ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING ON LAND AT 29 BARK STREET, CLEETHORPES, NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE (CLBS12)

Work Undertaken For

John Collis Builders Ltd

April 2012

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TA 3088 0835
Planning application: DC/12/12/CRB
NELMS Site Code: CLAD
OASIS ID: archaeol1-124121

A.P.S. Report No. **28/12**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Quality Control
29 Bark Street
Cleethorpes
Northeast Lincolnshire

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Supervisor	Gary Taylor
Illustration	Vicky Mellor
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor
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Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Dale Trimble	Tom Lane
Date: 27-04-2012	Date: 27-4-12

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1. SUMMARY

North East Lincolnshire Council placed a condition on planning which required a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with residential development at 29 Bark Street, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire.

The area of development lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, within the historic core of Cleethorpes and close to the site of the medieval hamlet of Itterby.

Probable modern services and features possibly formed by recent tree roots were recorded during the monitoring, along with naturally-deposited layers and modern surfaces.

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigations and save for a single undated possible feature no evidence was retrieved to suggest pre-modern activity on the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Full planning permission (ref: DC/12/12/CRB) was granted by North East Lincolnshire Council for the construction of four terraced houses, associated parking and bin store.

Permission was subject to conditions including archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the development.

John Collis Builders Ltd commissioned Archaeological Project Services to undertake the monitoring, which was carried out on the 4th April 2012 in accordance with the specification prepared by APS and approved by the archaeological curator.

2.2 Definition of an Archaeological Watching Brief (Monitoring and Recording)

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 maybe disturbed or destroyed."* (IfA 2008).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Cleethorpes lies on the south bank of the Humber esturary in the administrative district of North East Lincolnshire (Figure 1) and is part of the conurbation of Great Grimsby. The site is in the southeast part of the town, on the southeast side of Bark Street with Falcon Mews to the rear, centred on National Grid Reference TA 3088 0835 (Figures 2 & 3, Plate 1).

The site lies on fairly level ground at approximately 10m OD. Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban but, on the basis of nearby deposits, soils are likely to be the Holderness Association, fine loamy typical stagnogleys, developed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al*. 1984, 214).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from the Cleethorpes area is of prehistoric date. Several axes and a flint adze have been recovered from the foreshore and further worked flints have been found to the west of the town (Loughlin and Miller 1979, 165).

Iron Age artefacts, including a beehive quern and Coritanian gold stater have been found in the southern part of the town. Pottery and coins of Romano-British date

have been identified from a number of locations in the northern part of the town (*ibid*. 165-166).

The development site lies *c.*300m south of the site of the deserted medieval hamlet of Itterby. This settlement is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when land there was held by the Bishop of Bayeux, Drogo de la Beuvriere and Waldin the Artificer (Morris 1986). The place-name incorporates the Old Danish suffix '*-by'* meaning '*a farmstead or village'*, which is common in Lincolnshire (Cameron 1998). The first element of the name may refer to a personal name. The settlement was also referred to as '*Middle Thorpe'* (Dickinson 2000, 1).

A Chapel of Ease had been established at Itterby by 1306 for the use of its inhabitants (*ibid.* 1). A market was being held there by 1322 suggesting that it was a settlement of at least local importance by that time (Platts 1985, 222; 300). The hamlet was still in existence in 1563 when 18 households were recorded in the Diocesan Returns (Hodgett 1975, 196).

Itterby was not the only medieval settlement in the area. Together with the hamlets of Hole and Thrunscoe, it appears to have been referred to as the '*Clee Thorpes*' from the late 16th century (Cameron 1998, 31). Development of the seaside resort commenced in the late 18th century and was well established by the middle of the 19th century. The opening of the railway line to the town in 1863 led to its increased development (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 222-223). As the resort expanded the hamlets were incorporated, with the main street of Itterby becoming the present Sea View Road (Dickinson 2000, 1).

A single pit of late 12th to mid 13th century date was recorded during a watching brief undertaken in 2000 during development at Grannies Lane, located 200m northeast of the site (Albone, 2000).

