



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford**

**Planning Application N/57/1031/96**

**NGR: TF 07896 46479**

**Site Code: SBL 98**

**Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**

**for**

**R. BLACKBOURN**

**on behalf of**

**FARMING INVESTMENT COMPANY**

**LAS Report No. 336**

**December 1998**

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Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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accepted 14/1/99

## List of Figures

### Contents

Fig. 1 Bonmill Lane Steatons, site location. Reproduced from the OS 1:2,500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. OS Licence no. AL60424A. (Reduced scale)

### List of Figures

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location and Description	1
Archaeological Background	1
Method	2
Results	2
Discussion	2
Conclusion	3
Acknowledgements	3
Reference	3
The Figures	



## List of Figures

### Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey

Fig. 1 Bonemill Lane Sleaford, site location. Reproduced from the OS 1: 2,500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence no AL50424A. (Reduced scale)

Fig. 2 Location of gradiometer survey grids

Fig. 3 Finds distribution

Work was carried out at the above site as part of a non-invasive programme of evaluation. Transects were walked at twenty-metre intervals. Only one positively dated sherd of Roman pottery, two medieval sherds and two pieces of worked flint were found, together with a general scatter of post-medieval pottery and flint. There was nothing from the fieldwalking to suggest that any proposed development will have a significant impact upon archaeological remains, although the extent of potential alluvial deposits within the survey area is not known.

#### Introduction

Linsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by R. Blackburn on behalf of Farming Investment Company to undertake archaeological fieldwalking survey at the above site. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance of the Brief set by North Lincolnshire Heritage Officer dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 1997.

The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- determine the quality and extent of any remains
- determine the level of further archaeological recording required prior to development

#### Site Location and Description

The proposed development site comprises a wedge-shaped piece of land, c. 8.8ha in area, located between the railway and the new course of the River Slea (Fig. 1). The field is under cultivation, having recently been ploughed and is subdivided by a drain which crosses the field about 150m south of Bonemill Lane. Cropmarks have been reported on aerial photographs on land to the west of the site and the potential for further remains was considered to be high.

#### Archaeological Background

Archaeological excavations within the built-up area of Sleaford have identified extensive and important late Iron Age and Roman settlement remains. The proposed development lies within an area rich in cropmarks, which represent further prehistoric/Romano-British settlement sites and associated field systems, of unknown relationship to the large settlement at Sleaford. An enclosure complex has been recorded on the parcel of land lying immediately west of the proposed development and next to the A155. It is possible that associated remains may be present within the proposed development site.



**Bonemill Lane, East Rd, Sleaford**  
**Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**  
**Planning Application N/57/1031/96**  
**NGR: TF 07896 46479**  
**Side Code: SBL 98**  
**Museum Accn No. 206 98**

**Summary**

*A fieldwalking survey was carried out at the above site as part of a non-intrusive programme of evaluation. Transects were walked at twenty-metre intervals. Only one positively dated sherd of Roman pottery, two medieval sherds and two pieces of worked flint were found, together with a general scatter of post-medieval pottery and tile. There was nothing from the fieldwalking to suggest that any proposed development will have a significant impact upon archaeological remains, although the extent of potential alluvial deposits within the survey area is not known.*

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## **METHOD**

### **Fieldwalking**

Fieldwalking is normally carried out on land which has been recently ploughed or sown, to retrieve artefacts such as worked flint or pottery whose spatial distribution can indicate zones of occupation beneath the ground surface. The field was walked over in transects 20m apart and finds were individually recorded using a Geodimeter Total Station. This provided an accurate 3-D coordinate of each find picked up, and removed the necessity for setting out a grid, which is a lengthy task. Their distribution is shown on Fig. 3.

Conditions were clear and bright during the fieldwalking. It is not considered that the survey was adversely affected by the weather conditions. There was a great deal of vegetation coverage, especially in the north field but did not significantly reduce visibility of the ground. Animal bone was not picked up because it cannot be easily dated but any concentrations will be noted and plotted.

### **Results**

There was a general low spread of artefacts across the whole site, except for a zone immediately south of and parallel to Bonemill Lane and a gap to the south of the drain.

Two pieces of worked flint were recovered but were 150m apart and are unlikely to represent anything other than 'background'.

A single piece of positively dated Roman pottery was recovered near the eastern field boundary and a single Roman roof tile fragment was found adjacent to the railway line towards both in the southern half of the survey area. Four additional fragments of possible Roman pottery were found but these were so worn that it was impossible to determine whether these were Roman or post-medieval in date. Even if all these fragments proved to be Roman this is still an extremely low total and given the known Roman activity in the area it is considered that these finds do not indicate the presence of an occupation site.

