

109/09

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT ST LEONARD'S PRIORY,
STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(STLP 09)**

Work Undertaken For
Strutt and Parker
on behalf of the
Cecil Estate Family Trust

October 2009

Report Compiled by
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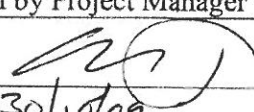

APS Report No. 109/09

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine the implications of proposed development on land adjacent to St. Leonard's Priory, Priory Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The evaluation recorded five trenches across the area.

During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay within the precinct of St. Leonard's priory, which was believed to have been founded during the 7th century, according to Bede, though this has yet to be substantiated and the location of this monastery is disputed. The priory was never rich, though was a sizeable structure containing the monastic range as well as barns, dovecotes, fishponds, a guest house and stables, some of which are probably located within the proposed development area. Previous earthwork and geophysical surveys identified a hollow way leading to the priory from the west and other features, some of which were interpreted as buildings.

Following the dissolution of the priory in 1539, the land passed to the Cecil family and the standing buildings became the focus of a farm which continued throughout the post-medieval period into the mid 20th century.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, medieval, post-medieval and recent deposits. Medieval remains include two quarry pits, a ditch and a posthole. The quarry pits appear to be contemporary with the initial construction of St Leonard's during the 12th century. Post-medieval deposits comprise mainly dumped layers, including one of demolition material that contained medieval masonry. Undated deposits include a number of pits and postholes. No buildings were revealed and the earthwork survey probably identified natural terraces cut into the hillside.

The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprise pottery of medieval date. Other medieval finds include roof tile and a fragment of stonework. Post-medieval artefacts include pottery, glass, brick, tile and clay pipe. In addition, a small assemblage of animal bone was also retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Strutt and Parker on behalf of the Cecil Estate Family Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land at St Leonard's Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Scheduled Monument Consent for the works was granted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Ref: HSD 9/2/14372). The evaluation was undertaken between the 12th and 19th October 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Regional Inspector, English Heritage.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stamford is situated 63km south of Lincoln, 23km southwest of Spalding and 30km southeast of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town lies on the bank of the River Welland, close to its confluence with the Gwash which provides the eastern boundary of the town.

The proposed development site is located 870m northeast of the centre of Stamford at National Grid Reference TF 0386 0730 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the south of Priory Road at heights of between c. 28m towards the north, dropping down to c. 21m OD, on the south-facing slope down towards the River Welland. In all, the site encompasses some 1.1 hectares.

As an urban area the soils have not been mapped. However, local soils are likely to be of the Elmton 3 Association, typically shallow loamy and clayey soils, with pelo-alluvial gley soils of the Fladbury 1 Association located in the valley floor (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 181, 194). Stamford sits in a narrow valley of which the northern side cuts through the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, Upper Lincolnshire Limestone and the overlying Great Oolite Series with drift alluvial deposits in the southern part of the site (BGS 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

It has been suggested that St Leonard's was founded as early as AD658 by St. Wilfrid. This relates to a passage written by Bede that states that King Alchfrid granted ten hides at a place called *Stanford* and a monastery with 30 hides at Ripon to Wilfrid (Bede, 308). Though no mention is made of a monastery at Stamford, a history written by John Wessington, Prior of Durham, in 1416-46 refers to a cell in honour of St Leonard founded here (Piper 1980, 6). This early cell was meant to have existed until

the 9th century after which it was destroyed by the Danes.

A more accepted date for the foundation of the priory is 1082 when the same Prior of Durham records that St. Leonard's was founded by both William the Conqueror and William, bishop of Durham (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 54). However, this date has also been questioned as the priory, or any interests of the Bishop of Durham, are not mentioned in the Domesday Survey account for Stamford or its immediate vicinity (*ibid.*).

The first contemporary mention of St Leonard's dates to 1146, when it was confirmed amongst the possessions of Durham by Pope Eugenius III (Piper 1980, 6). The possessions are divided into two groups, the first being the priory and 14 acres of land with seven houses outside the borough and the second being the church of St. Mary's by the bridge with eight houses and arable and meadow (*ibid.*). This implies the priory was in existence before this time.

The site lies wholly within the former precinct of St Leonard's priory. The bounds of the precinct have not been fully explored but are defined by Priory Road to the north and the Welland to the south. The eastern extent is likely to continue eastwards to Hudd's Mill, which was in possession of the priory and where there are references to a ford named *Seynt Leonardes ford* (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 55). The western boundary may have reached Cherry Holt Road which once served as the eastern boundary of the Blackfriar's precinct.

St Leonard's appears to have been a moderately large foundation and would seem to have functioned as an estate office for all of Durham's interests south of the Humber (Roffe 1994, 5). St Leonard's gradually obtained land and buildings in Stamford and the surrounding vicinity, although much of the donations were

absorbed by Durham and the house was never particularly rich (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 54).

Few remains of the priory are still evident apart from the nave of the church. Excavations undertaken between 1969 and 1972 revealed a groundplan showing a single aisled church with an apsidal presbytery which was replaced by a square ended structure, perhaps in the 13th century. A north transept with an apsidal chapel was also revealed. To the south lay the cloisters of which the west range and part of the south range were revealed during the excavation (Mahaney 1977, 17).

The groundplan was unusual in that the south range, rather than the traditional east range, contained the monk's dormitory with the drain of the rere-dorter located at the southern end of the west range. Though unusual, it is mirrored by Durham cathedral.

Also within the precinct there is a dovecote recorded in documentary references and still visible are the earthwork remains of fishponds, though altered by post-medieval drainage. A hospice or infirmary 'within the priory' is mentioned in 1472 (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 54). The location of a guest-house, stables and barns are not known though a rectangular building along with a hollow-way have been identified from earthwork evidence west of the standing remains within the proposed development area (English Heritage 1994; Kitch 2006, 2). The pattern of earthworks were also confirmed by geophysical survey which also identified other responses of probable archaeological origin (Elks 2006).

Burials associated with the priory have been revealed in the immediate vicinity of the church and nine burials were also encountered in a sewer pipe trench which ran along the northern limit of the site (Till 1973).

Outside of the precinct, a stone conduit with 3 smaller culverts running from it was revealed during roadworks along Priory Road. Water played an important role in monastic life and it is highly probable that this was related to the priory.

St Leonard's priory was dissolved about 1539. The date of the destruction of the priory is not recorded, though some parts of the standing structure are Tudor, suggesting that dismantling took place soon after (RCHME 1977, 34).

In 1552, the site of the priory was granted to Sir W Cecil (Drakard 1822, 180) who was later to become the Earl of Exeter. He later leased the site as a farm. By 1595, a John Browne was the lessee and a house, 2 barns, a stable, kilnhouse, malthouse and corn chamber are recorded at the site. A number of other lessees are recorded throughout the 17th and 18th centuries (Hartley and Rogers 1974, 55). The chapel is recorded as being used as a barn in the 18th century and by 1814 the site was being used for 'stone digging' (*ibid.*).

Following a lease from the Earl of Exeter in 1771, Priory House was constructed to the east of the site. This building has additions of 1780 and 19th century date (RCHME 1977, 112).

The condition of the church had deteriorated during the post-medieval period and a print of 1812 shows the building roofless and in 1833 the west front fell down. This was rebuilt by the Marquis of Exeter in 1844 (Anon 1987, 2). In 1962, the priory was leased by the Marquis of Exeter to the Stamford Borough Council on a 99 year lease which was taken over by South Kesteven District Council in 1974 (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather

information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable English Heritage to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

4. METHODS

Five trenches were excavated to the surface of significant archaeological deposits in areas targeted upon features identified during the earthwork or geophysical surveys and in areas of proposed development (Fig. 3). Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Due to the presence of an electric cable, Trench 5 was reduced in length. To compensate for this, Trench 2 was extended by the addition of a north-south trench over adjacent earthworks.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of the deposits encountered was undertaken based on the single context approach developed by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994) with minor modifications by Archaeological Project Services.

Environmental sampling was undertaken on the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by English Heritage (2002). The subsequent processing of the samples is detailed in

Appendix 3.

The locations of the excavated trenches were surveyed by using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS). A base receiver was established over a temporary survey station which logged satellite data while a roving receiver was used to record points of detail. This was processed using N4ce (version 1.11) software to produce CAD drawings.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a layer of firm yellowish white limestone (103). This measured in excess of 1m thick.

