



Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 101 Broadgate,  
Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire  
by  
Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf  
of Mr and Mrs Grummit

Ro 20427

1992

92/1

ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST





ELI 6936

SLI 5077

Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 101 Broadgate,  
Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire

by

Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of  
Mr. and Mrs. Grummit

1992

## Contents

Resume	Page 1
Introduction	Page 2
Archaeological Setting	Page 2
Figure 1	Page 3
Methodology	Page 4
Results	Page 4
Figure 2	Page 7
Conclusions	Page 8
Acknowledgements	Page 9

## Resume

A watching brief to the rear of 101 Broadgate, Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 31671257) conducted during the construction of a new bungalow enabled the investigation and recording of an area which has been shown by aerial photography to be rich in archaeological features.

The watching brief recorded ditches cut into the the natural deposits which are likely to be Roman in date, although no dateable finds were recovered from the features. Some of the ditches were found to be partially filled by a uniform layer of clay, whilst in other instances the ditches contained a full sequence of fills prior to sealing by the clay deposit.

Due to the small area investigated, it was not possible to determine any pattern to the exposed features. The partial filling of some of the features suggests that these may have been in use, or only recently abandoned, prior to the post-Roman flooding of the area which caused the deposition of the clay layer across the site.

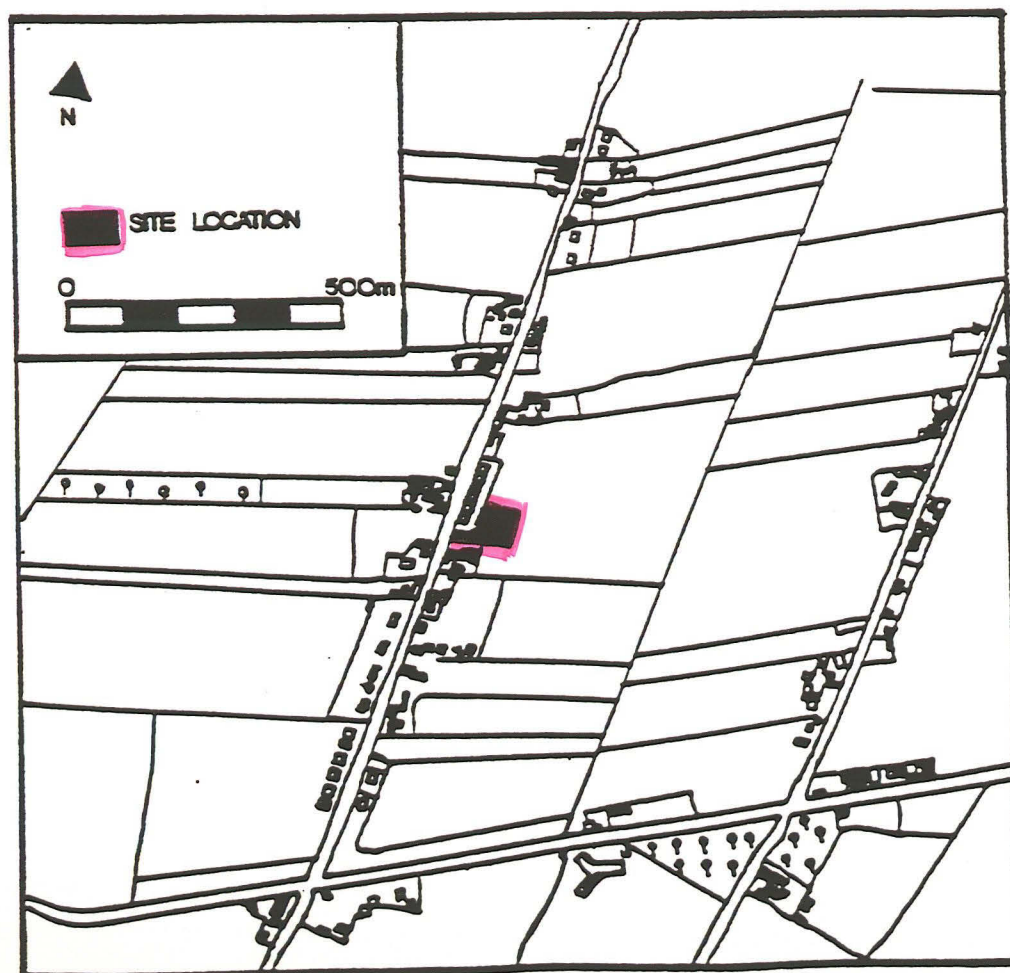
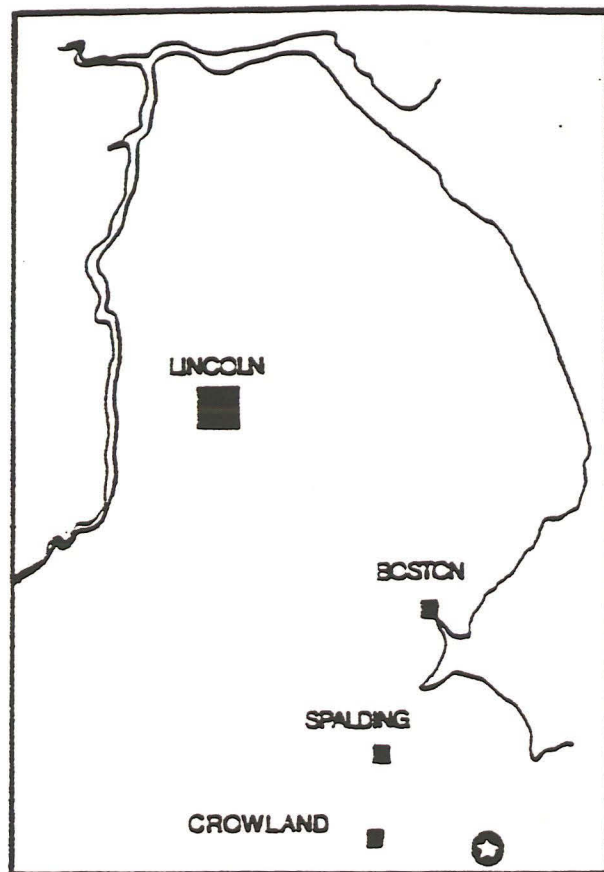
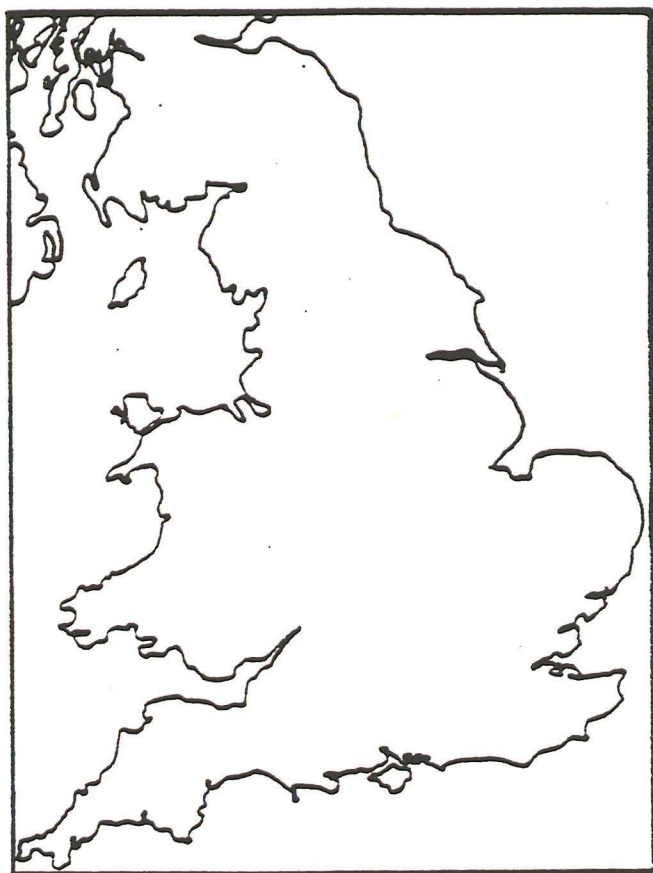
## Introduction

In December, 1991, a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footings for a new bungalow being constructed to the rear of 101 Broadgate, Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 31671257). The purpose of the work was to record any archaeological features exposed during the construction work and, if possible, to retrieve evidence to date these features and interpret their function.

