
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON
LAND AT PHILIP RUDD COURT,
POTT ROW,
GRIMSTON,
NORFOLK
(22954)**

Work Undertaken For

Suiters Ltd

March 2008

Report Compiled by
Thomas Bradley-Lovekin MA PIFA

Planning Application No: 04.0368
National Grid Reference: TF 7040 2192
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-40197

APS Report No: **34/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Archaeological Watching Brief
Philip Rudd Court,
Pott Row, Grimston,
Norfolk
(22954)

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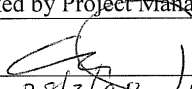

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a single detached dwelling and associated garage at Philip Rudd Court, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk. The watching brief was a requirement of a planning permission, (No. 04.0368) granted by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. The development is within a zone of known Late Saxon-medieval remains associated with pottery manufacture, including a large area excavated immediately south of the current site in 1986.

A single pit was identified and, although undated, it is possible that this is a recent engineering test pit. Additionally, it is likely that the deposits on the site were truncated during the construction of the surrounding housing estate during the late 1980s and early 1990s. No evidence of the medieval pottery industry was revealed.

The only artefacts recovered were a few fragments of post-medieval pottery, found as unstratified material during machining.

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 maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Suiters Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the

construction of a single detached bungalow with associated garage at Philip Rudd Court, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application No 04.0368. The watching brief was carried out between the 4th and the 5th of March 2008 in accordance with a brief prepared by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Grimston is situated 8.5km east of King's Lynn and 18km south of Hunstanton in the administrative borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Fig. 1). The hamlet of Pott Row is about 2km west of Grimston. Located in the southern part of the hamlet, the development site is just to the north of Chapel Road, on the west side of Philip Rudd Court, at National Grid Reference TF 7040 2192 (Figs. 2 and 3, Plate 1). The site lies at about 14m OD on fairly level ground. Local soils are slowly permeable fine loams and silts over clays of the Wickham 2 Association formed over drift deposits of sand and gravel that overlie boulder clay or Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone (SSEW 1983).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Referred to as *Grimastun* in a will of c.1035 and *Grimestuna* in the Domesday Book of 1086, Grimston takes its name from a combination of the Old Scandinavian personal name ‘*Grimr*’ and the Old English ‘*Tun*’ meaning ‘farmstead or estate’ (Ekwall 1989, 206).

The origins of the hamlet of Pott Row located c.2.5km west of Grimston are unknown, although its place name presumably refers to the pottery industry known to have operated there between the 11th and 16th centuries (Leah 1994, 1). Although no mention of the pottery industry appears in Domesday, late 10th/early 11th century to 11th century occupation features including two pits, a

ditch and one structure, were excavated southeast of the current development during 1988-91 and 1992, suggesting that the hamlet has Saxo-Norman origins (Leah 1994, 21).

Grimston was an important regional pottery production centre during the medieval period. Indeed, distinctive face jugs produced at the height of the industry, during the 13th and 14th centuries, have been found as far afield as Brugge, Aberdeen, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, where 4000 sherds were recovered during excavations in Bergen (Leah 1994, 117-122). Extensive remains relating to the medieval, post-Conquest, pottery industry, including settlement features, an early-medieval street frontage and two 15th century kilns, were excavated immediately south and southwest of the current site during 1986-92 (Leah 1994, 21).

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

Foundation trenches about 1.8m deep for both the new dwelling and its garage (Figs. 3 and 4) were excavated by a mechanical excavator with buckets 0.6m and 0.45m wide, working under archaeological supervision. Deposits were examined to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature and function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was

undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, 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

Deposits of grey clay (503 and 507) were exposed in the bases of the footings trenches in the southern part of the site only. These were overlain by a sequence of yellow-brown stony, gritty and silty sands (501, 502 and 506) and light grey silty sand (510). All of these deposits were clearly natural in origin (Plate 2).

Cutting in to natural sand (506) within the footings of the house plot was a single pit [509]. Flat-based and vertical-sided, this pit was 1.6m wide and 1.3m deep (Fig. 5, Plate 3). It contained a mixed silty sandy clay fill with lenses of topsoil (508). However, the feature was undated.

