
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT TRINITY STREET,
GAINSBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(GBTS 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
McDonalds Restaurants Limited**

May 2012

Report Compiled by
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APS Report No. **27/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with a new development at Trinity Street, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of geotechnical test pits and the stripping of the building footprint and car parking areas.

The site lies immediately south of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the town which may have developed from a defensive burh established when the Danish army overwintered in Gainsborough in 1013. During the later post-medieval period (AD 1750-1899) Gainsborough was an important port on the Trent a function that gave rise to a number of industries in the town. The site was occupied by housing in the later 19th century.

The investigations revealed natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated levelling deposits were encountered above which were further dumping and levelling episodes of probable 19th – 20th century date. In addition, two brick-lined wells and a cess pit were recorded along with walls that accord well with a row of terraced housing appearing on late 19th century maps of Gainsborough. No finds were retrieved during the monitoring programme.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by McDonalds Restaurants Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of geotechnical test pits and groundworks associated with the construction of a new restaurant and car park at Trinity Street, Gainsborough,

Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application no. 126488. The investigations were carried out between the 23rd November 2011 and 22nd February 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Gainsborough is located on the east bank of the River Trent 24km northwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 500m southeast of the town centre as defined by the parish church of All Saints at National Grid Reference SK 8168 8968 (Fig. 2). The site sits adjacent to Trinity Street and north of Torr Street and is situated at a height of c. 6m OD on the floodplain of the River Trent.

As an urban area soils at the site have not been mapped, but are likely to be either sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Blackwood Association or reddish clayey soils of the Worcester Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127; 367). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels which in turn seals a solid geology of Triassic mudstones.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Gainsborough is located in an area of known remains dating from the Saxon period to the present day.

Gainsborough is first mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicles in the mid 11th century. Referred to as *Genesburuh*, *Gaignesburh* and *Genesburc*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the fortified place (*burh*) belonging to *Gægn*’ (Cameron 1998, 49).

The Anglo Saxon Chronicle records that in 1013, King Swein of Denmark landed his

fleet at Gainsborough, overwintering there with his son Cnut (Swanton 2000, 143).

In the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, Gainsborough was held by Geoffrey de la Guerche and contained 40 acres of meadow and 80 acres of scrubland (Williams and Martin 2002, 953). During the medieval period, the site lay outside the core of the medieval town.

The site lies close to the wharfs on the banks of the River Trent. Gainsborough maintained a successful rivalry with Hull as a port town although was overshadowed by the larger port that saw the Trent as one of its dependant creeks. Gainsborough had so increased in importance as a river port by 1820 that a Branch Custom House from the port of Hull was established there. The consequence of this was to enhance Gainsborough so much as a commercial station that by 1841 it was constituted as a sea port in its own right and independent of Hull (White 1856).

Gainsborough saw massive industrial expansion, particularly in the Victorian period. Close by, to the northeast of Wembley Street, lay Marshall's Britannia Works, the dominant force in Gainsborough industry. First founded in 1842 by William Marshall and called the Britannia Ironworks, by 1848 the factory produced steam engines and boilers to award winning standards (Clark 1998).

An evaluation undertaken to the west revealed late 19th century industrial activity and housing (Parker 2008, 4).

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

Initially, two Test Pits were excavated by machine to a depth of up to 1.7m below the current ground level. This was followed by stripping of the overburden to a depth of 1.05m in Area 1 and 0.5m in Area 2. The sides of both test pits and stripped areas were cleaned and rendered vertical. The stripped areas were also examined for archaeological features. 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 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 in relation to the Test Pit or area in which they were examined. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Test Pit 1

The earliest deposit encountered within this Test Pit was a layer of light brown sand (103). Identified as natural, it measured in excess of 0.8m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 2).

Overlying this was a 0.8m thick layer of mixed mortar and brick fragments (102). This was interpreted as a levelling deposit with demolition material. This was in turn sealed by the current topsoil comprising

brown sandy silt (101) which was 0.1m thick.

Test Pit 2

Located at the base of this Test Pit was a natural layer of light brown sand (205) which was over 80mm thick. Above this was an organic black sandy silt (204) of unknown origin that was 0.52m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3).

