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A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND NEXT TO
78 MAIN ROAD,
DYKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Rob Bailey Building Contractors

December 1993

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building on a plot next to 78 Main Road, Dyke, Lincolnshire.

The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. North to south through the village passes the Car Dyke Romano-British waterway. Finds of coins and pottery of Roman date have been made in and near the village. Aerial photographs reveal cropmarks of ring ditches, possibly of prehistoric burial mounds. Bronze Age artefacts, including flints, pottery and a bronze dagger have also been retrieved from the vicinity. Additionally, an earthwork, possibly a prehistoric burial mound, is located just south of the development site.

A single undated gully, possibly an ancient field boundary, was observed cutting into natural sands. A second depression in the surface of the sand is considered to be natural in origin.

2. INTRODUCTION

On the 4th November 1993, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building on a plot adjacent to 78 Main Road, Dyke (NGR TF 107 223). Dyke is located in the civil parish of Bourne, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Rob Bailey Building Contractors and carried out by Archaeological Project Services. The purpose of the work was to record any archaeological remains exposed following the excavation of the foundation trenches.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

The village of Dyke is situated approximately 2km northeast of Bourne and 1.5km southeast of Morton (Fig. 2). Local soils are the Aswarby association, gleyic brown calcareous earths on Jurassic clays and Badsey 2 association typical brown calcareous earths over calcareous gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99; 101).

Dyke village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by crop marks of ring ditches, possibly of Bronze Age barrows, approximately 500m north of the village centre. Artefacts, including a bronze dagger (SK12.57), flints and Bronze Age-type pottery, have been recovered from various locations approximately 0.5km southeast of the village. A large circular earthwork, possibly a prehistoric burial mound, lies just to the south of the present investigation site.

Passing north-south through the village is the Car Dyke Romano-British waterway. This watercourse connected the River Witham near Lincoln with the Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57). The section of the Car Dyke heading south from the southeast corner of the village is a scheduled ancient monument, Lincolnshire County Monument No. 297. Finds of Roman coins (SK12.22) have been made in the village, and Romano-British or Iron Age pottery (SK12.10) has been recovered approximately 0.5km to the southeast. Additionally, a Romano-British poppy head beaker (SK12.56; CCM SMR 33241) was discovered just north of the village.

Later periods are represented by sherds of Early Saxon pottery, found c. 350m north

of the village. Surrounding the modern settlement are extensive remains of medieval and later ridge and furrow ploughing.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUNDATION TRENCHES

A mechanical excavator was used in the construction of the foundation trenches, which measured 0.75m wide and averaged 1.00m in depth. See Fig. 3 for a plan of the trenches and location of the recorded sections.

5. METHODOLOGY

The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the foundation trenches was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

6. RESULTS (Fig. 4)

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A total of three phases was identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated archaeological deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of banded sands (7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 27), which occasionally contained gravel, above grey clays (8, 9, 10, 18, 22, 30), were encountered in each trench section examined. These deposits, which maintained fairly level surfaces, are probably alluvial in origin.

In Section D, a depression (26), filled with a grey silt (25), was observed in the surface of the natural sands. This is considered to be natural in origin.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

In Section A, an apparently linear cut feature (6) with fills composed of grey clay (4) and pale yellow sand (5) was recorded. Although undated, this sharply defined feature is interpreted as a ditch or gully.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing the natural deposits and archaeological features across the area were mixed clay and sand deposits (3, 13, 20, 24, 29). These are interpreted as disturbed subsoils.

In the northern part of the investigation area, close to the field entrance, was a deposit of pale yellow silt (2, 12). Observed in Sections A and B and thinning or wedging out to the south, this material is believed to be spread from deposits used for field liming.

A series of field drains were observed crossing the area. These drains trended generally north-south towards the eastern part of the site, and at the south side of the investigation area were oriented approximately east-west.

The present ground surface was covered

by a dark brown silt topsoil (1, 11, 19, 23, 28) that was generally between 0.30 and 0.40m deep.

7. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of clays and sands (phase 1), probably alluvial in origin, were observed across the area. An indentation in the surface of the sands, considered to have been formed naturally, is possibly a water channel with a leached infill.