At the northern end of the trench was a large feature (115) identified as a quarry pit. This was over 4m long, wider than 2m and 0.51m deep (Fig. 4; Fig. 6, Section 10). Three fills were recorded, the lowest comprising greyish yellow limestone fragments (116), followed by greyish brown silt and limestone fragments (115) and brown sandy silt with limestone fragments (118). Pottery of 11th to 12th century date was retrieved from (118).

Adjacent to the quarry pit was an undated posthole (119). This was 0.6m long, over

0.25m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 6, Section 11; Plate 4) and contained fills of greyish yellow limestone fragments and sandy silt (120) and greyish brown limestone fragments and sandy silt (121).

Located 3.3m south of pit (115) was a second posthole (111). This was 0.43m wide by 0.2m deep (Fig. 5, Section 12) and contained a fill of grey silt with small limestone fragments (112) from which 11th to 12th century pottery was retrieved.

Immediately west of this posthole was an oval undated pit (109). Measuring 0.95m long, 0.75m wide and 70mm deep (Fig. 6, Section 7) it contained a fill of yellowish brown silt with limestone fragments (110).

Located in the centre of the trench was a second quarry pit (104) that was over 5.5m long, wider than 1m and 0.94m deep (Fig. 5; Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 3). Two fills were recorded, a lower of brown silt (105) and an upper of yellowish brown silt (106) both containing limestone fragments. Pottery of mid 12th to 13th century date was retrieved from both fills.

A posthole (113) lay adjacent and to the west of this quarry pit (Fig. 4). This was 0.28m long, 0.25m wide and 100mm deep (Fig. 6, Section 9) and contained a fill of greyish brown silt (114).

A further posthole (107) lay 2.4m to the south and was 0.41m long, 0.36m wide and 70mm deep (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 5). This was filled with greyish brown silt (108). This posthole lay within a terraced area, previously identified as a hollow way (122), which measured 1.86m wide and up to 0.28m deep and had been backfilled with brown limestone fragments (123).

Sealing all deposits was a 0.3m thick subsoil comprising greyish brown silt (102). This was sealed in turn by the current topsoil of grey silt (101) that was

0.4m thick.

Trench 2

Natural was identified as a layer of white limestone (216). Cut into this was a north-south aligned natural feature (215), possibly a former watercourse. This was over 2.25m wide and 0.58m deep (Fig. 7, Section 3). A single fill of reddish brown silty sand (214) was recorded.

Developed over the natural deposits were subsoil layers comprising brown sand (210) and brownish red sand (218) over the area of the natural feature.

Overlying the subsoil, only on the north side of the trench, was a dumped deposit of grey silty sand with limestone and ash (209) measuring 0.13m thick (Fig. 7, Section 5). This was in turn sealed by brownish grey sand (208), representing a former topsoil.

Situated at the west end of the trench and extending northwards was a 0.14m thick layer of small mixed gravel (207), also dumped. This was sealed by further dumping comprising brown sand and limestone fragments (206), which measured up to 0.2m thick.

Three undated postholes, only exposed in the base of the trench, were recorded in the western part of the trench (Fig. 7). The first (202) was 0.38m long, 0.26m wide and 0.21m deep (Fig. 7, Section 1; Plate 7). A single fill of yellowish brown sand with small limestone fragments (201) was recorded.

The second posthole (204) lay 0.5m to the north and was smaller, measuring 0.13m by 0.12m and only 90mm deep (Fig. 7, Section 2). This contained a fill of brown sand (203).

The third posthole (219) lay a further 2m to the north. This had a diameter of 0.4m

and was 0.23m deep (Fig. 7, Section 20; Plate 8) and contained greyish brown silt with small limestone fragments (220).

Sealing the sequence of dumped deposits and extending across the trench was the current topsoil comprising brown sand (205) that was up to 0.37m thick. Pottery of 19th to 20th century date was retrieved from this layer.

Trench 3

Towards the north of the trench, natural deposits comprised light yellow limestone (303), measuring at least 0.3m thick. This was overlain intermittently by reddish brown silty clay (307) of probable alluvial origin.

Located at the southern end of the trench was an east-west aligned feature (304), possibly a ditch. This was 2.8m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig. 8, Section 14; Plate 10). Two fills were recorded, a lower of reddish brown silty clay (305) and an upper of brown silty clay (306). Pottery retrieved from the lower layer dated from the 10th to 11th centuries and that from the upper fill to the 12th to mid 13th century. Snail shells recovered by environmental sampling of (305) suggested that the ditch was dry and located in an open grassland originally (Appendix 3).

Sealing the ditch and evident along the trench was a subsoil layer of yellowish brown sandy silt (302), that may incorporate some colluvium.

All deposits were sealed by the current topsoil of brownish grey sandy silt (301) that was 0.4m thick.

Trench 4

A layer of reddish brown silty sand (403) constituted the natural within this trench. A subsoil of reddish brown sand (402) had developed upon this and was 0.62m thick (Fig. 9, Section 13; Plate 12).

All deposits were sealed by a topsoil of greyish brown sand (401), which was 0.29m thick.

Trench 5

Layers of yellowish brown clayey sand with brownish red mottling (504), brownish red sand with limestone gravel (505) and yellowish grey sand with small limestone fragments (506) were identified as the underlying natural deposits within this trench.

A soil had developed upon the natural as evidenced by a 0.13m thick layer of brownish grey silty sand (503), which contained mid 12th to 14th century pottery. This had been sealed by an extensive dumped deposit of limestone rubble with brown sand (502). This measured up to 0.76m thick (Fig. 10, Section 18; Plate 14) and incorporated concrete fragments as well as medieval masonry and perhaps derived from the demolition of an adjacent building.

Sealing all deposits within this trench was a topsoil of greyish brown sand (501) that measured 0.16m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise limestone of the underlying solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone along with silty sands, clayey sand and sand of drift deposits of probable alluvial origin. A natural watercourse was also identified.

Medieval remains were restricted to two quarry pits, a ditch and a posthole. The quarry pits were used for the extraction of the underlying limestone which, given its quality, was probably used to make lime for the buildings. If so, this implies that a limekiln lies in the general proximity. The dating evidence would suggest this occurred during the 12th century and

would, therefore, be contemporary with the construction of St Leonard's church. Environmental evidence suggests the area was a dry open grassland during the medieval period.

The scarcity of medieval features and deposits should be considered unusual given the site's location within a monastic precinct. It must be assumed that the stables and barns mentioned in contemporary documents perhaps lie further west, or alternatively they may be located east of the claustral ranges.

The earthworks previously identified at the site appear to represent terraces set within the hillside. Some could be of natural origin, relating to the river terraces of the Welland, particularly those evident in Trench 3. The terracing may also relate to gardens, either medieval or later. The terrace recorded in Trench 2 (Fig.7; Section 18) would appear to be later, perhaps associated with post-medieval limestone extraction for mortar. The terrace earthworks have been further complicated by post-medieval dumping in their vicinity.

The undated postholes in Trench 2 may imply a structure on the site and, if medieval, may relate to a building expected in the precinct of the monastery. However, Ordnance Survey maps from 1891 show the farmyard boundary of Priory Farm crossing the site in this location.

Relating to the demolition of Priory Farm is an extensive dumped deposit revealed in Trench 5. This contained many re-used ashlar blocks which probably derive from the monastic buildings and were incorporated into the farm.

Pottery was the key artefact retrieved during the evaluation. Medieval pottery comprised Stamford wares and shelly

wares that were produced until the mid 13th century and there was a single sherd of Bourne type ware of mid 12th – 14th century date. There is a paucity of later medieval pottery which suggests disposal was taking place elsewhere within the precinct. Late medieval roof furniture was found, though derived from a context associated with demolition of some of the priory remains. Only three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered during the work. Other finds include glass, brick, tile, clay pipe and a small assemblage of faunal remains.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at St Leonard's Priory as the site lay within a medieval monastic precinct within an area of earthworks that apparently defined structures.