A watching brief undertaken in 2007 by Lindsey Archaeological Services between Highgate and Bark Street to the west of the proposed development identified three ditches which contained pottery of medieval date, animal bone and pieces of possible briquetage Historic Environment Record 0690/1/0 - MNL2143.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the monitoring was to record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during groundworks associated with the development.

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

4. METHODS

The foundation trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of approximately 1.0m. This element of the groundworks was monitored by Archaeological Projects Services.

Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description (Appendix 1). Sections of archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and their location recorded on plans of the foundation trenches. Photographic recording, depicting the setting of the site and archaeological features and deposits, was undertaken.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposits identified in the foundation trenches were various layers of

mid to light reddish-brown to greyish-brown clayey sand and silty clay which were apparently naturally-deposited (007, 006, 021 & 020) (Figure 5, Plates 2 & 3). Layer (006) contained occasional black flecks, possibly indicating bioturbation, and perhaps suggesting this layer might have been partially transformed into a subsoil.

A large feature [017] was recorded cutting into natural deposits near the centre of the building footprint (Figure 4, Plate 5). This may have been a linear feature, although as its southern edge was not clearly visible its extent remains uncertain. This may have been a northeast-southwest aligned ditch with a terminus at the northeastern end, but may equally have been a more extensive feature, perhaps a quarry or natural hollow. It contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown sandy clay which included laminations and possible patches of decayed shells, the overall composition of this deposit indicating silting within a pond or similar environment. No artefacts were retrieved from the fill of this feature.

A probable service trench [011] was recorded near the northeast corner of the foundation trenches (Figure 4, Plate 4, Figure 5: Section 1). This northwest-southeast aligned linear feature was not bottomed, but was 0.84m wide and contained occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material (Appendix 1).

Features [014] and [015] were recorded in section a few metres to the northeast of this probable service trench (Figure 5: Section 1, Plate 3). These features were not observed in plan and their extent was unknown, but these may have represented further service or foundation trenches.

Truncating the western edge of feature [014] was one of two steep-sided features [003] and [009] (Figure 5: Section 1, Plate 2). These irregular features each contained frequent roots including large tree roots, and are likely to have been formed by the action of these roots.

A mixed layer of material (001) sealed the fills of these features, representing modern levelling along with asphalt surfacing at the northern edge of the site (Plate 2, Figure 5: Section 1).

A buried soil (019) was recorded near the centre of the foundation plot, this soil layer having been sealed by a gritty levelling deposit (018) and rough asphalt which together formed modern surfacing within the site (Plate 3, Figure 5: Section 2).

6. DISCUSSION

A single possible archaeological feature [017] was identified during the monitoring. It was unclear whether this was a ditch or a larger feature, or even whether it was manmade or naturally-formed. No artefacts were retrieved from the fill of this feature, and it remains undated.

Possible service and/or foundation trenches [011], [014] & [015] were recorded near the northeast corner of the site. The fill of possible service trench [011] contained modern ceramic building material. Features [014] and [015] remain undated, but are likely to reflect post-medieval to recent activity on the site.

Two irregular and steep-sided features [009] & [003], at the northeast corner of the plot, contained tree roots, and are likely to have been naturally-formed by the action of these roots.

Modern levelling and surfacing deposits were recorded across the site, and in part of the site these had sealed a soil layer (019).

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigations and save for a single undated possible feature no evidence was retrieved to suggest pre-modern activity on

the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring and recording was required during groundworks associated with the construction of dwellings at 29 Bank Street, Cleethorpes, North Lincolnshire.

Prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman finds had been previously recorded in the general area and the site lay within the historic core of Cleethorpes. The deserted medieval hamlet of Itterby lay *c.*300m north of the development. It was thought that medieval features and deposits might extend into the site, along with the remains of post-medieval buildings.

Probable modern services and features possibly formed by recent tree roots were recorded along with naturally-deposited layers and modern surfaces.

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigations and save for a single undated possible feature no evidence was retrieved to suggest pre-modern activity on the site.

8. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Monitoring: Gary Taylor
Analysis and Reporting: Vicky Mellor
Photographic Reproduction: Vicky Mellor
Illustration: Vicky Mellor

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Morris, J. (ed), 1986 Lincolnshire: Domesday Book.