Oriented approximately north-south, the linear gully (phase 2) recorded in Section A is possibly an ancient, though undated, field boundary ditch.

The disturbed subsoils are considered to have been formed through agricultural use (phase 3) of the land. Further indications of this agricultural exploitation is represented by field drains and a spread of lime. Topsoil constitutes the modern ground surface.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at the plot of land adjacent to 74 Main Road, Dyke, established that natural deposits consisting of gravelly sands above clay occur within 0.5m of the present ground surface. In Section D, a depression in the surface of the sand is considered to be natural in origin. A shallow gully recorded in Section A is interpreted as possibly an ancient, though undated, field boundary ditch. Relatively recent agricultural usage of the site is represented by disturbed subsoils, field drains and an extensive deposit of lime. No artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Rob Bailey Building Contractors for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Ruth Waller, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files. Information from the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Ian George and Judith Wise of the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Fiona Walker
Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C A H, Burton, R G O, Corbett, W M, Evans, R, and Seale, R S, 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13

Whitwell, J B, 1970 *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire II

12. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'CCM SMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, Sites and Monuments Record.

Numbers prefixed by 'SK' are the reference numbers used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

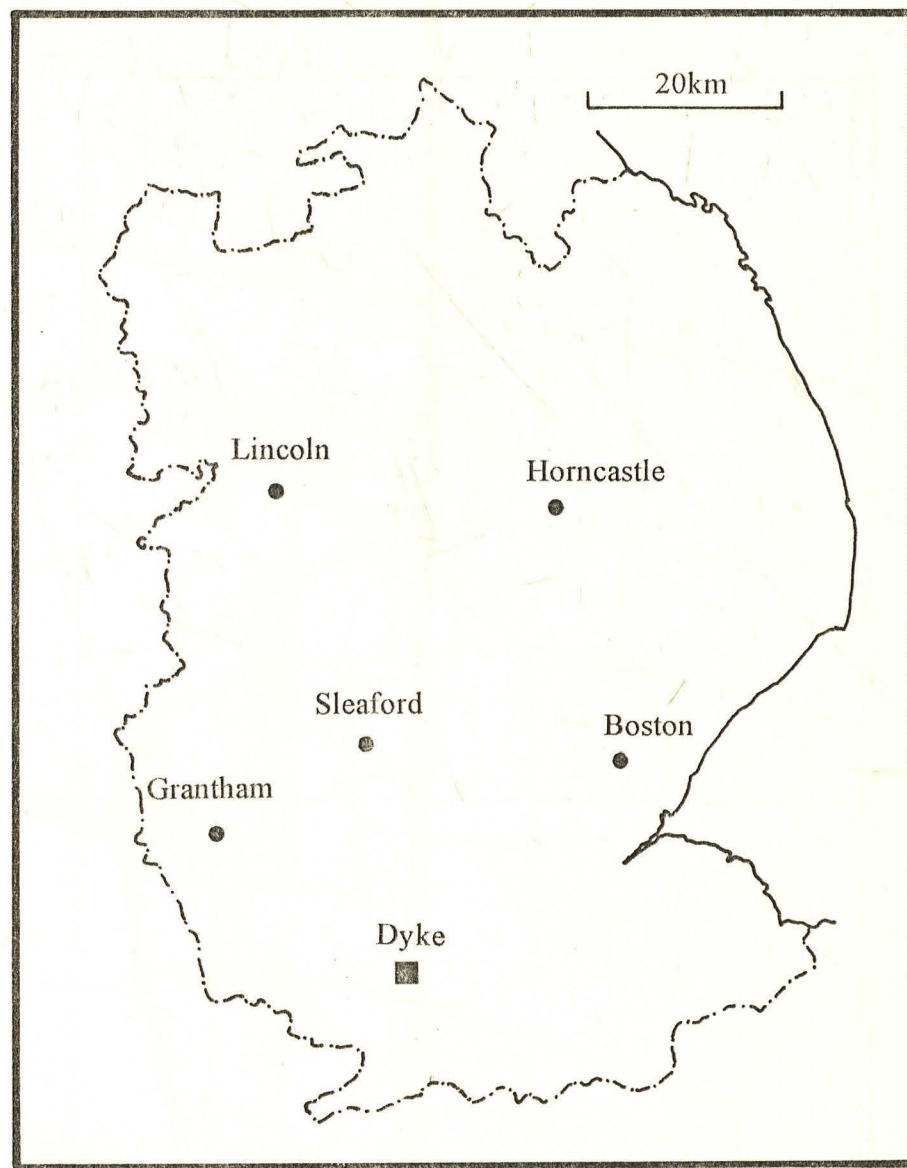
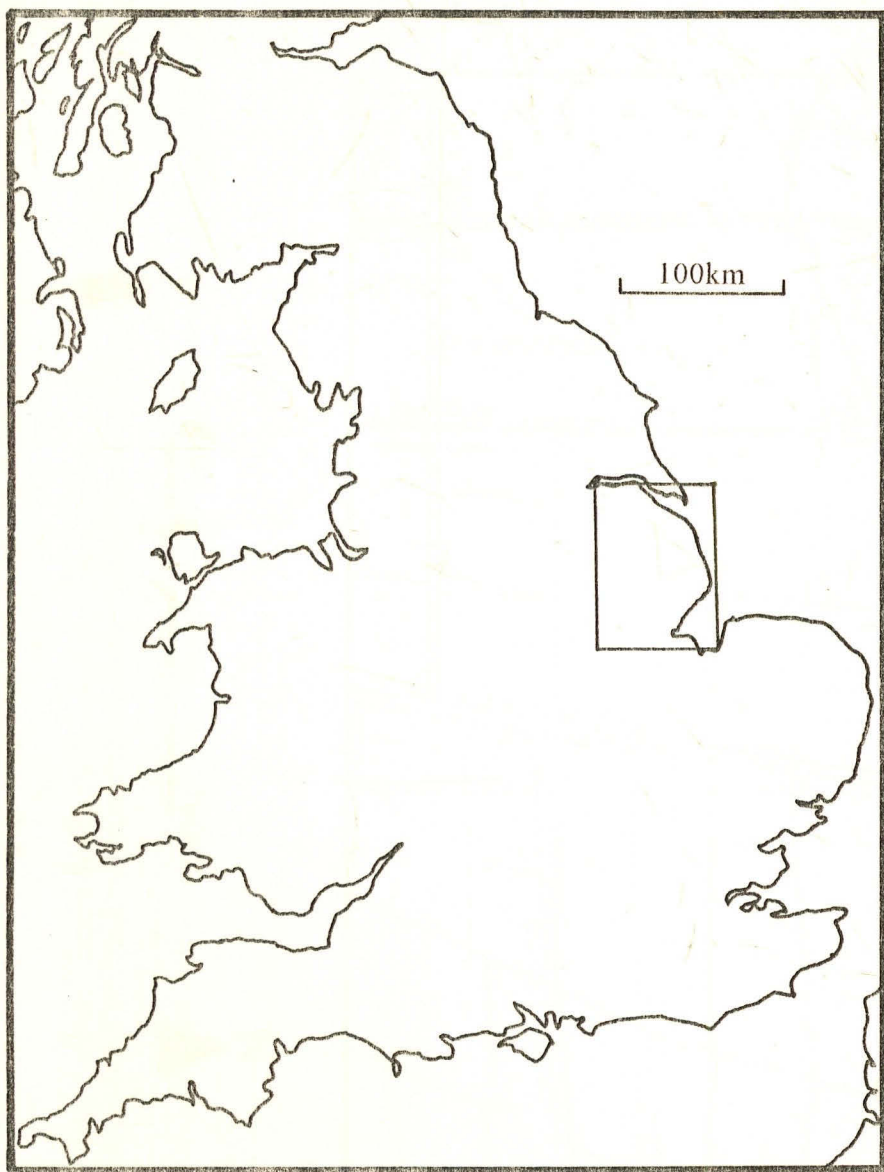
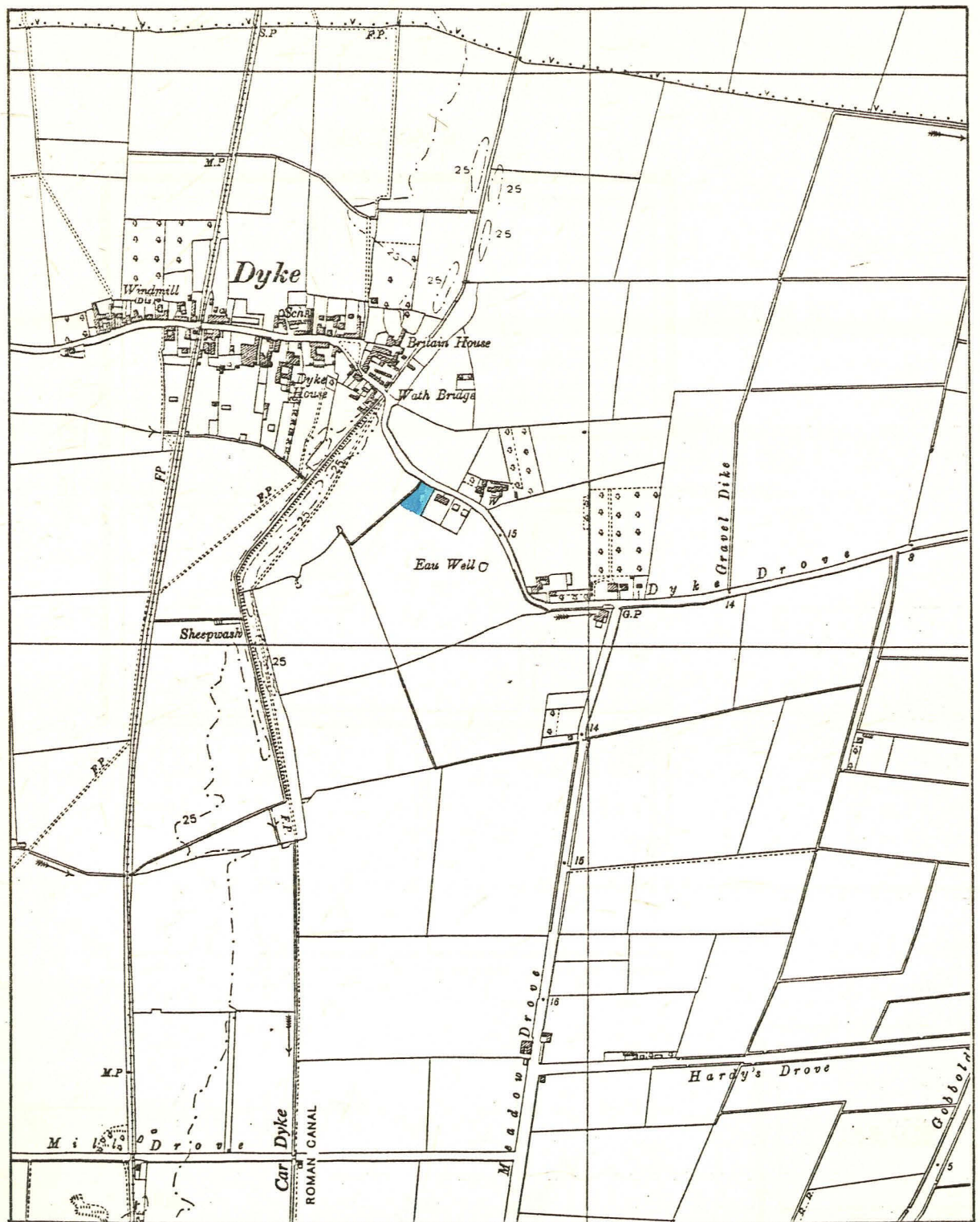