The pit and all the deposits were sealed by a friable dark brown sandy silt topsoil (500=505) which ranged in depth from 0.45m to 0.60m. A few pieces of post-medieval to early modern pottery were recovered as unstratified artefacts (504).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural, undated and recent origin were identified during the watching brief.

In the southern half of the development site, natural clays were revealed in the lower parts of the foundation trenches. Above these were natural drift deposits of sand that diminished in thickness from

over 1.4m to 0.4m from north to south across the site.

Cutting in to the sand was a straight-sided flat-based pit with a mixed fill that contained lenses of redeposited topsoil. Although not containing any artefacts to date it, the form of this feature, and the nature of its fill, suggests it to be a modern geotechnical test pit.

Directly overlying the pit backfill, and the natural sand elsewhere across the site, was the topsoil. This suggests that the site has previously been stripped down to natural and that the topsoil is imported.

No archaeological evidence relating to the medieval pottery industry, known to have been located within close proximity to the site, was revealed during the investigation. However, it is likely that deposits on the site were truncated during groundworks and landscaping associated with the construction of the surrounding housing estate during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Archaeological artefacts were limited to a small quantity of post-medieval pottery sherds recovered as unstratified material (504) during machining (Appendix 2).

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a single detached dwelling and associated garage at Philip Rudd Court, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk. The watching brief was required due to the location of the site within an area of Late Saxon and medieval remains associated with pottery manufacture, known from excavations undertaken between 1986 and 1992.

In the event only deposits of natural, undated and recent origin were identified, with no evidence of remains associated with the medieval pottery industry.

Moreover, it is possible that the only feature identified, an undated pit [509], is in fact a recent engineering test pit. It is probable, however, that the deposits on the site were truncated during the construction of the surrounding housing estate during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The only artefacts recovered were a small quantity of unstratified post-medieval pot sherds found during machining.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mark Suiter of Suiters Ltd who commissioned both the fieldwork and post-excavation work. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire was provided by David Start.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin
 Illustration: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin, Sue Unsworth
 Post-excavation analysis: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*
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Anglian Archaeology Report No. **64**

SSEW, 1983, *Soils of Eastern England*,
Sheet **4**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea
level)