This was sealed by a dumped deposit of black, with light grey and red patches, mix of sandy silt, ash and brick fragments (203). Perhaps derived from nearby industrial activities, it measured 0.33m thick.

This was in turn overlain by a 0.12m thick concrete raft (202) upon which was a tarmac surface (201) that was 60mm thick.

Area 1 (Plate 4)

No natural deposits were encountered across Area 1. The earliest layer was a levelling deposit of brown clayey silt (304) which measured over 0.21m thick. Above this was a dumped deposit of coal dust and fragments (303), measuring 50mm thick (Fig. 4, Section 3; Plate 5).

Further levelling deposits were encountered and comprised brown clayey silt (302) and red and brownish grey rubble, slate and mortar (301). These had a combined thickness of 0.5m.

Area 2 (Plate 6)

Greyish brown sandy silt (405) measuring over 0.13m thick (Fig. 4, Section 4; Plate 7) was recorded across the stripped area. This was sealed beneath levelling layers of grey clay (404) and mixed red and brownish grey sand, brick and mortar fragments (403).

Sealing the above deposits was a layer of brick and rubble (402) providing make-up for the current surface of black tarmac (401).

Within Area 2 were found the remnants of three brick built circular structures. The first (1000) was identified as a well and was located along the eastern boundary of the site (Plate 8). It measured over 5m deep with an internal diameter of 0.83m and was capped with a sandstone slab.

Located 22m to the south at the corner of the stripped area was a former cess-pit (1001) that had an internal diameter of 0.9m and also had a sandstone slab capping (Plate 9).

To the west of the cess pit was a further brick structure (1002). This was also probably a well, although water made any further recording impossible.

Area 3

The foundations of several walls were planned within this area. There is an L-shaped wall with an internal north-south aligned dividing wall, creating a room 4.18m wide and at least 3.1m long (Plate 10). The north-south walls have buttresses.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of sand were only encountered at depth within the Test Pits. These relate to the underlying drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

A number of deposits were encountered which remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. These comprise levelling and dumped layers, the latter perhaps derived from industrial deposits. These latter deposits are probably 19th century in date and laid down prior to the establishment of housing across the site as depicted in early Ordnance Survey maps. In one area, brick foundations were revealed which accord well with a row of terraces that are depicted on the 1886 1:500 Ordnance Survey map with the western wall associated with a passage between the terraces to a yard area at the rear. Two wells and a cess pit were also

exposed during the works. The well and cess pit towards the south of the site lay within an area of open ground, possibly a garden, of a house fronting Trinity Street.

Later levelling deposits contain brick and mortar rubble which may represent the demolition of these houses.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological investigations were undertaken at Trinity Street, Gainsborough, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval town and in an area of 19th century industrial remains and housing.

