
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
HIGH STREET,
GOSBERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(GOHS11)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr Judd

April 2011

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: H08/942/08
National Grid Reference: TF 2395 3167
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.19
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APS Report No. **40/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during residential development works at 44 High Street, Gosberton. The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying close to the centre of the medieval village, in an area of known Roman and medieval remains.

A watching brief monitored all groundworks associated with the development.

Natural pale brown sandy silt was the earliest deposit uncovered, probably forming part of the natural horizon in the area. A series of subsoil deposits and a topsoil deposit were also identified. Demolition and levelling layers sealed the area. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Planning permission (application no: H08/942/08) for the demolition of an existing commercial unit and replacement with a two storey extension has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to archaeological monitoring of all groundworks during construction.

The watching brief was carried out, on 23rd March 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Gosberton is situated 8km north of Spalding and 15km southwest of Boston, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located c200m southeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul (Fig. 2, Plates 1 and 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 2395 3167, the development site is located on a slight ridge of higher ground running north to south through the

village at a height of c. 4m OD.

The village is located on soils of the Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). North, south and east of the village are clayey calcareous alluvial soils of the Agney, Stockwith and Wisbech Series (*ibid.* 9, 28, 36). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine silts and clays (BGS 1992). These in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (*ibid.*).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Gosberton is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Much of this area was salt marsh during the early Romano-British period, as salterns (salt-making sites) of the period were active to the west (Hayes and Lane 1992, 54). However, isolated finds of coins and pottery are known from the vicinity.

Gosberton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Gozeberdecherca* or *Gosebertechirche*, the name is derived from the Germanic personal name *Gosbeorht* and the Old English *cirice* meaning church (Cameron 1998, 51). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by the Bishop of Lincoln and Count Alan and contained 18 acres of meadow and 3 salt pans (Foster and Longley 1976). Additional land in the parish was held by the Abbot of Peterborough, although this was listed under Donington (Hallam 1965, 199).

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul which dates from the 12th century (DoE 1988, 35). Moated sites are also known from the vicinity. Cressy Hall, to the southwest, may have its origins in the 12th century, and Monk's Hall to the north has been identified with a grange of Peterborough Abbey. South of the church lies the Manor House where earthworks of former moats are still visible (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 7).

A watching brief undertaken at 41 High Street identified an undated pit and two walls of a building recorded in the 1940s (Cope-Faulkner 2001, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the monitoring and recording process, as described in the specification, were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, the site had been levelled and all trace of the previous buildings removed. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine. Following excavation, where possible, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine 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, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and

recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was (003), a soft, mottled brown sandy silt. This was located towards the rear of the plot (Fig. 3, Section 1, Plate 3) and was identified as being part of the marine alluvial silt forming the natural horizon in the area. Sealing (003), was (002), a mid brown sandy silt identified as a subsoil deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit, which was itself sealed by (001), a very dark grey sandy silt with occasional fragments of red brick and coal. This was a topsoil deposit sealing the area. One piece of pottery was recovered from this deposit, identified as being a post-Medieval (15-16th century) sherd from a shallow dish form, with an unusual red slip (Anne Boyle, *pers. comm.*). This was likely to be residual as the deposit from which it was recovered was probably of modern origin.

Towards the centre of the plot (Fig. 3, Section 2, Plate 4) the earliest deposit encountered was subsoil (006), a mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional fragments of coal. This was sealed by a buried soil horizon, (005), comprising dark grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional coal fragments. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the above deposits. The uppermost deposit in this area was (004), a loose grey gravel with occasional fragments of red brick. This was a demolition and levelling deposit.

Towards the front of the plot (Fig. 3, Section 3, Plate 5), the earliest deposit encountered was (010), a soft, mid-pale brown silty clay. This was interpreted as being a subsoil deposit. Sealing (010) was (009), a dark brown silty clay with occasional coal fragments. This, too, was interpreted as being a subsoil layer, but could also have been buried topsoil.

Sealing (009) was (008), a thin layer of pale brown fine sand. This seemed likely to be builders' sand relating to the construction of the commercial unit previously occupying the site. Forming the surface layer in this area was (007), a brick rubble and clay silt mix. This was a demolition and levelling layer relating to the present works.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological investigation was a layer of brown silty sand. This was identified as an alluvial deposit forming the natural horizon on site.

Subsoil and topsoil layers were identified across the area.