The evaluation identified undated, medieval and later remains. Medieval features comprised only two quarry pits, a ditch and a single posthole, unusual given the site's location within a monastic precinct. Post-medieval remains comprised a demolition deposit associated with Priory Farm which had presumably re-used medieval masonry in its fabric. Undated remains include postholes and pits. Earthworks previously identified at the site appear to be largely of natural origin.

Pottery, mainly medieval, was the largest category of finds retrieved from the investigation. Other finds include brick, tile, glass, clay pipe and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J Dawson of Strutt and Parker for commissioning the fieldwork and post-

excavation analysis on behalf of the Cecil Estate Family Trust. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Glyn Coppack, the English Heritage Regional Inspector, kindly offered advice during the excavation. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Staff: Ross Kendall, Jon Smith
 Surveying: Andy Failes
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
HTL	Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historic Monuments England

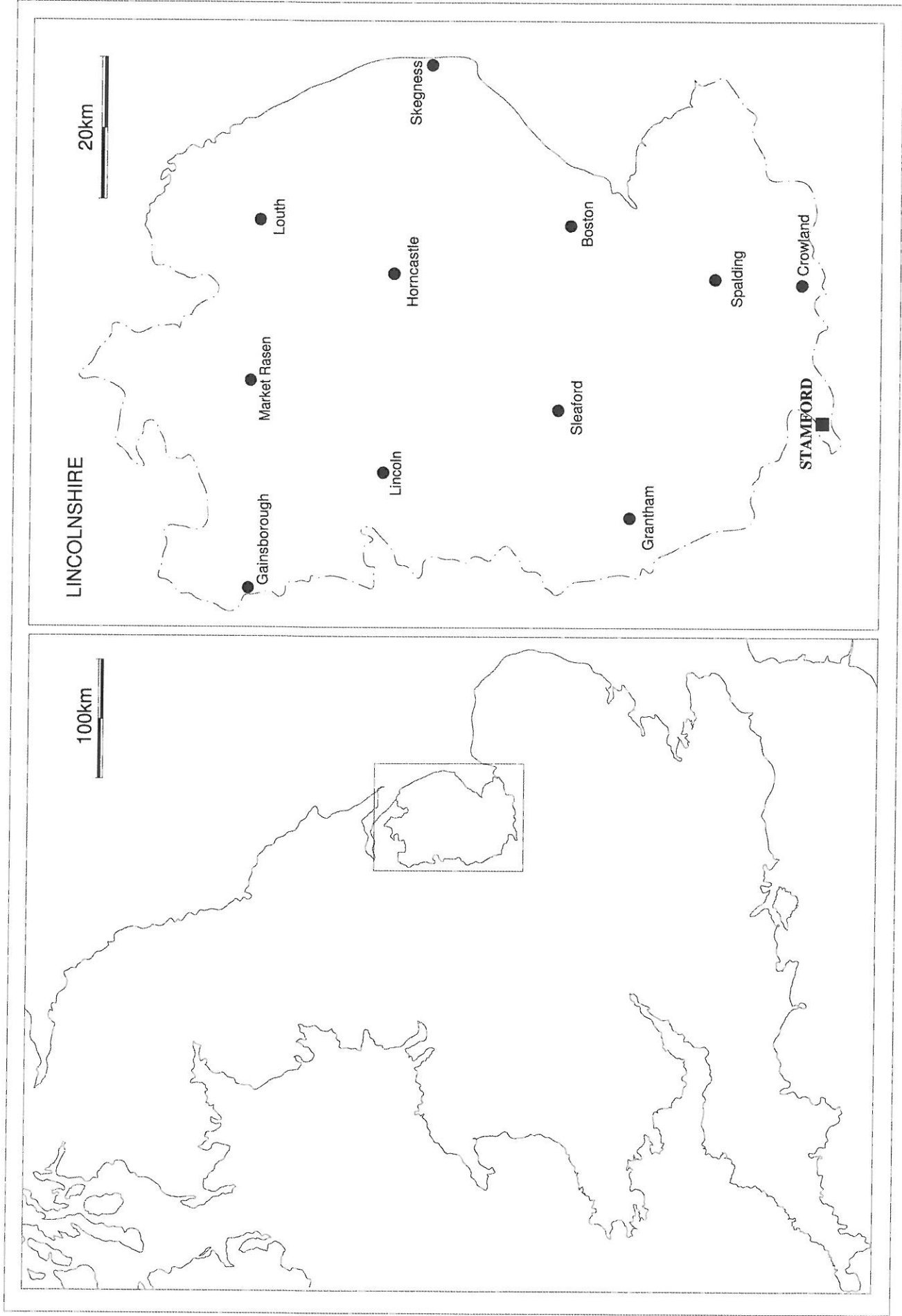


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

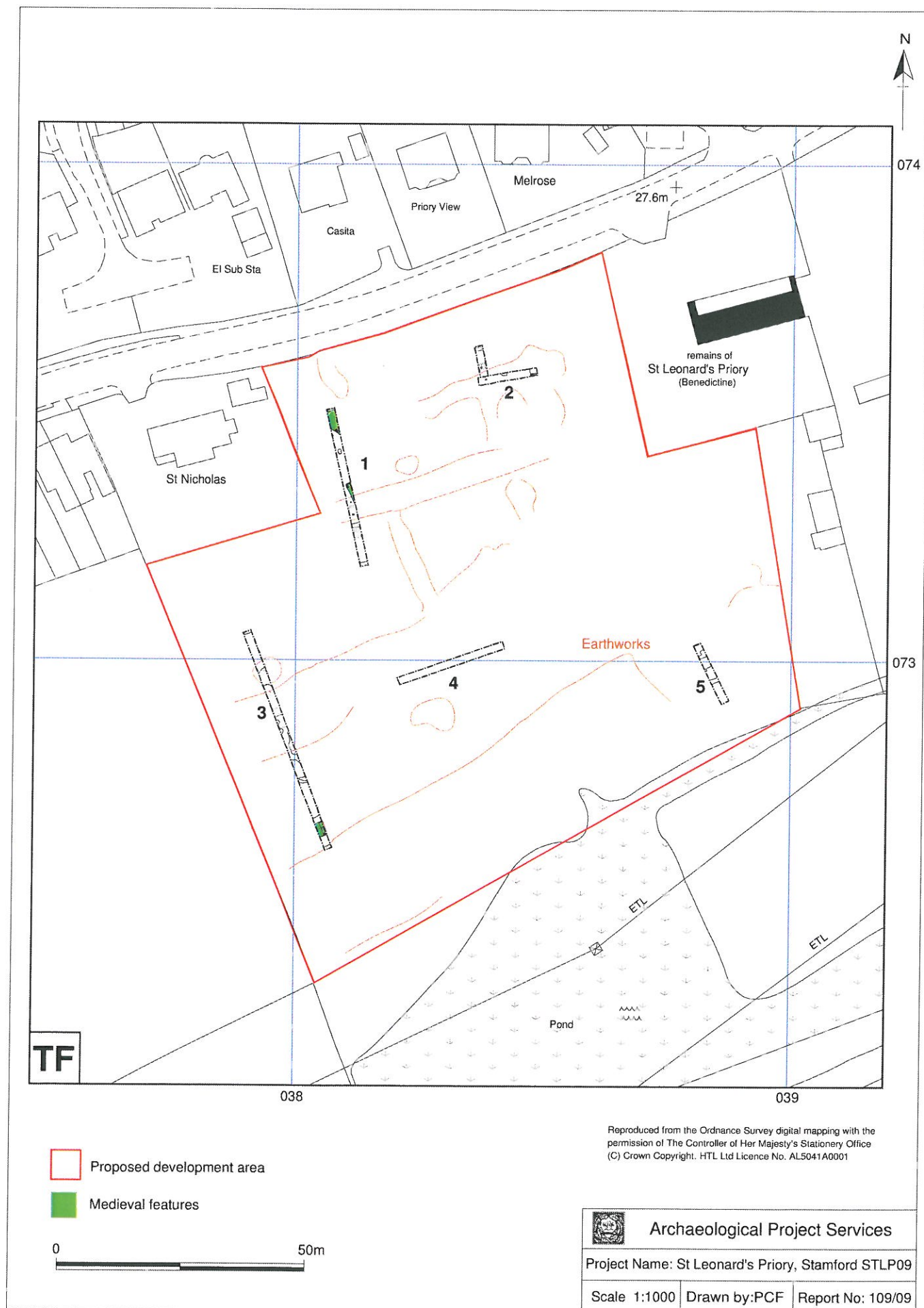


Figure 3 - Trench location plan, superimposed on earthwork survey

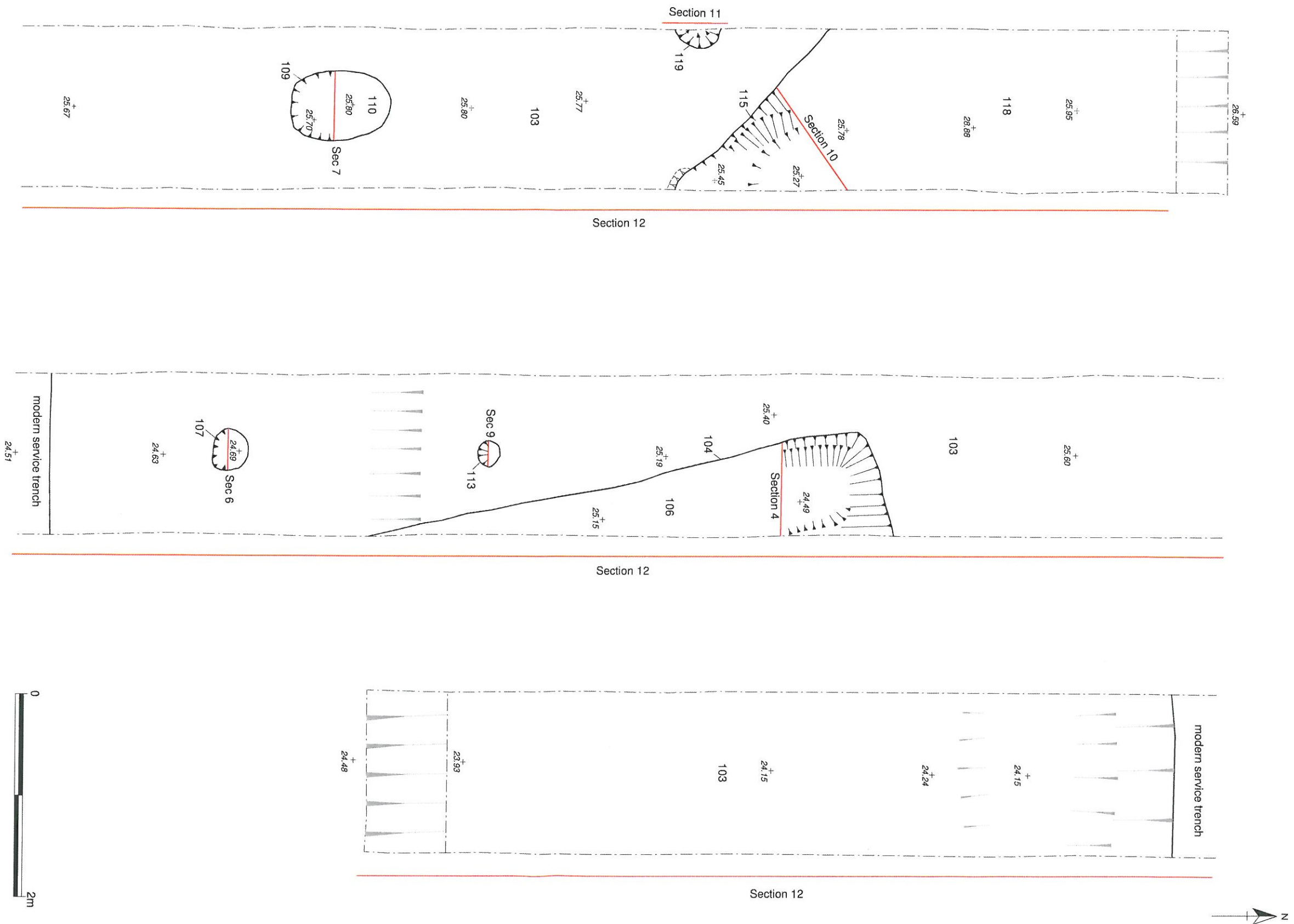


Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan

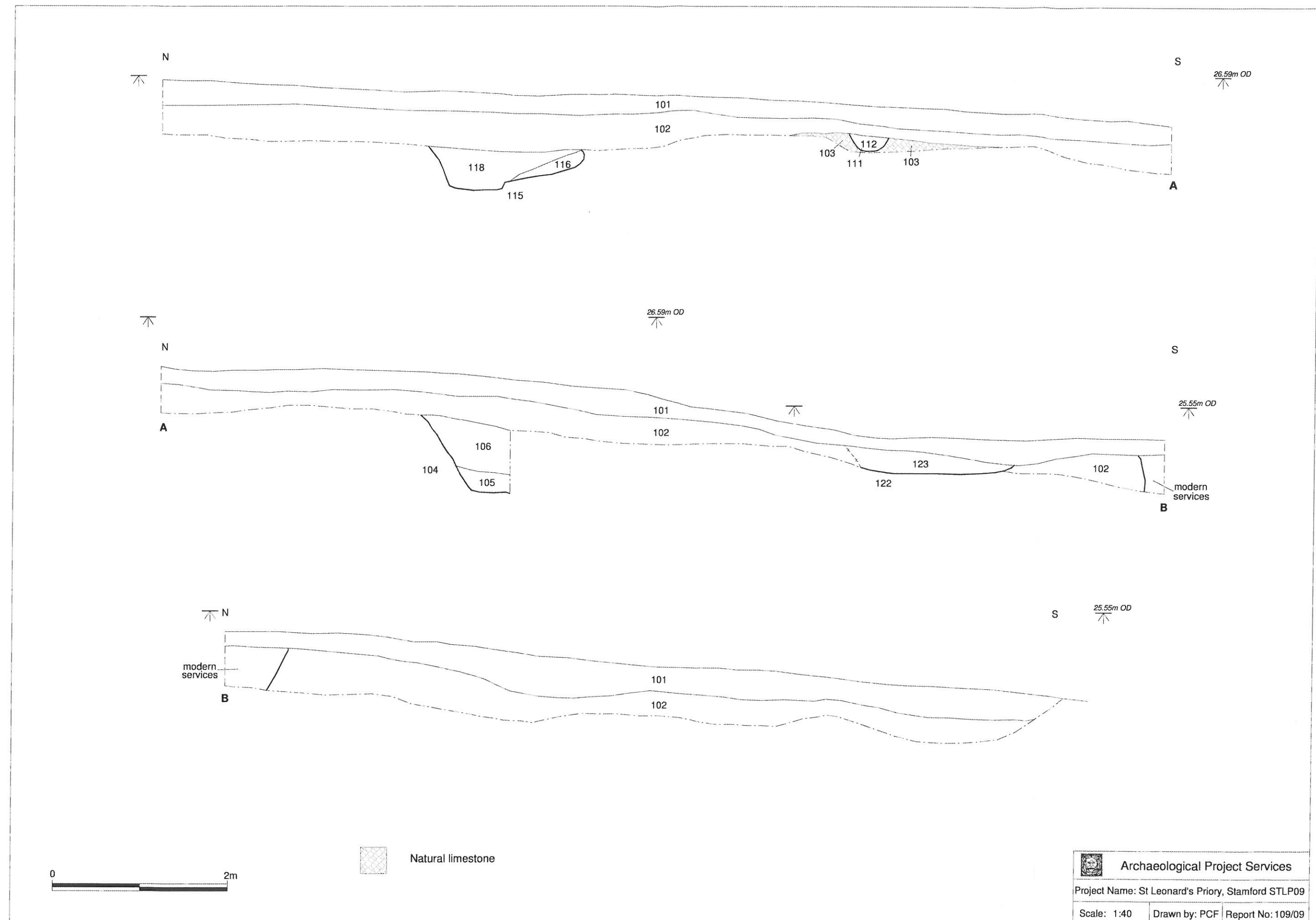
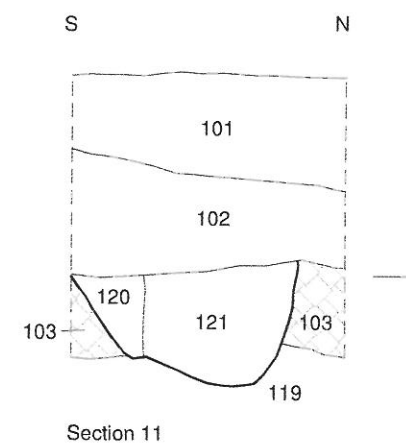
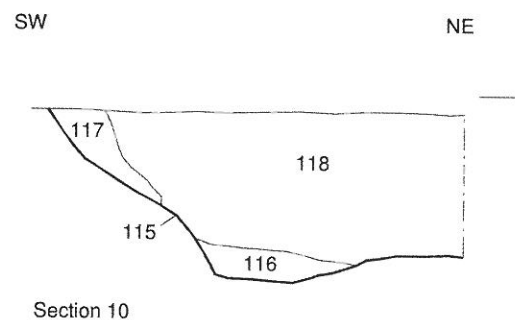
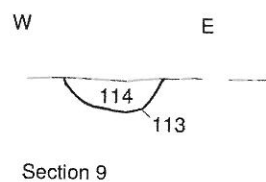
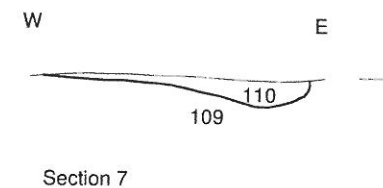
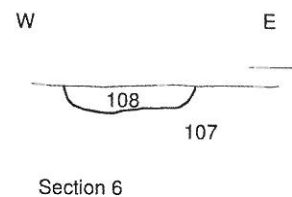
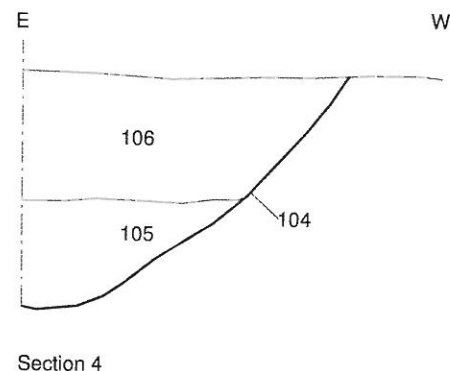