However, no remains were encountered which could be dated to the medieval period. The earliest deposits relate to ground levelling, some of which may have incorporated industrial waste, which was followed by further levelling that contained demolition material. As such, these layers may date from the 19th and 20th century. Three wells and a cess pit were also recorded along with wall foundations relating to a former housing terrace. No finds were retrieved during the investigations.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C Armstrong of McDonalds Restaurants Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Site Supervisors: Bob Garland, Liz Murray
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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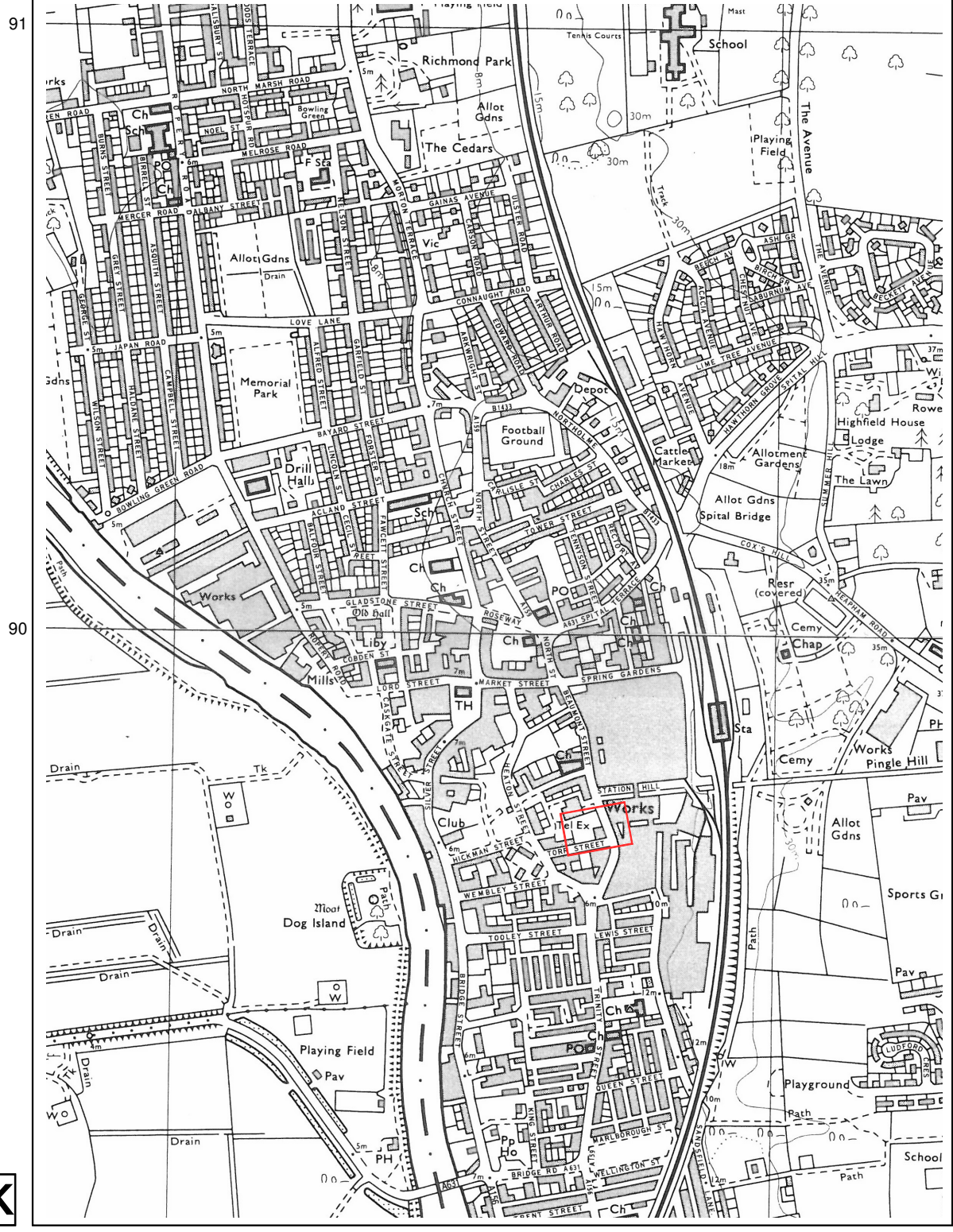
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11. ABBREVIATIONS


APS Archaeological Project Services



Figure 1 - General location plan



SK

 Area detailed in Figure 3



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Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 27/12