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 Lincolnshire. The Buildings of England (2nd revised edition)

Platts, G., 1985 Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire. History of Lincolnshire Series Vol. IV

10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

Figure 1 General location map

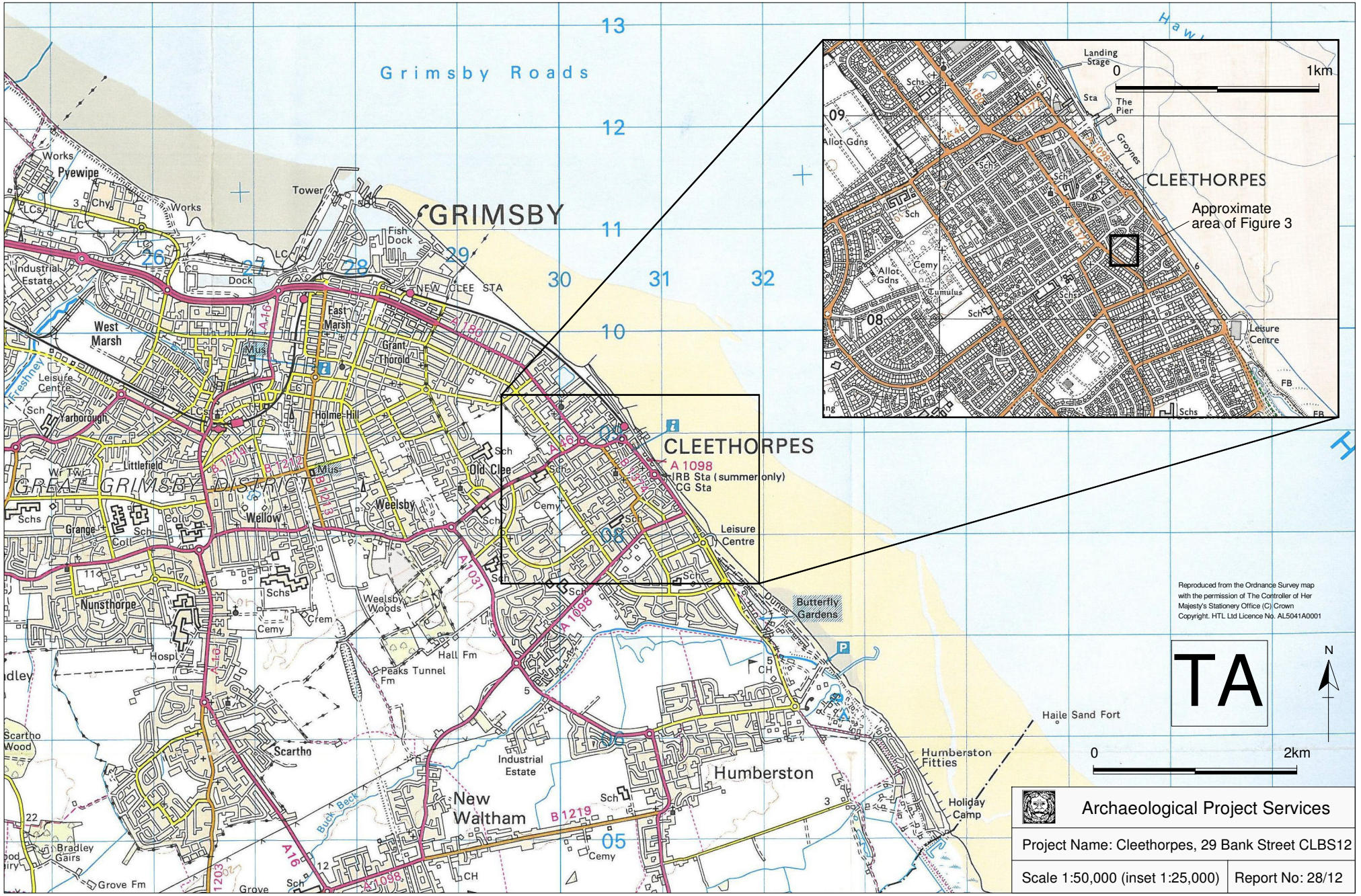


Figure 2 Site location map

Figure 3 Detailed site location map showing location of monitored footings trenches