SSEW Soil Survey of England and Wales

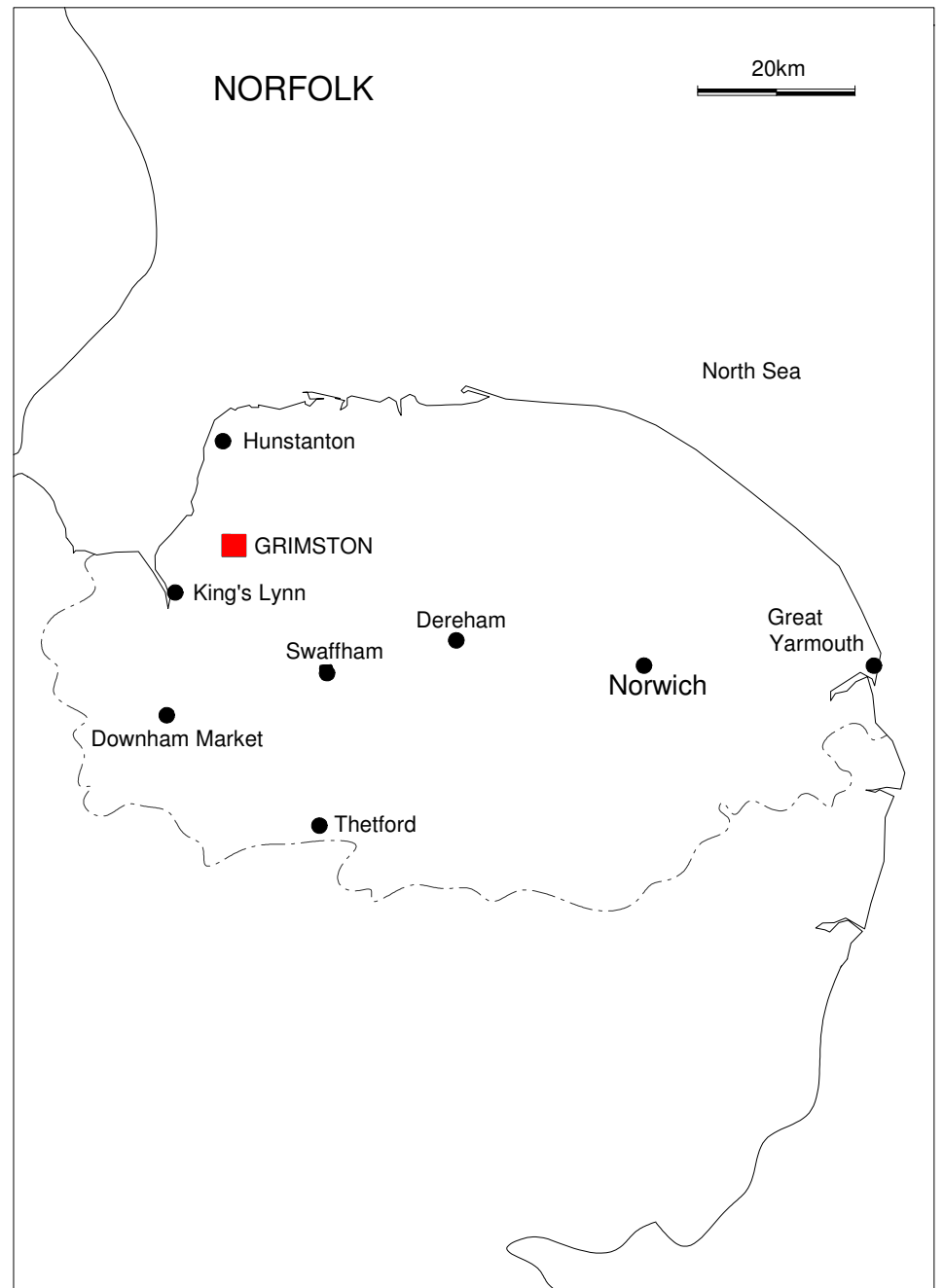