Figure 2 - Site location plan

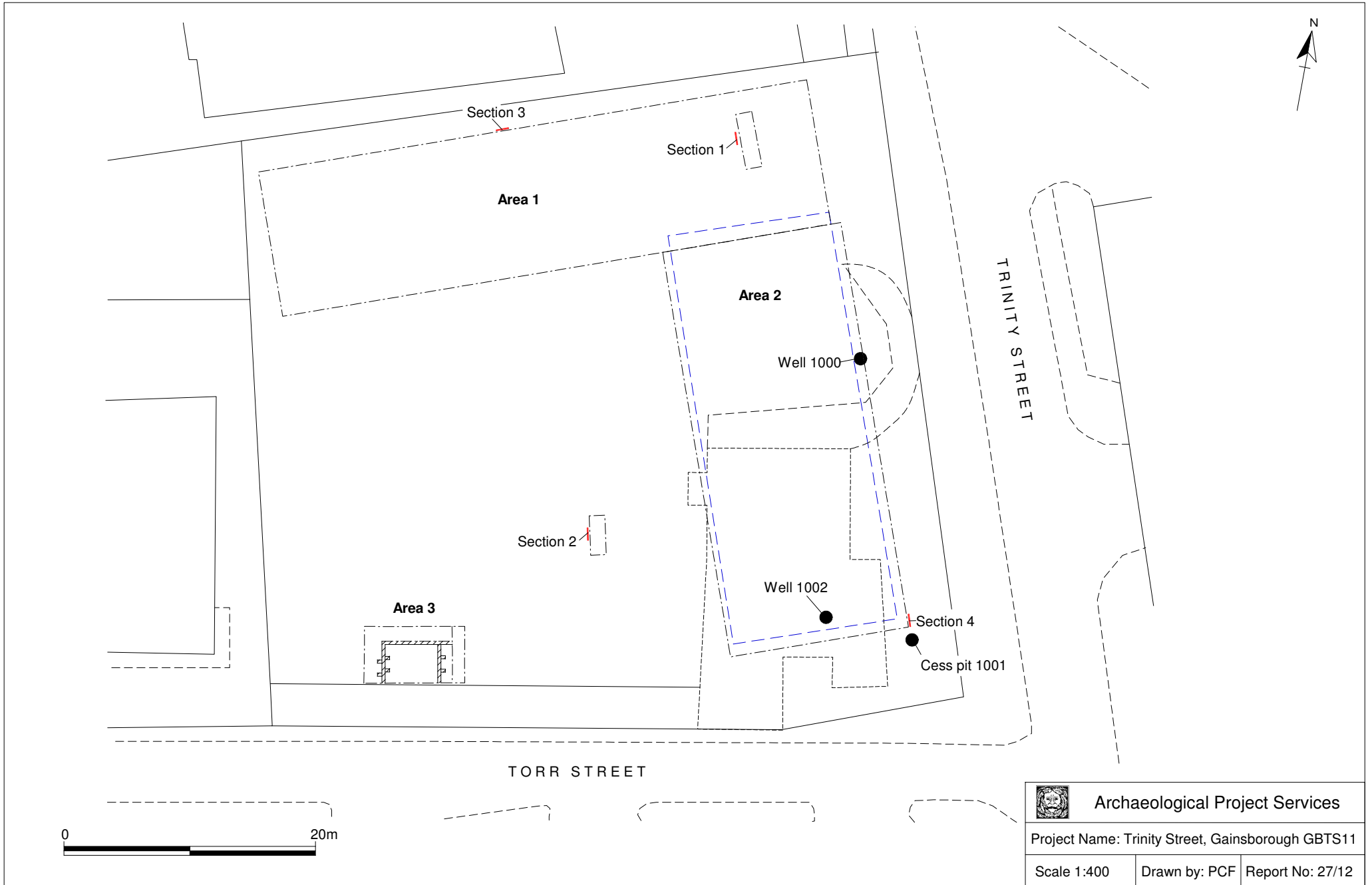
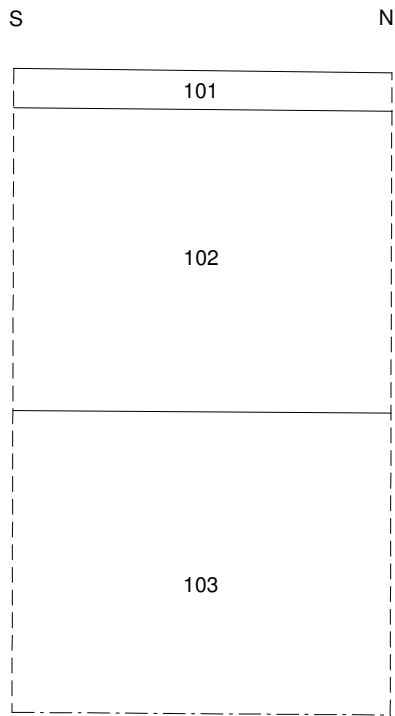
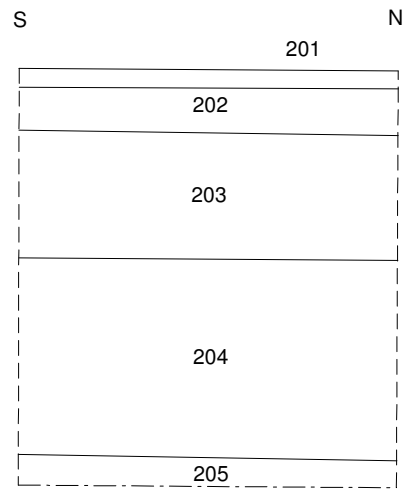