Figure 5 - Trench 1: Section



Natural limestone



Archaeological Project Services

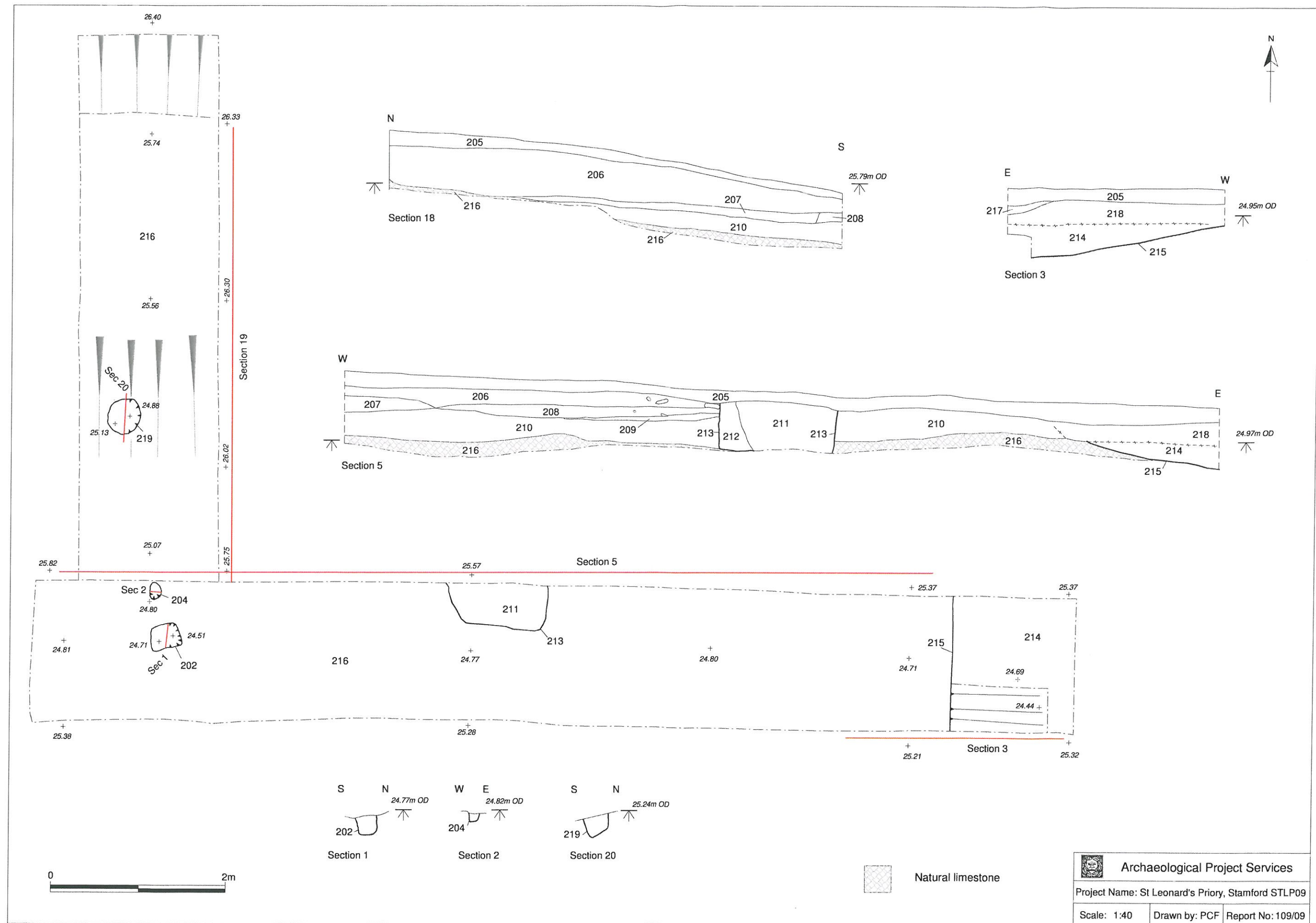
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Report No: 109/09