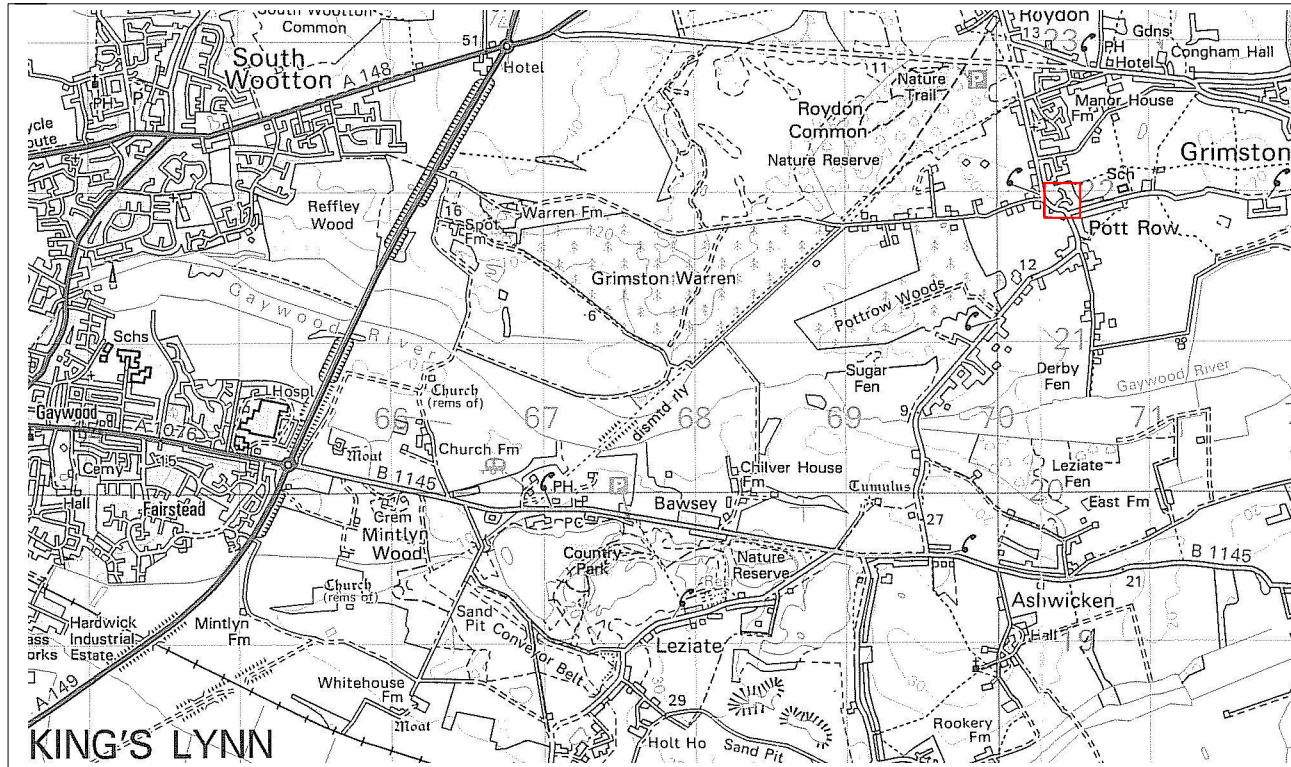