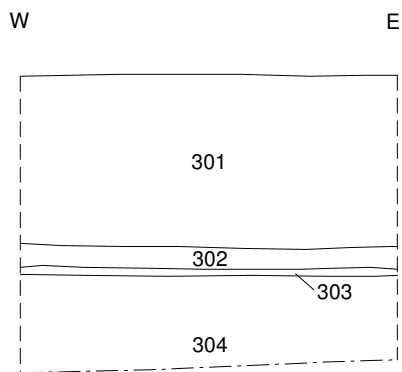
Figure 3 - Plan of the development area showing principal features and section locations



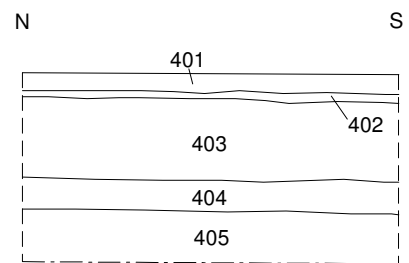
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



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Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 – General view of the development area prior to works, looking northwest



Plate 2 – Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking west



Plate 4 – Area 1 after stripping, looking west



Plate 5- Section 3, looking northwest



Plate 6 – Area 2 after stripping, looking south



Plate 7 – Section 4, looking east



Plate 8 – Well (1000), looking northeast



Plate 9 – Cess pit (1001) as exposed, looking east



Plate 10 – Area 3 showing the exposed brick foundations, looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	Test pit 1	Friable, very dark brown sandy silt, moderate small brick fragments, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
102	Test pit 1	Very loose, greyish buff, mixed deposit of mortar and brick fragments etc, 0.8m thick	Levelling layer of demolition rubble
103	Test pit 1	Friable, pale brown sand, >0.8m thick	Natural sand
201	Test pit 2	Firm black tarmac, 60mm thick	Modern tarmac surface
202	Test pit 2	Firm pale grey concrete, 0.12m thick	Modern concrete surface
203	Test pit 2	Friable black with pale grey and red patches, sandy silt, frequent ash and brick fragments, 0.33m thick	Possible industrial waste – site is located adjacent to a former engineering works
204	Test pit 2	Soft, friable, almost black sandy silt, 0.52m thick	Appears to be an organic silt – possible flood event?
205	Test pit 2	Soft friable pale brown sand, >80mm thick	Natural sand
301	Area 1	Loose mid red and brownish grey rubble, slate and mortar, 0.45m thick	Levelling deposit
302	Area 1	Soft and friable light brown clayey silt, 50mm thick	Levelling deposit
303	Area 1	Friable black coal dust/fragments, 20mm thick	Dumped deposit
304	Area 1	Soft mid brown clayey silt, >0.21m thick	Levelling deposit
401	Area 2	Firm black tarmac, 50mm thick	Surface
402	Area 2	Friable light brown brick and rubble, 20mm thick	Make-up for (401)
403	Area 2	Loose mixed mid red sand and light greyish brown brick and mortar rubble, 0.2m thick	Levelling deposit
404	Area 2	Soft light grey clay, 90mm thick	Levelling deposit
405	Area 2	Soft and friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, >0.13m thick	
1000		Circular brick (230mm x 110mm x 70mm) structure, internal diameter 0.83m by >5m deep	Well
1001		Circular brick (240mm x 116mm x 70mm) structure, internal diameter 0.9m	Cess pit
1002		Possible circular structure	Well
1003	Area 3	Series of brick walls with buttresses creating rectangular arrangement 4.18m by >3.1m in extent	Building

Appendix 2

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 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.
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 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

20	Context records
2	Photographic record sheets
4	Daily record sheets
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 2011.423

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: GBTS 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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