
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:

1	Context register sheet
13	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
2	Daily 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

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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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