## Archaeological Setting

Previous fieldwork, and examination and plotting of aerial photographs, has shown that the site lies within an area rich in archaeological features which consist of ditches forming field systems, parallel ditches interpreted as droveways, and possible settlement sites. The features identified by aerial photography have been provisionally interpreted as Roman in date although occupational evidence from other periods is likely to be present.

Figure 1





## Methodology

The archaeological work entailed the drawing of the sections (i.e. the sides) of the construction trenches for the bungalow, and the compilation of a written description of each archaeological deposit (layer, pit, ditch etc.) thereby exposed. The records of the sections provided a comprehensive sample of the archaeological features on the site. In total, three sections were recorded: the northern and eastern walls of the building; and a service trench, orientated north-east/south-west, to the west of the building.

## Results

### Section 1:

Cutting into the natural clay deposits were four ditches. These features were found to be in two distinct groups although the relationship between the individual ditches in each group could not be established.

At the western end of the section was a single ditch which was gently "U" shaped in profile, 1.50 m wide and 0.18 m deep. The ditch contained two similar fills of grey clay.

Towards the eastern end of the section were three ditches. The profiles of these varied considerably, from "U" shaped in two instances to a "V" shaped profile in one case. The fill of these ditches consisted of similar deposits of grey clay overlain by a red mottled dark grey clay layer. The features were sealed by a dark grey/black clay layer which was up to 0.40 m deep, overlain by topsoil which was up to 0.20 m deep.

## Section 2:

Cutting into the natural clay deposits was a straight sided feature, square in plan, representing either a pit or the squared terminal of a ditch. The full depth and width of this feature could not be established as it extended beyond the limit of the excavation. However, as exposed, it was 1.50 m wide and at least 0.24 m deep.

Sealing this feature, and continuing across the entire length of the section, was the same sequence of deposits recorded in Section 1, i.e. a dark grey/black clay overlain by topsoil.

## Section 3:

This section revealed a complex sequence of features which, although only observed in section, may be interpreted as ditches.

These features consisted of two intercutting ditches at the southern end of the section, the earliest of which was "U" shaped in profile with gently sloping sides and contained two fills. It was cut by a second ditch, of which only the northern edge was exposed, that contained two fills, the upper of which formed part of the continuous clay layer recorded in Sections 1 and 2.

Approximately in the centre of the section was a further ditch which had a stepped profile to the north with a steep profile to the south. The primary fill of this feature consisted of a sandy deposit while the secondary fill was the same clay layer noted above.



Towards the northern end of the section was another ditch. The profile of this feature varied considerably, the southern edge being a gradual slope whilst the northern edge was steep. As exposed, the feature was 0.40 m deep and contained four fills, however, it was not possible to determine the full depth of the feature as it extended below the limit of the excavation.

The features described above were overlain, and in some cases filled, by a deposit of up to 0.30 m of clay overlain by topsoil.