Modern demolition and levelling layers formed the latest deposits on site.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during residential development works at 44 High Street, Gosberton. The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying close to the centre of the medieval village, in an area of known Roman and medieval remains.

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Judd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Bob Garland,
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Katie Murphy
 Illustration: Katie Murphy
 Post-excavation analysis: Katie Murphy

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CBM Ceramic Building Material

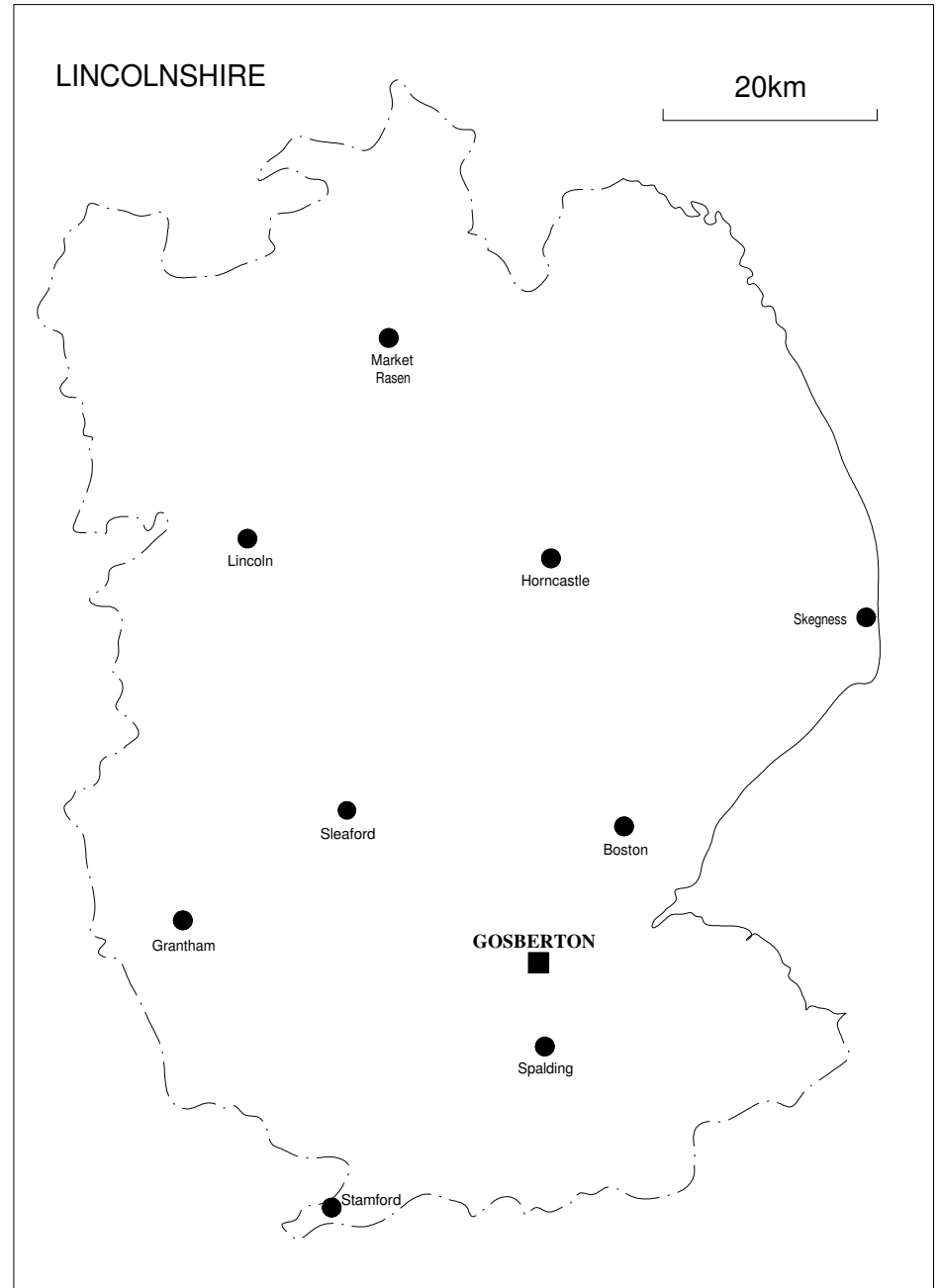
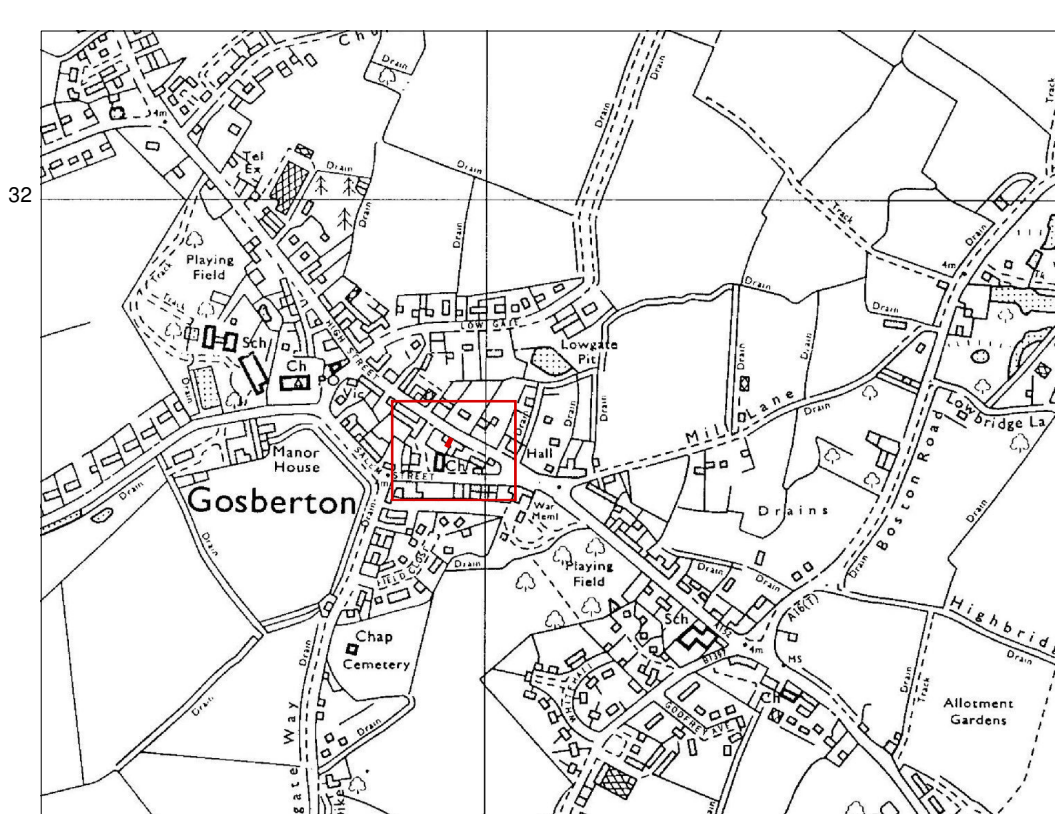