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



0m 500m



Fig. 3 SECTION LOCATION PLAN

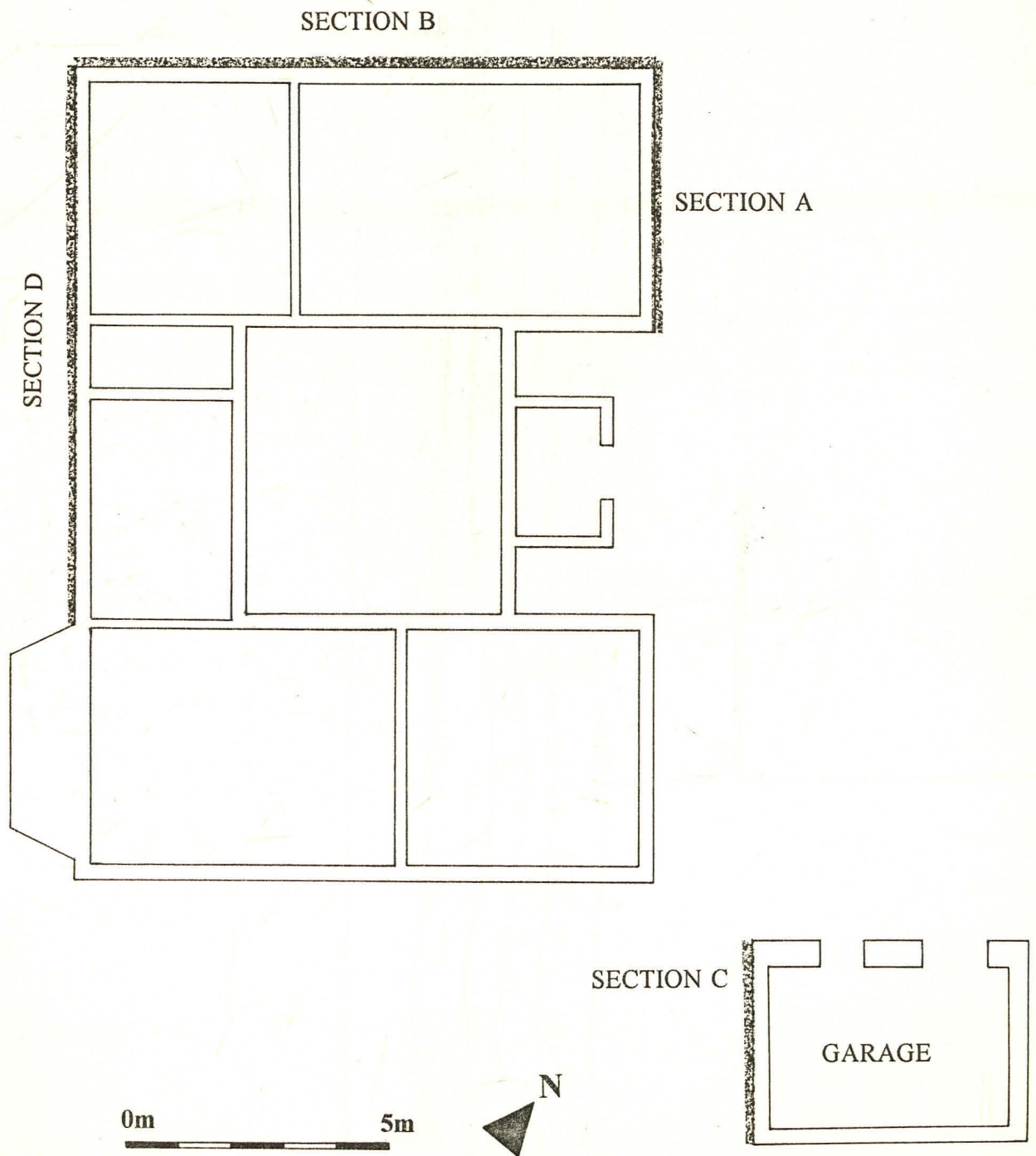
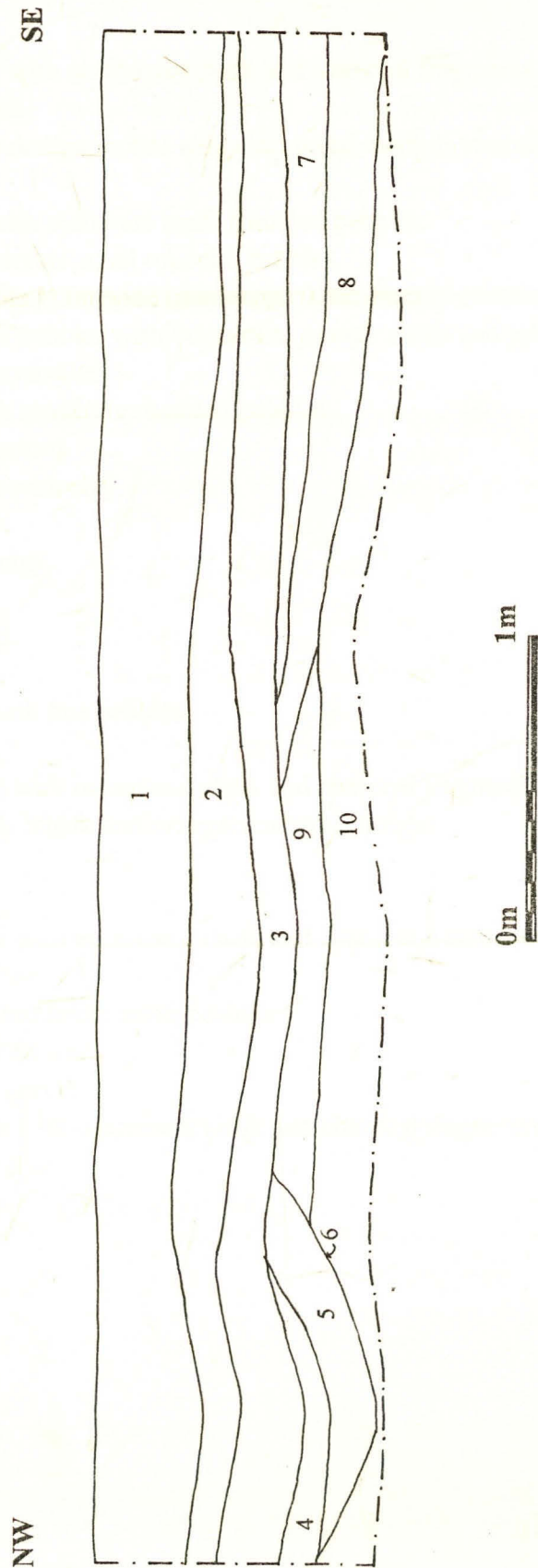