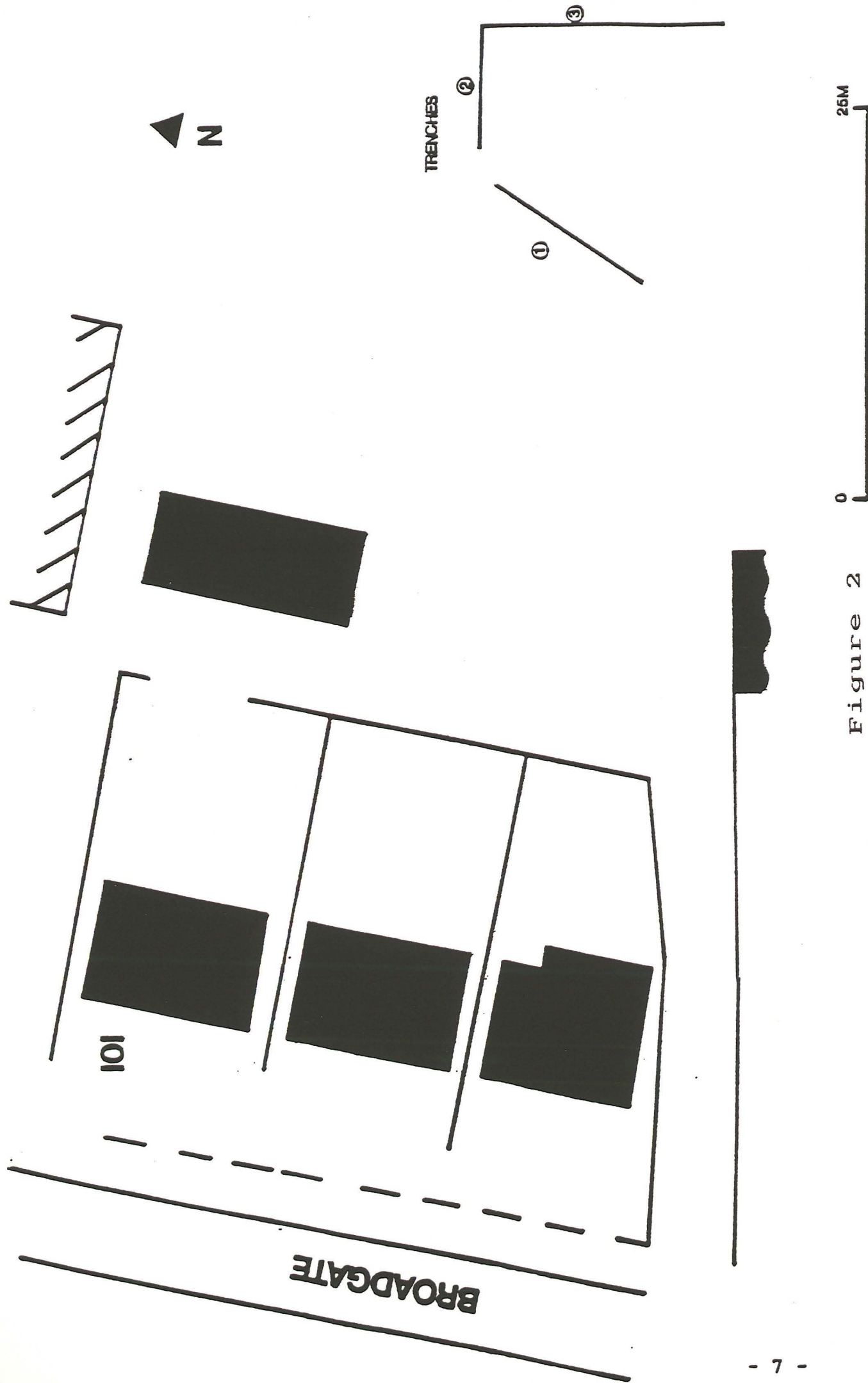


Figure 2

## Conclusions

The findings of the watching brief are consistent with previous fieldwork and demonstrate that the area is rich in archaeological features.

Although no finds were recovered from the features exposed, it is suspected that they are Roman in date. This suggested date comes from the interpretation of the uniform layer of clay which overlies or forms the secondary fill of the features as a deposit formed during marine transgression (i.e. an episode of flooding by the sea). The flooding, and deposition of silt and clay which resulted from this marine transgression is known from work elsewhere in the area to be post-Roman in date. The partial filling of some of the features with clay deposits suggests that these features may have been in use, or only recently abandoned, at the time of the flooding of the area.



## Acknowledgements

Heritage Lincolnshire would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Grummitt for funding the work, and the site team that undertook the investigation.