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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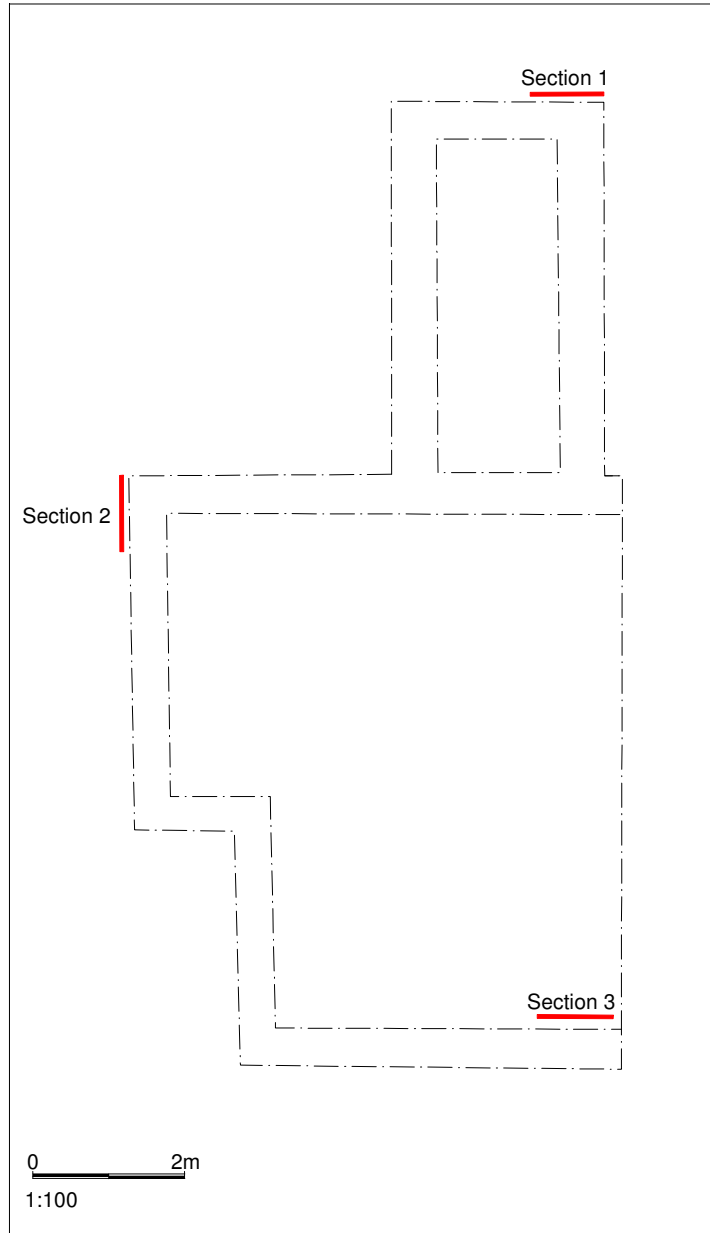
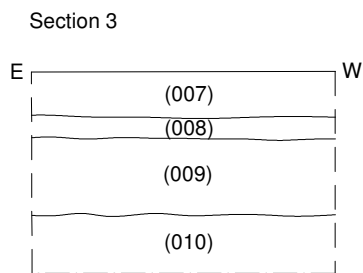
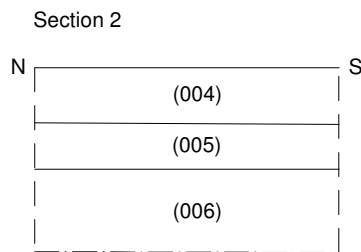
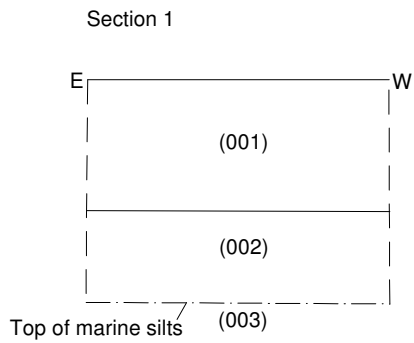
Project Name: High Street, Gosberton GOHS11