There was no Saxon pottery found during the fieldwalking survey. Only two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the survey, both in the southern part of the field. A small cluster of post medieval pottery and tile was located in the southern area of the survey, coincidentally close to the Roman roof tile fragment. This consisted of seven pieces of roof tile, three pieces of drainage tile, two brick fragments and two sherds of pottery. The remaining post medieval material was thinly scattered across the survey area. Despite the small concentration of material, the general pattern of distribution is likely to be indicative of agricultural activity rather than evidence for occupation.

### **Discussion**

The geophysical survey (see separate report) revealed linear anomalies notably in Area 1 (Fig. 2), north of the drain, which coincided with a small concentration of Roman pottery. This concentration lay between two transects



and was therefore not recorded during the fieldwalking survey. The transects to either side of this concentration failed to produce any evidence of Roman pottery indicating the restricted nature of the spread, only three post-medieval pieces of brick and tile were found.

A number of pit-like anomalies were recorded at the southern end of the field (geophysics Area 2). Seven post-medieval/undated artefacts were found in this area, none of which was pottery recovered.

The material was thinly spread and can be ascribed to agricultural activity. There was no evidence from the fieldwalking survey to indicate the presence of either settlement or significant non-settlement remains.

It should be noted that construction of the railway might have caused disturbance along the western boundary of the proposed development. The potential for alluvial deposits along the eastern side of the site, from flooding of the old and new courses of the River Slea may mean that archaeological remains are sealed by such deposits.

### **Conclusions**

There is little evidence from the evaluation that there is significant archaeology present within the survey area although a few geophysical anomalies have been recorded and may indicate buried archaeological remains on the site. It is possible that the alluvial coverage on the site is masking potential archaeology and preventing the artefact assemblage from entering the plough horizon.

### **Acknowledgements**

The field walking was carried out by Tobin Raynor, Jeremy Mordue and Mark Williams. The on site surveying was carried out by Ian Peters of Midland Surveying and Engineering.

Mark Williams  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
December 17<sup>th</sup> 1998

### **Reference**

Johnson, A. E. 1998 *Bonemill Lane, East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Topsoil Magnetic Susceptibility and Gradiometer Survey.*