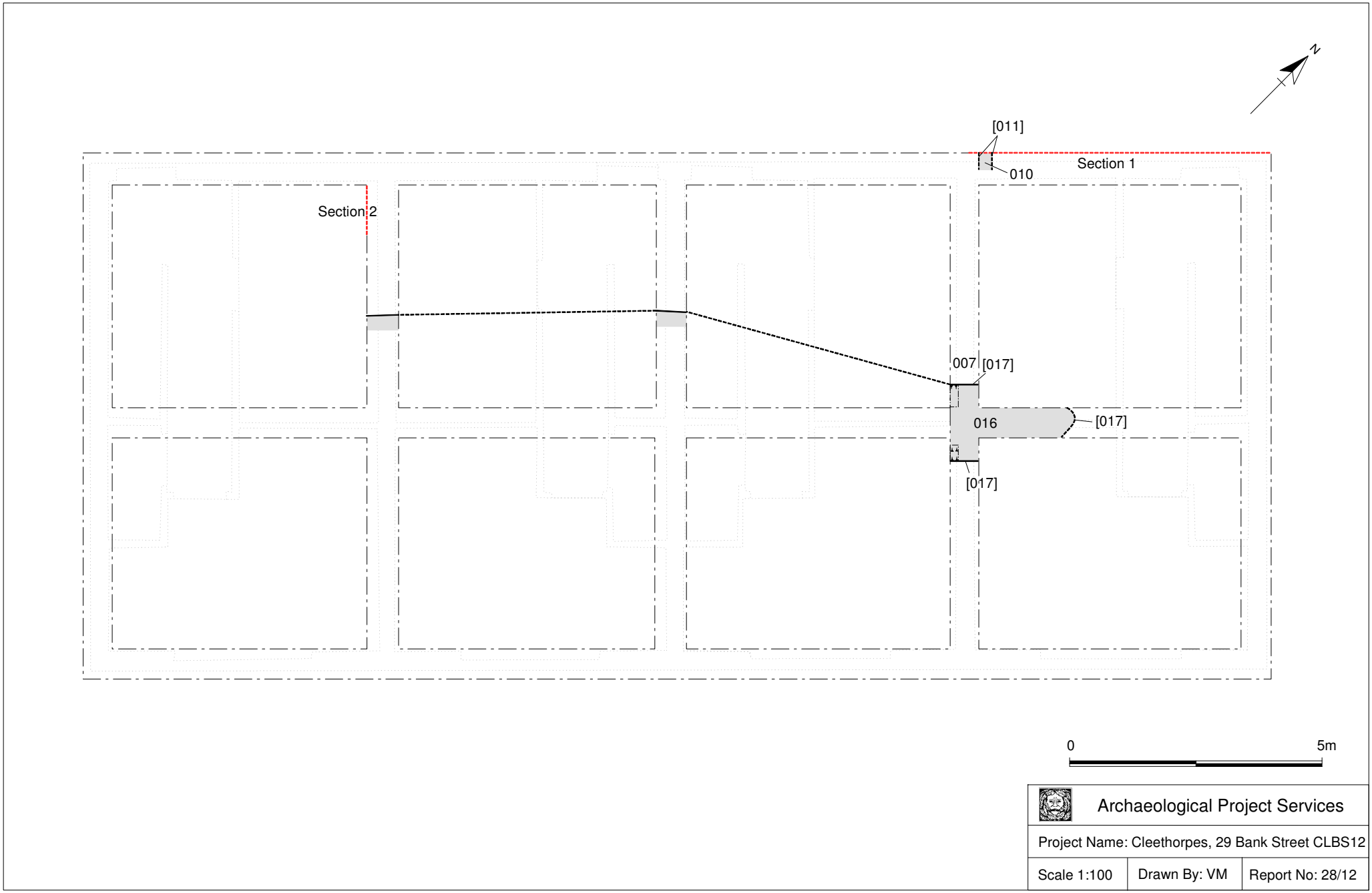
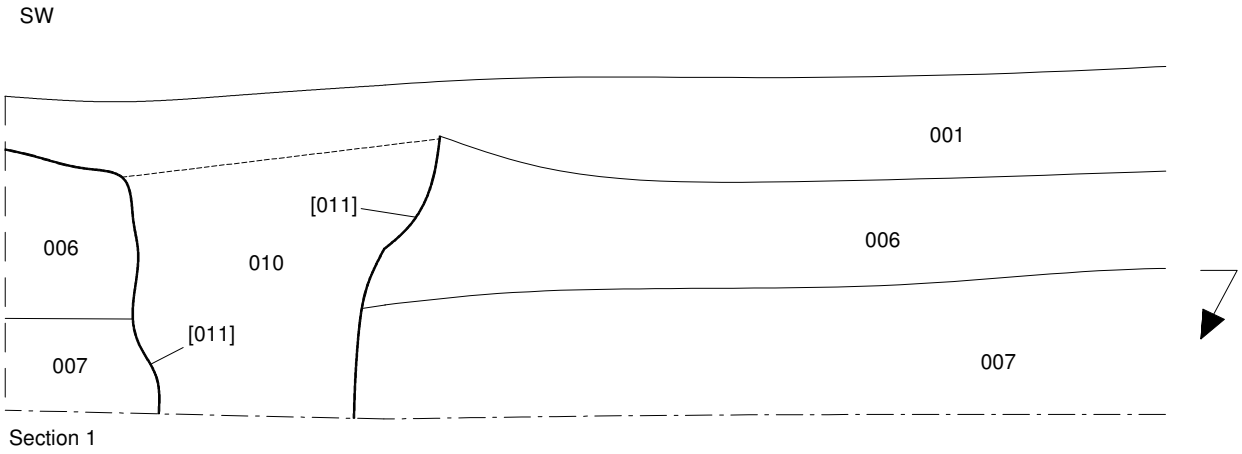