Scale 1:10000
1:1250

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 40/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: High Street, Gosberton (GOHS11)

Scale 1:100
1:25

Drawn by: KM

Report No: 40/11

Figure 3 Plan and Sections



Plate 1 General view of site,
looking southwest



Plate 2 General view of site,
looking northeast



Plate 3 Representative
Section 1



Plate 4 Representative
Section 2



Plate 5 Representative
Section 3

Appendix 1
Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable, very dark grey sandy silt with occasional red brick and coal fragments. Up to 0.43m thick.	Topsoil towards rear of plot.
002	Friable, mid brown sandy silt. Up to 0.3m thick.	Subsoil towards rear of plot.
003	Soft, pale mottled brown sandy silt.	Exposed in base of trench, probable natural marine alluvium.
004	Loose, grey gravel with occasional red brick fragments. 0.18m thick.	Surface layer exposed after demolition of wooden commercial unit – possibly related to prior demolition of Victorian building on site.
005	Moderate to soft, dark brown grey, slightly sandy, clay silt with occasional coal fragments. Up to 0.16m thick.	Buried topsoil.
006	Soft, mid brown, slightly sandy clay silt with occasional fragments of coal. Up to 0.26m thick.	Subsoil.
007	Friable, loose deposit composed of a mixture of clay silt and brick rubble. Up to 0.15m thick.	Demolition and leveling layer forming surface of site.
008	Friable, pale brown fine sand. Up to 0.07m thick.	Layer probably related to prior use of site – possibly building sand.
009	Soft dark brown silty clay with occasional coal fragments. 0.26m thick.	Subsoil.
010	Soft, mid-pale brown slightly silty clay. At least 0.19m thick.	Subsoil.

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
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.
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.
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

10	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC:2011.19

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: GOHS11

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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