Figure 1 General Location Plan




TF

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 map with the Permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (c) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

0 1km

0 5 km

 Area shown in detail on Fig. 3



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Scale 1:50000 Drawn by: TBL Report No: 34/08

Figure 2 Site Location Map

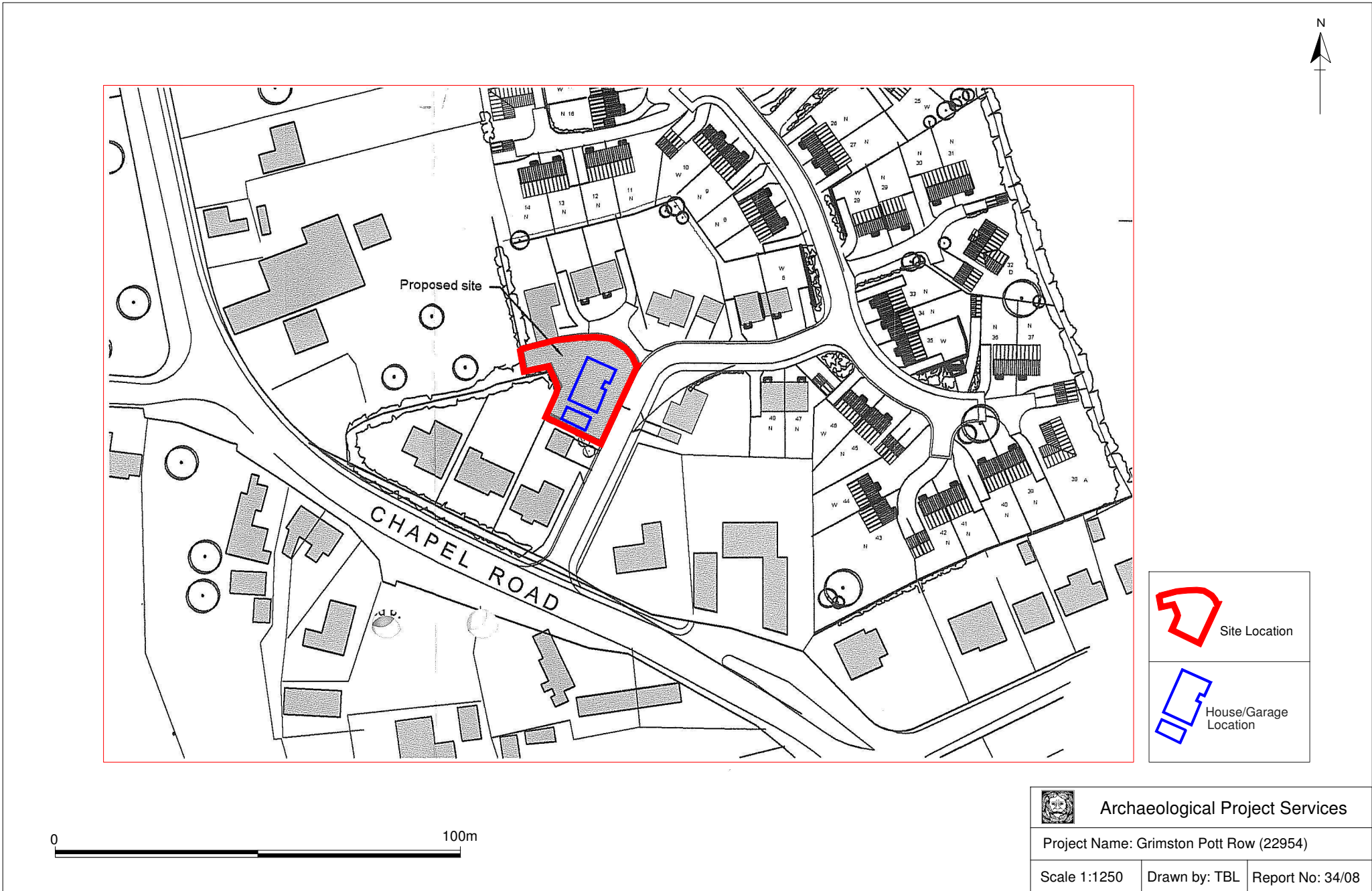
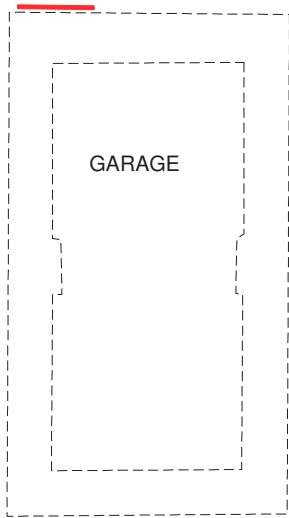