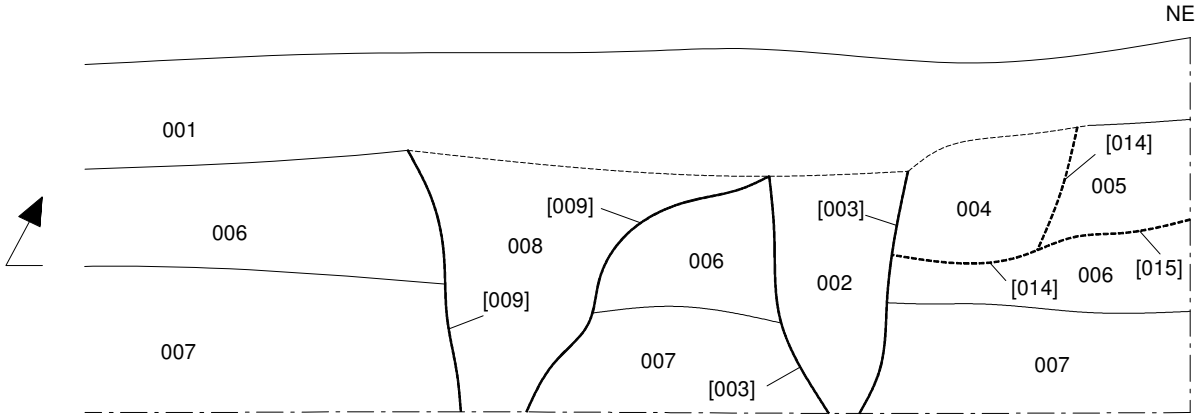
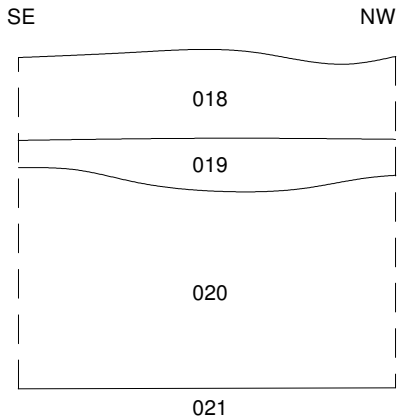