Figure 6 - Trench 1: Sections



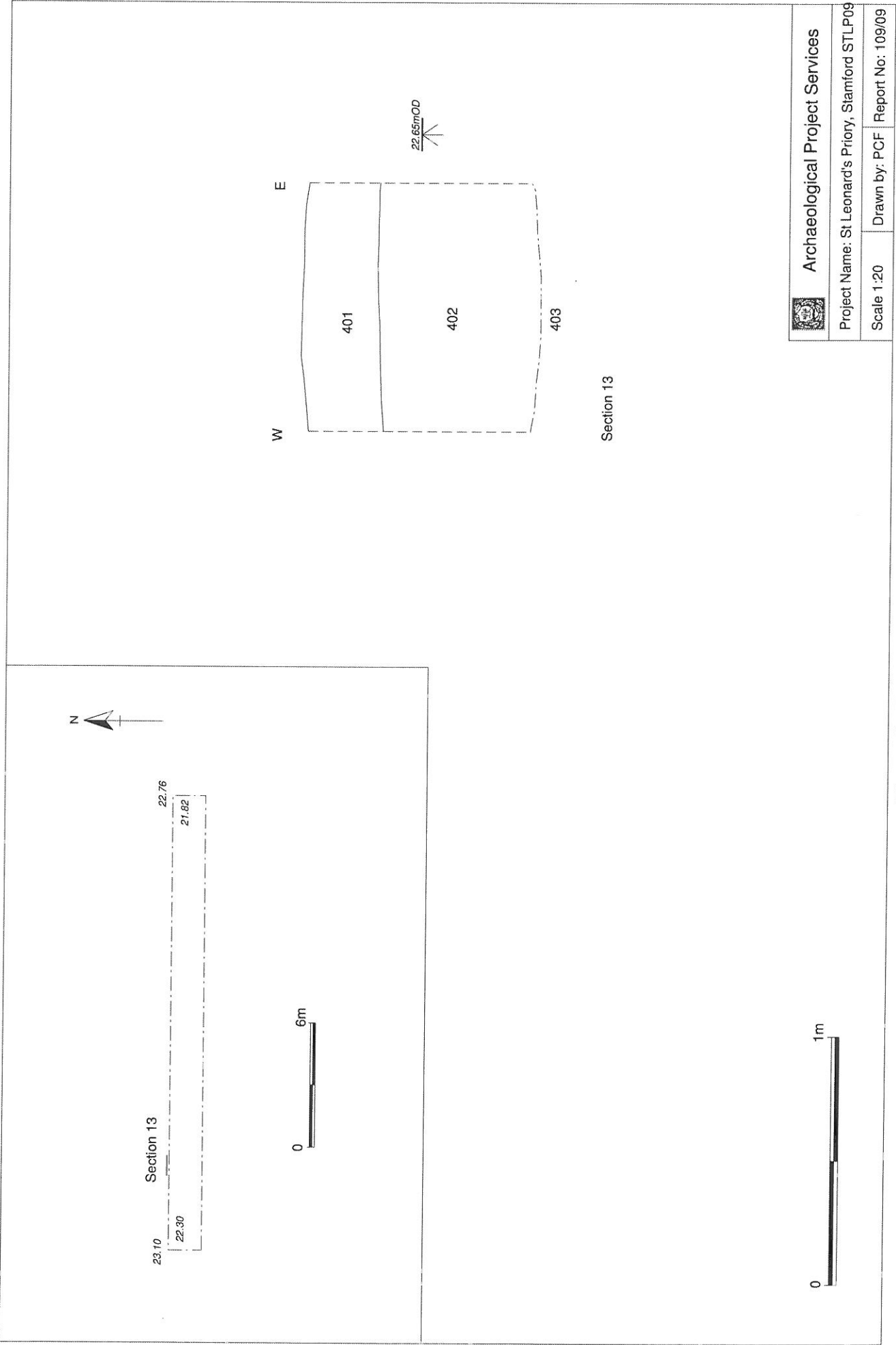


Figure 9 - Trench 4: Section

Figure 10 - Trench 5: Plan and section

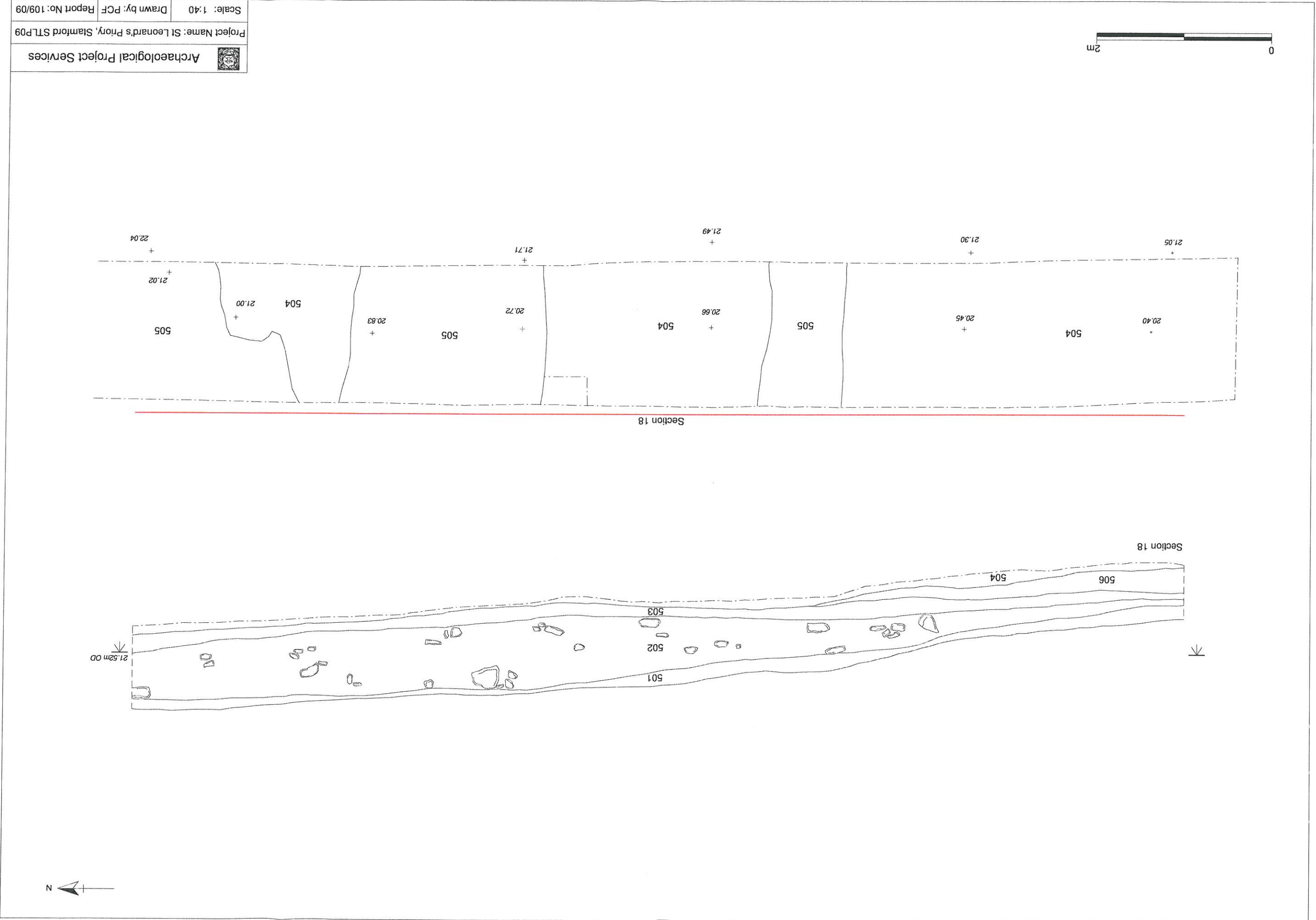




Plate 1 – View across the proposed development area, looking southwest



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after cleaning with quarry pit (115) in the foreground, looking south



Plate 3 – Trench 1, Quarry pit (104), looking east



Plate 4 – Trench 1, undated posthole (119), looking west



Plate 5 – Trench 1, undated posthole (107), looking north



Plate 6 – Trench 2 after cleaning, looking west



Plate 7 – Trench 2, undated posthole (202), looking west



Plate 8 – Trench 2, undated posthole (219), looking west



Plate 9 – Trench 3 after cleaning, looking north



Plate 10 – Trench 3, Medieval ditch (304), looking east



Plate 11 – Trench 3, Section 15 showing probable natural terrace, looking east



Plate 12 – Trench 4, Section 13 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking north



Plate 13 – Trench 5 after cleaning, looking north



Plate 14 – Trench 5, Section 18 showing the dumped deposit (502) overlying the buried soil (503), looking southwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT THE ST. LEONARD'S PRIORY SITE, PRIORY ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at St Leonard's Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire. This evaluation is in order to identify the presence/absence, location and nature of archaeological remains at the site with the objective of providing information to facilitate proposals for the potential redevelopment of the area. This investigation may indicate that mitigation of the development threat to archaeological remains is required.*
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying within the precinct of St. Leonard's Priory, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, number 22614. The Priory was in existence by the 1140s and may have replaced a mid 7th century foundation. After the Dissolution in 1539 the precinct became a farm. Earthwork and geophysical surveys of the site have identified the probable locations of buildings in the north, with hollow-ways and terraces south of these.*
- 1.3 A programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is required to establish the depth, nature, date and complexity of archaeological remains at the site.*
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at the site of St. Leonard's Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Stamford is located 63km south of Lincoln in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. St. Leonard's Priory site is 870m northeast of the town centre, on the south side of Priory Road at National Grid Reference TF 0386 0730.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Enquiries have been made to establish the possibility of developing parts of the site. As the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 22614), English Heritage has been consulted. Following the production of a desk-based survey, English Heritage requested earthwork and geophysical survey of the site. This confirmed the presence of archaeological remains. English Heritage has now advised that an evaluation by trial trenching is required to establish the nature, depth and date of buried remains. Scheduled Monument Consent will be required for the trenching. The aim of the trenching is to provide information to facilitate proposals for the redevelopment of the site and identify where mitigation measures to reduce the impact of

- development on significant archaeological remains may be required.
- 5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 As an urban area soils at the site have not been mapped. Natural geology of the site comprises limestone over much of the area with alluvial drift in the southern part. The site is on a slope down south to the River Welland, declining from 28m OD to 21m. The site is currently grassed.