Figure 3 Detailed Site Location Plan

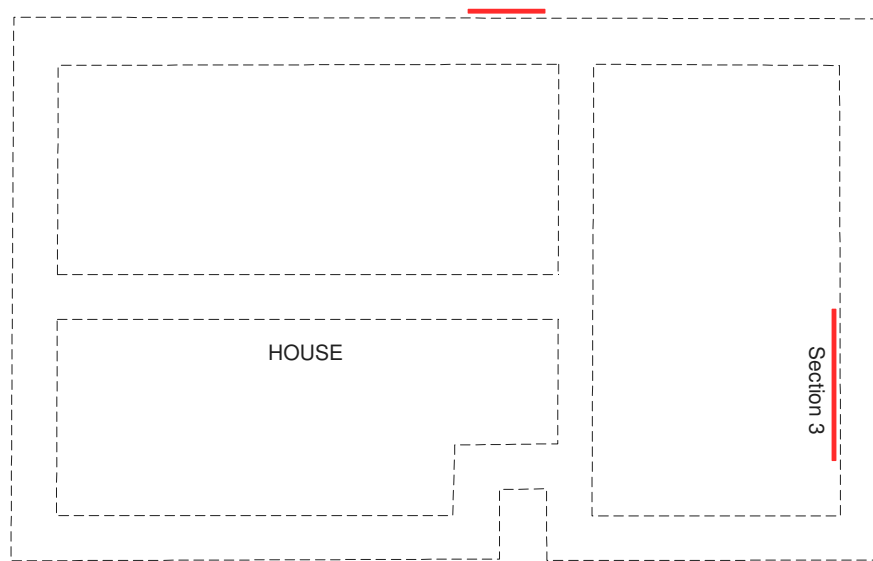


Section 1



GARAGE

Section 2



HOUSE

Section 3



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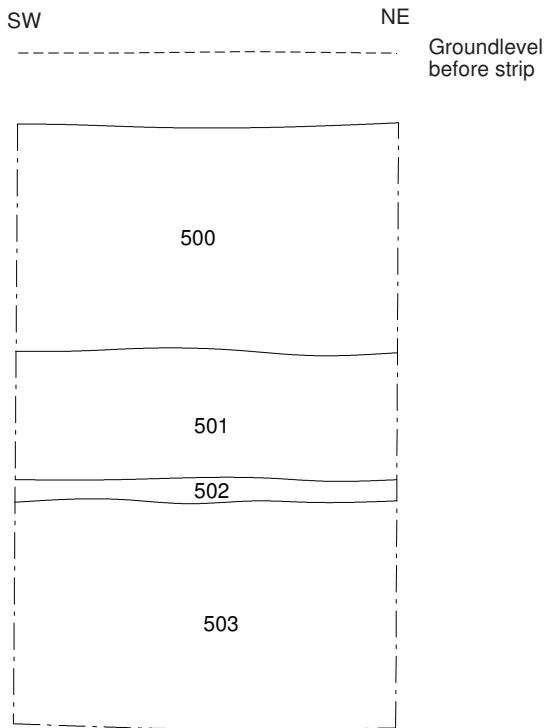
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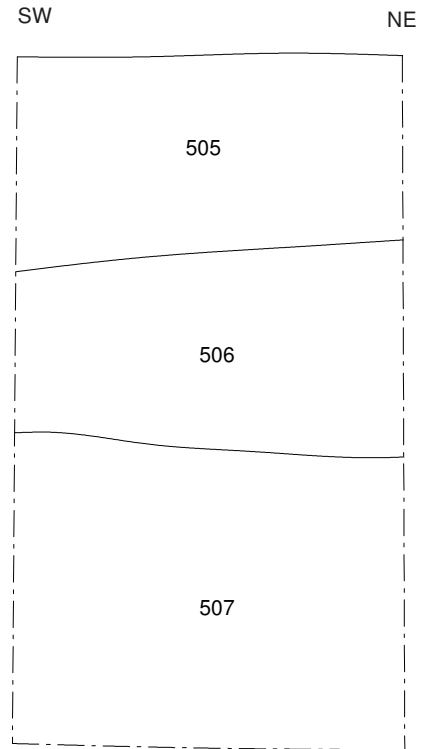
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Figure 4 Foundation Plan showing section locations

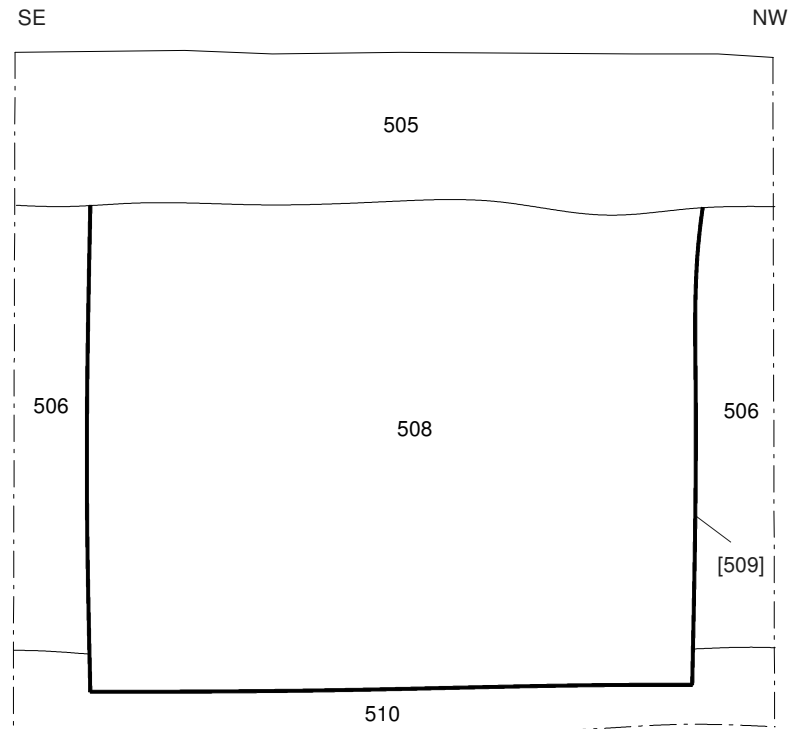
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Grimston Pott Row (22954)