Figure 4 Plan of monitored footings trenches



Section 1





Section 2

0 1m

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Cleethorpes, 29 Bank Street CLBS12		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 28/12

Figure 5 Sections

Plate 1
General view of site, looking northeast

Plate 2
Section 1, features [003] & [009], looking northwest

Plate 3
Section 1, looking southwest

Plate 4
Feature [011],
looking northeast

Plate 5
Feature [017],
Plan 1, looking
south

Appendix 1

CONTEXTS

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Moderately firm mid greyish-brown mixed clayey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and moderately frequent black flecks, topped by asphalt of pavement at north and including bricks of possible structures, 0.33m thick	Number allocated to modern surface levelling deposit, modern asphalt surface and possible brick structures
002	Soft dark brownish-grey gritty fine sandy clayey silt with frequent roots including large roots and moderately frequent black flecks, over 0.63m thick	Fill of probable tree-root disturbance [003]
003	Feature of uncertain shape in plan, 0.37m wide and 0.63m deep with very steep sides, not bottomed	Feature, probably naturally-formed by tree roots
004	Moderately firm mid greyish-brown fine sandy silty clay with frequent pink sandy clay patches, 0.33m thick	Fill of possible service trench [014]
005	Soft mid yellowish-grey sand, over 0.29m thick	Fill of possible service or foundation trench [015]
006	Moderately firm mid reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional black flecks and lenses and occasional pebbles, 0.42m thick	Deposit, similar to natural layer (007) but with inclusions possibly suggesting disturbance or bioturbation, possibly a subsoil
007	Moderately firm mid reddish-brown clayey sand, over 0.39m thick	Natural layer
008	Moderately firm dark brownish-grey gritty fine sandy clayey silt with frequent roots including large roots and moderately frequent black flecks, over 0.67m thick	Fill of probable tree-root disturbance [009]
009	Feature of uncertain shape in plan, 0.96m wide and over 0.67m deep with very steep side and southwest and steep irregular side and northeast, not bottomed	Feature, probably naturally-formed by tree roots
010	Mixed mid to dark greyish-brown sandy clay and greyish-reddish-brown fine sandy clay with occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material, occasional small fragments of mortar and moderately frequent black flecks and fragments, over 0.71m thick	Fill of possible service trench [011]
011	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, 0.84m wide and over 0.76m deep with very steep and slightly irregular sides, not bottomed	Possible service trench
012	Void – same as (006)	
013	Void – same as (007)	

Context number	Description	Interpretation
014	Feature not seen in plan, 0.33m deep and 0.48m wide with possible steep side where seen and a moderately flat base	Possible service trench
015	Feature of uncertain shape in plan, over 0.40m wide and 0.33m deep with a moderately flat base	Possible service or foundation trench
016	Moderately firm mid greyish-brown gritty sandy clay with patches of frequent white flecks, possibly decayed shells or mortar, with occasional small pebbles and black flecks, with some laminations of light creamy grey fine sandy silt over 0.50m thick	Fill of feature [017], probably formed through gradual silting
017	Possibly linear feature of uncertain extent, over 14m long, 1.57m wide and over 0.50m deep	Feature of uncertain extent and form, possibly a ditch but southern edge unclear so potentially a larger feature, perhaps a quarry or naturally hollow/pond.
018	Loose mid grey grit with frequent pebbles, topped by patchy rough asphalt surface, 0.23m thick	Levelling deposit with modern asphalt surfacing
019	Firm mid greyish-brown fine sandy silty clay with occasional black flecks, 0.14m thick	Buried soil layer, sealed by modern levelling and surfacing deposits
020	Firm mid pinkish-brown silty clay with moderately frequent white flecks (possibly chalk) near base of deposit, 0.59m thick	Probable natural layer
021	Firm mid to light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent white flecks and fragments (possibly chalk)	Probable natural layer

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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 Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
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.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
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.
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
Transformed	Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

21	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
3	Sheets of scale drawings

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:

Archaeological Stores
Unit 1
Estate Road
3 Pyewipe Industrial Estate
GRIMSBY

NELM Site Code:	CLAD
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	CSBS12
OASIS ID	archaeol1-124121

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.