6 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 St Leonard's Priory is first recorded in 1146 but is believed to have been founded in the mid 7th century, though this suggestion is unsubstantiated and the location of the early foundation is disputed. The Priory was a sizable structure containing the monastic range as well as barns, dovecotes, fishponds, a guest house and stables. The Priory was dissolved in 1539 and the land passed to the Cecil family, with the standing buildings becoming the focus of a farm that remained in use till the 20th century (APS 2006a). Earthwork survey of the precinct area to the west of the priory church revealed hollow-ways and terraces across much of the area though probable remains of buildings were identified at the northern edge of the site (APS 2006b). Geophysical survey of the same area also revealed magnetic anomalies consistent with the earthwork remains, though the eastern side of the site was dominated by magnetic debris (Stratascan 2006).

7 **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The work is being carried out to provide information to facilitate the potential for redevelopment of the site. The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curators to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- 7.2.1 Establish the depth below present ground surface at which significant archaeological remains occur.
- 7.2.2 Determine the nature, potential and significance of archaeological remains revealed.
- 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.5 Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the area.
- 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 **LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATORS**

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curators throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 **TRIAL TRENCHING**

- 9.1 Reasoning for this technique
- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified by the archaeological curators. Five trenches, each 1.6m wide and between 10m and 40m long, have been proposed

to examine potential archaeological remains evident as earthworks and geophysical signals, and also areas of the site that were not conducive to the non-intrusive surveys and which appear blank. The total trenching area is about 224m², or 2% of the 1.1ha section of the site where development is proposed.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 9.2.4 Following guidance from the English Heritage Inspector, the trenching will only go down to the surface of significant archaeological deposits. Minor excavation will probably be needed to confirm the significance of the archaeological remains and to establish their depth, date and nature. Later intrusive features will be part excavated to examine the level of disturbance to archaeological remains and to gain insight into the depth of significant deposits. If these do not establish the full depth of the archaeological sequence then augering may be used to identify the thickness of archaeological remains down to natural.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by orange mesh fencing attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.
- 9.2.6 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.

- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at more appropriate scales.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white and colour prints (reproduced as contact sheets). The photographic record will consist of:
 - 9.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - 9.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - 9.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - 9.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - 9.3.5.5 the site on completion of fieldwork
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS and/or EDM survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and

labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

11.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

11.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.

11.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.

11.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.

11.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

11.3.1.6 Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

11.3.1.7 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

11.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.

11.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

11.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.

11.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 **ARCHIVE**

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the appropriate local museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the guidelines and conditions stipulated by the museum, and appropriate national guidelines, for long-term storage and curation.

13 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client for distribution to the planning authority.

14 **PUBLICATION**

14.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

- 14.2 Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date. If appropriate, a report on the investigations may be submitted to *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with English Heritage and the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator, the client and their consultant.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type (in terms of both scale and nature). Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust Roman: B Precious, independent specialist/A Beeby, APS Anglo-Saxon-post-medieval: A Boyle, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	P Cope-Faulkner, APS/J Wood, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, or Val Fryer, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about a week.

- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about 2 weeks. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation are enclosed.

20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2006a *Desk-based Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of Proposed Development of land at St. Leonard's Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire (SLP06)*, unpublished APS report **57/06**

Archaeological Project Services, 2006b *Earthwork Survey on land at St. Leonards Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire (SLP06)*, unpublished APS report **125/06**

Stratascan, 2006 *Geophysical Survey Report St. Leonard's Priory, Stamford, Lincolnshire*

Specification: Version 1, 25/08/09

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Soft and friable dark grey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
102	Soft to friable mid greyish brown silt with frequent small limestone fragments, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
103	Firm light yellowish white limestone, >1m thick	Natural deposit
104	Feature, 5.5m long by >1m wide and 0.94m deep, steep sides, indeterminate base	Quarry pit
105	Firm light to mid brown silt with frequent limestone fragments	Fill of (104)
106	Firm mid yellowish brown silt with frequent limestone fragments	Fill of (104)
107	Sub-circular feature, 0.41m long by 0.36m wide and 70mm deep, steep sides and uneven base	Posthole
108	Soft to friable mid greyish brown silt with frequent small limestone fragments	Fill of (107)
109	Oval feature, 0.95m long by 0.75m wide by 70mm deep, steep sides and uneven base	Pit
110	Soft to friable light to mid yellowish brown silt with frequent small limestone fragments	Fill of (109)
111	Feature, 0.43m wide by 0.2m deep, steep sides and flat base	Posthole
112	Firm to friable mid grey silt with frequent small limestone fragments	Fill of (111)
113	Sub-circular feature, 0.28m long by 0.25m wide by 100mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Posthole
114	Soft to friable mid greyish brown silt with frequent small limestone fragments	Fill of (113)
115	Feature, >4m long by >2m wide by 0.51m deep, irregular sides and uneven base	Quarry pit
116	Loose light greyish yellow limestone fragments	Fill of (115)
117	Firm dark greyish brown silt and limestone fragments	Fill of (115)
118	Hard light brown sandy silt and limestone fragments	Fill of (115)
119	Sub-circular feature, 0.6m long by >0.25m wide and 0.35m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Posthole
120	Hard light greyish yellow limestone fragments and sandy silt	Fill of (119)
121	Firm mid greyish brown limestone fragments and sandy silt	Fill of (119)
122	Linear feature, 1.86m wide by 0.28m deep, gradual north side and flat base	Hollow way
123	Loose light brown limestone fragments	Fill of (122)

Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
201	Firm to friable mid yellowish brown sand with small limestone fragments	Fill of (202)
202	Sub-rectangular feature, 0.38m long by 0.26m wide and 0.21m deep, vertical sides and rounded base	Posthole
203	Firm mid brown sand	Fill of (204)
204	Oval feature, 0.13m long by 0.12m wide and 90mm deep, vertical sides and uneven base	Posthole

No.	Description	Interpretation
205	Friable dark brown sand, 0.37m thick	Topsoil
206	Friable mid brown sand and limestone fragments, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
207	Loose mixed gravel, 0.14m thick	Dumped deposit
208	Friable dark brownish grey sand, 0.12m thick	Former topsoil
209	Friable light grey silty sand with limestone fragments and ash, 0.13m thick	Dumped deposit
210	Firm light brown sand, 0.22m thick	Former topsoil/subsoil
211	Loose mixed limestone rubble, drain pipe fragments and mid brown sand	Fill of (213)
212	Firm light grey ash and sand	Fill of (213)
213	Sub-circular feature, 1.42m long by >0.55m wide and >0.4m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Pit
214	Firm dark reddish brown silty sand	Fill of (215)
215	?linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.25m wide by 0.58m deep, gradual sides and flattish base	Natural feature
216	Firm to indurated white limestone	Natural deposit
217	Friable light brownish red sand and limestone fragments, up to 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
218	Firm light brownish red sand, 0.26m thick	?subsoil
219	Circular feature, 0.4m diameter by 0.23m deep, near vertical sides and uneven base	Posthole
220	Friable mid greyish brown silt with frequent small limestone fragments	Fill of (219)

Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
301	Loose dark brownish grey sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
302	Friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
303	Indurated light yellow limestone	Natural deposit
304	?linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.8m wide by 0.55m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	?ditch
305	Soft mid reddish brown silty clay	Fill of (304)
306	Firm mid brown silty clay	Fill of (304)
307	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	Natural deposit

Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
401	Friable dark greyish brown sand, 0.29m thick	Topsoil
402	Firm mid reddish brown sand, 0.62m thick	Subsoil
403	Firm mid reddish brown silty sand	Natural deposit

Trench 5

No.	Description	Interpretation
501	Friable mid greyish brown sand, 0.16m thick	Topsoil
502	Friable light brown sand with limestone fragments, 0.56m thick	Dumped deposit
503	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.13m thick	Buried soil

No.	Description	Interpretation
504	Firm mid to dark yellowish brown with dark brownish red mottled clayey sand	Natural deposit
505	Firm mid brownish red sand with limestone gravel	Natural deposit
506	Firm mid yellowish grey sand and small limestone fragments, 0.28m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

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) 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 22 sherds from 21 vessels, weighing 239 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 Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern period.