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: SU

Report No: 34/08

Figure 5 Sections



Plate 1 General view of development site, looking north



Plate 2 Section 1, looking west

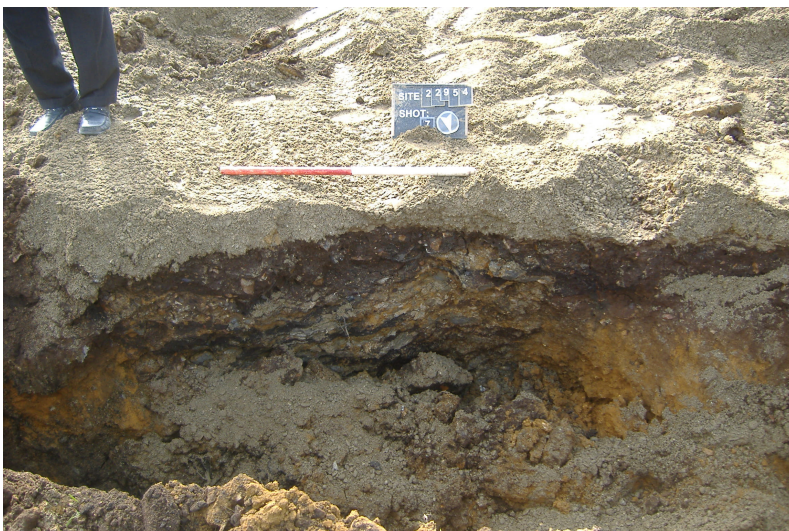


Plate 3 Section 3, showing pit [509], fill in section collapsed, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
500	Friable dark brown sandy silt	0.6m	Topsoil
501	Loose light to mid yellowish brown stony sand	0.35m	Natural
502	Soft light to mid yellow sandy grit	0.05m	Natural
503	Firm mid grey clay	0.60m	Natural
504	Unstratified material recovered during machining		Unstratified
505	Friable dark brown sandy silt	0.45m	Topsoil
506	Loose light to mid yellowish brown sand	0.54m	Natural
507	Firm mid grey clay	0.8m	Natural
508	Firm lensed deposit of light grey, black and light to medium brownish yellow silt, silty clay and silty sand. Contains some redeposited topsoil	1.3m	Fill of [509]
509	1.60m wide vertical-sided flat-based cut	1.3m	Probable engineering test pit
510	Friable light grey silty sand	0.20m	Natural

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of unstratified pottery represents the only finds recovered from the site.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* 2001. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* 2005, which includes codes for surrounding counties. Four sherds from three vessels, weighing 173 grams were 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 data 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 Post-medieval to the Early Modern period.

Condition

Although the average sherd weight is 43 grams, the pottery is abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	No S	No V	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
504	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Jar	2	1	116		Base	Abraded	17th to 18th
504	STMO	Staffordshire Mottled ware	Dish/bowl	1	1	23		BS	?Staffordshire	18th
504	TPW	Transfer Printed ware	Mug	1	1	34	Blue transfer print; chinoiserie design	Base	Abraded; fe concretion	20th

Provenance

All of the pottery is unstratified.

Range

The Glazed Red Earthenware and Mottled ware are likely to be locally or regionally produced. Several production centres in Norfolk and surrounding counties are known to produce the former. The “Staffordshire” Mottled ware may be a regional import, as similar wares were manufactured at Ticknall in South Derbyshire.

Potential

The assemblage offers limited potential for further work. The pottery is suitable for discard.

Summary

A small group of unstratified pottery was recovered from the site. The material dates to the Post-medieval and Early Modern periods.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
504	Unstratified	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

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).
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
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:

10	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
1	Sheet 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:

Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Event Number:	22954
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	GRPR 08
OASIS Reference Code:	archaeo11-40197

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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