Fig. 4 SECTION A



APPENDIX 1

MAIN ROAD, DYKE CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	Dark brown/black silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fragments.
2	Yellow white clayey silt.
3	Grey brown clay with orange mottle with occasional medium rounded pebbles and charcoal.
4	Grey clay with sand with moderate small rounded pebbles.
5	Yellow sand with moderate small rounded pebbles.
6	Cut, U shaped in profile 1.3m wide (minimum) 0.4m deep.
7	Grey yellow sand with pebbles with occasional orange sands and gravel patches.
8	Grey clay with orange mottles.
9	Grey silt and clay with moderate rounded pebbles.
10	Grey silt with no inclusions.
11	Dark brown black silt with clay.
12	Yellow grey/white silt.
13	Grey brown silt with clay.
14	Yellow sand.
15	Yellow grey silty sand.
16	Yellow sand.
17	Yellow brown sand with fine pebbles.
18	Grey clay.
19	Dark brown/black silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fragments.
20	Grey brown sand with ?chalk and orange sandstone lumps.
21	Yellow brown sand.
22	Grey Clay.
23	Dark brown/black silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fragments.
24	Grey silt with sand lenses.
25	Grey brown silt with moderate small pebbles.
26	Cut, 2.5m wide and 0.5m deep.
27	Yellow brown sandy gravel.
28	Dark brown/black silt with occasional chalk and charcoal fragments.
29	Yellow brown sandy clay.
30	Brown grey silty clay.

Appendix 2 The archive

The archive consists of:

- 30 Context records
- 2 Photographic records
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire
28 Boston Road
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7ET

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 74.93