Condition

All the pottery appears to be re-deposited as most of the assemblage comprises small, abraded sherds; this is reflected in the average sherd weight of 11 grams.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	1150	1400	1	1	53
DST	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1230	4	4	19
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1690	1900	1	1	33
LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	2	1	9
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1	1	21
ST	Stamford Ware	970	1200	11	11	61
SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware	1150	1250	1	1	38
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1	5
TOTAL				22	21	239

Provenance

Pottery came from quarry pits (104), (115), posthole (111), ditch (304), topsoil (205), dumped deposit (502) and a buried soil (503).

Range

All the ware types present in the assemblage commonly occur in Stamford and it is unsurprising that the products manufactured in the town are best represented. Few forms are discernible although jugs, jars and pitchers are present.

Potential

None of the pottery poses any problems for long-term storage and should be retained. No further work is required on the assemblage.

Summary

A small collection of Saxo-Norman, medieval and early modern pottery was retrieved from nine contexts.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

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 total of three fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1956 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. 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 ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Condition

All the fragments are in fairly fresh condition.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Sub type	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
502	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; fine sandy		1	1606	Even arrises; mortar; handmade	18th?
502	FLOOR	Floor tile	Oxidised; fine sandy		1	197	Fe slipped surface	15th+
502	GRFURN	Glazed roof furniture	Bourne-type		1	153	Finger striations?; pierced; green glaze; slightly curved	14th to 15th?

Provenance

Three fragments of ceramic building material were retrieved from topsoil (502).

Range

A late post-medieval brick is present, along with what may be a fragment of later medieval roof furniture and a floor tile. The latter has an iron slipped surface, suggesting it may have had a dark brown or black glaze.

Potential

None of the ceramic building material poses any problems for long-term storage and should be retained. No further work is required on the assemblage.

Summary

A small, mixed collection of ceramic building material was recovered from a single context.

STONWORK

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A single fragment of medieval architectural stonework was retrieved from a demolition/dumped deposit (502). Other fragments were noted but not retained as they were primarily ashlar.

The stone is a double hollow chamfered block, measuring 210mm long, 135mm wide and 145mm deep. It is constructed of a shell rich limestone and probably derived from quarries at Barnack. There is a slight hint of diagonal tooling on one side.

The function of the block is not immediately clear, but presumably defined an opening, though no rebate for a door or window is present. There is no curvature in the block to suggest it came from the arch of an opening.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 12 (139g) fragments of animal bone was recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The faunal remains derived from the fills of quarry pits (105, 106 and 118), the fill of a posthole (112), a ditch fill (306) and a buried soil (503).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
105	sheep/goat	femur	1	22	
106	sheep/goat	vertebra	1	10	
	medium mammal	skull	1	2	
	small mammal	mandible	1	4	
	garden snail	shell	1	4	complete
112	banded snail	shell	1	2	complete
118	large mammal	mandible	1	12	
	large mammal	unidentified	2	3	
306	cattle	humerus	1	67	
	sheep/goat	humerus	1	12	
503	sheep/goat	rib	1	1	

Summary

The assemblage is too small for meaningful analysis, though should be retained as part of the site archive.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

By James Rackham

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at the site of St. Leonard's priory revealed quarries, postholes, ditches and deposits of medieval and later date. A single sample for the retrieval of the palaeo-environmental material and artefacts was taken from a 10th-11th century ditch and was submitted for assessment.

The sample was bulk floated and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. There was no evidence of waterlogged plant remains so the flot was dried. The dried flot was examined under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the remains noted are listed in Table 4. Modern roots occurred in moderate abundance.

Results

Biological remains were scarce, and artefacts absent. There are a few pieces of charcoal and charred material, perhaps coal. Other remains were restricted to mollusc shell, which occurred in small numbers. These are all terrestrial species and suggest a dry open, slightly disturbed, country grassland (Kerney and Cameron 1979).

Discussion

The mollusc shells indicate the ditch was dry. However, the lack of other archaeological material suggests that the ditch was located away from human habitation and perhaps served as a field boundary. No further work is required on the material.

Table 4 Environmental material

Sample No	1
Context No	305
Charcoal <2mm	x

Coal	x
Molluscs	
Cecilioides acicula	x
Trichia hispida	x
Vallonia excentrica	x
Vertigo sp.	x
Pupilla muscorum	x
Sample Vol (ltrs)	10
Vol of flot (ltrs)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100

x=1-10, xx=10-100, xxx=100+

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Two pieces of glass weighing a total of 36g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition and presents no problems for archive storage.

Results

Table 5, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
205	Opaque light blue vase base	1	15	Late 19 th - 20 th century
208	Olive green rectangular bottle	1	21	20 th century

Provenance

Both pieces of glass were recovered from Trench 2, where they were found in the topsoil (205) and a former topsoil (208).

Range

Fragments of two vessels, both of early modern date, were the only items of glass recovered.

Potential

Other than providing some dating evidence the glass is of very limited potential.

CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition

The clay pipe is in good, archive-stable condition.

Results

Table 6, Clay pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
502					1	1	4	Stem with spur	19 th century

Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered from a dumped deposit. It is probably a local Stamford product.

Range

A single piece of 19th century clay pipe was retrieved.

Potential

Other than suggesting dating from the deposit that it came from, the clay pipe is of very limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 7 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 7, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
105	Mid 12 th to early/mid 13 th	
106	Mid 12 th to mid 13 th	
112	11 th to 12 th	Date on a single sherd
118	11 th to 12 th	
205	Late 19 th -20 th	Date on 1 glass and pottery
208	20 th	Date on 1 glass
305	10 th to 11 th	Date on a single sherd
306	12 th to mid 13 th	
502	19 th	Date on 1 clay pipe and pottery
503	Mid 12 th to 14 th	Date on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
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	Comment	Date
105	DST	C	Jug?	1	1	1		BS	Mottled Cu glaze	Mid 12th to early 13th
105	LEMS		Jar	2	1	9		Rim and BS	Soot on rim edge	Early/mid 12th to early/mid 13th
106	DST	B	Pitcher	1	1	6		Rim	Cu mottled glaze	
106	DST	B/C	?	1	1	1		BS	Cu mottled glaze	
106	ST	B/C	Jar/pitcher	1	1	5	Incised parallel lines	BS	Thick yellow glaze	
106	ST	B/C	Jar?	1	1	1		BS	No glaze	
106	SLST		Jar/bowl	1	1	38		Base	?ID or BAHST; soot; purple internal surface	
112	ST	B	Jug/jar	1	1	11		Base	Thin glaze	11th to 12th
118	ST	A/D	Jar/pitcher	1	1	5		BS	Thin green glaze with Cu specks	11th to 12th
118	ST	C	Pitcher	1	1	4		Rim	Flake; no glaze	11th to 12th
118	ST	B/C	Jar	1	1	6		Base	Spalled; soot; thin green glaze	11th to 12th
205	WHITE		?	1	1	5		Base		19th to 20th
305	ST	A/D	Jar?	1	1	18		BS	Abraded; no glaze	
306	DST	B	Pitcher	1	1	11		Rim	Cu mottled glaze; abraded	
306	ST	A/D	?	1	1	6		BS	Abraded; no glaze	
306	ST	D	?	1	1	1		BS	Burnt; thin glaze; abraded	
306	ST	B	?	1	1	1		BS	No glaze; soot	
306	ST	B	?	1	1	3		BS	Yellow glaze; abraded	
502	ENGs	Bristol glaze	Hollow	1	1	33	Applied complex design	BS		18th to 19th
502	NOTS		Bottle	1	1	21		BS		18th to 19th
503	BOUA	B	Jug	1	1	53		Handle	Wide hollow strap; abraded	Mid 12th to 14th

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Colluvium	Weathered material that has been transported downslope by gravitational forces and deposited at the base of the slope.
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).
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.
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.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
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.
Rere-dorter	Communal latrine for monks, usually attached to the monks' dormitory.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

59	Context records
2	Photographic record sheets
29	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box 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

Accession Number:	2009.149
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	STLP 09
OASIS Record Number:	archaeol1-66598

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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