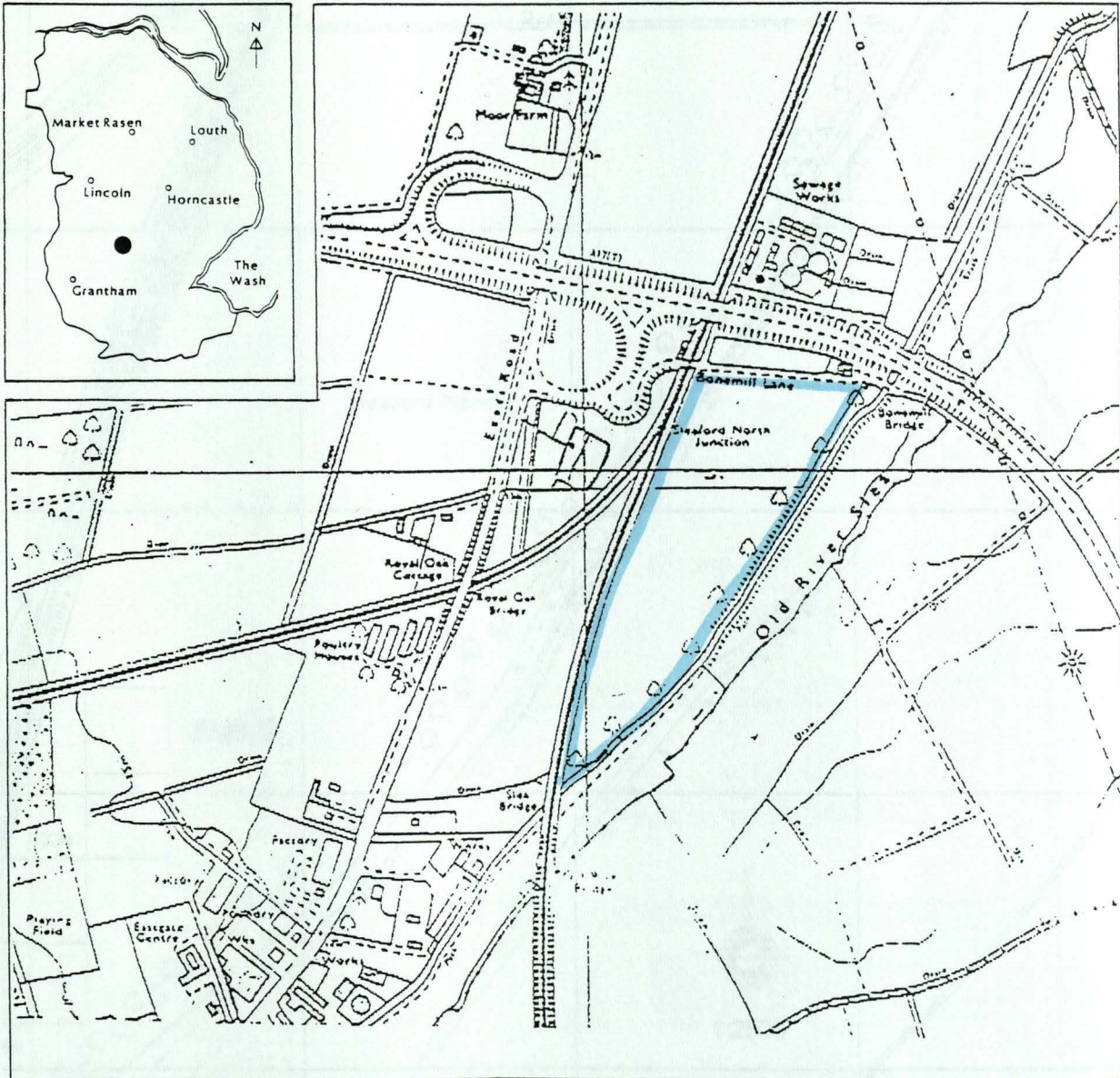
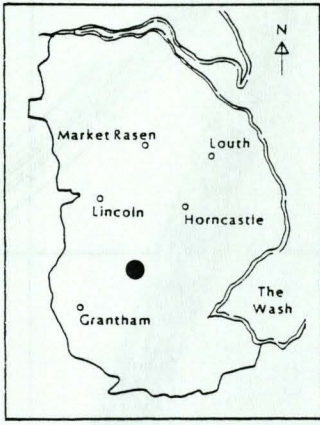
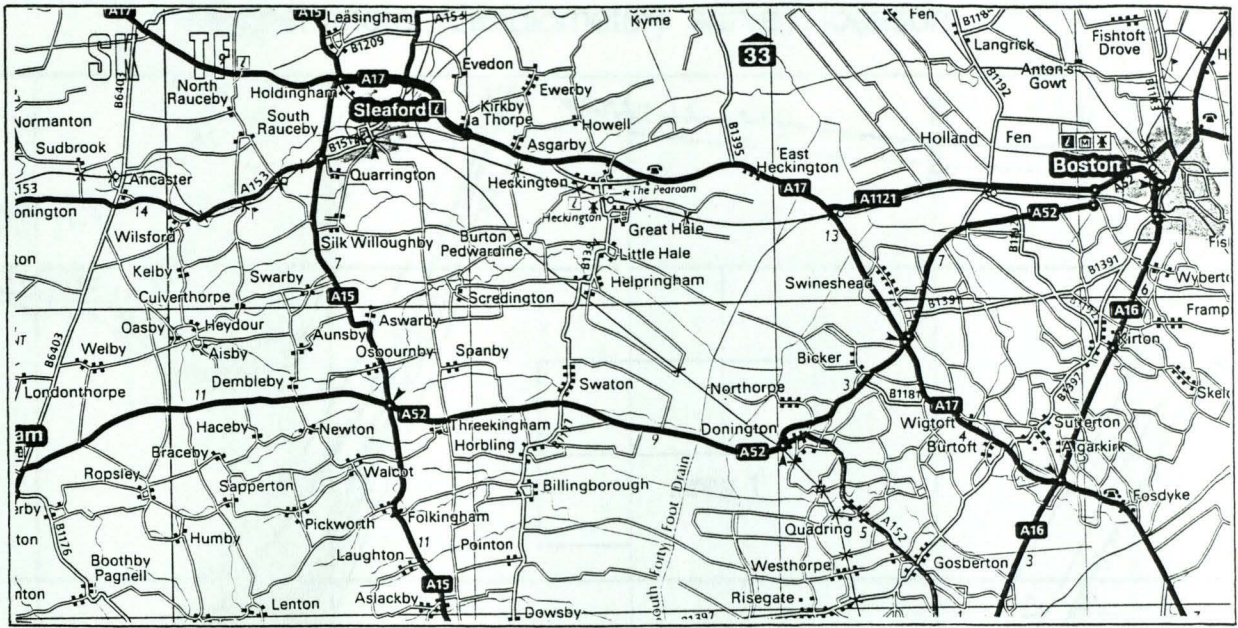
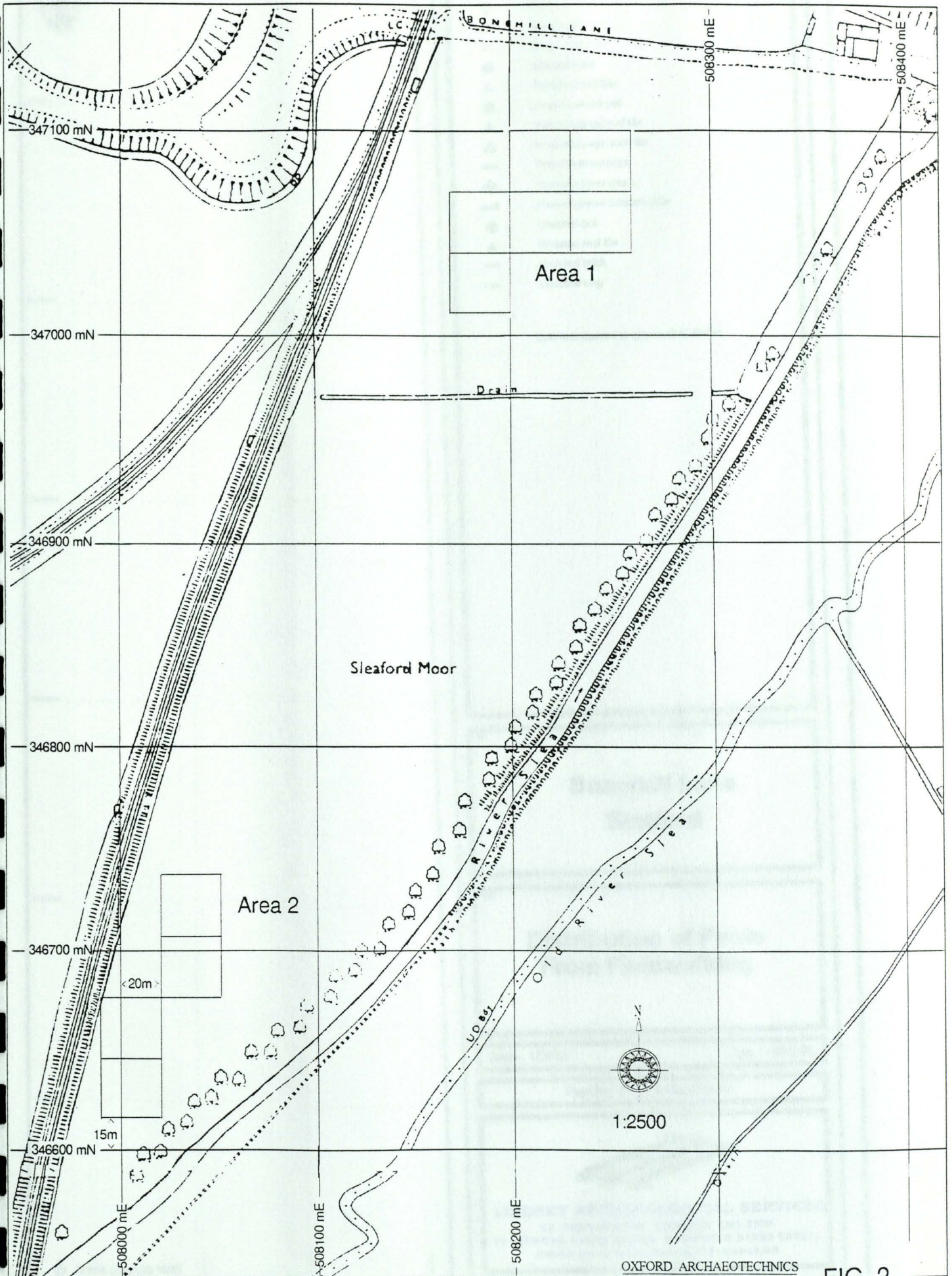


Fig. 1 Bonemill Lane Sleaford, site location. Reproduced from the OS 1: 2,500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence no AL50424A. (Reduced scale)



# Bonemill Lane, East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire

Magnetometer (Gradiometer) survey: location

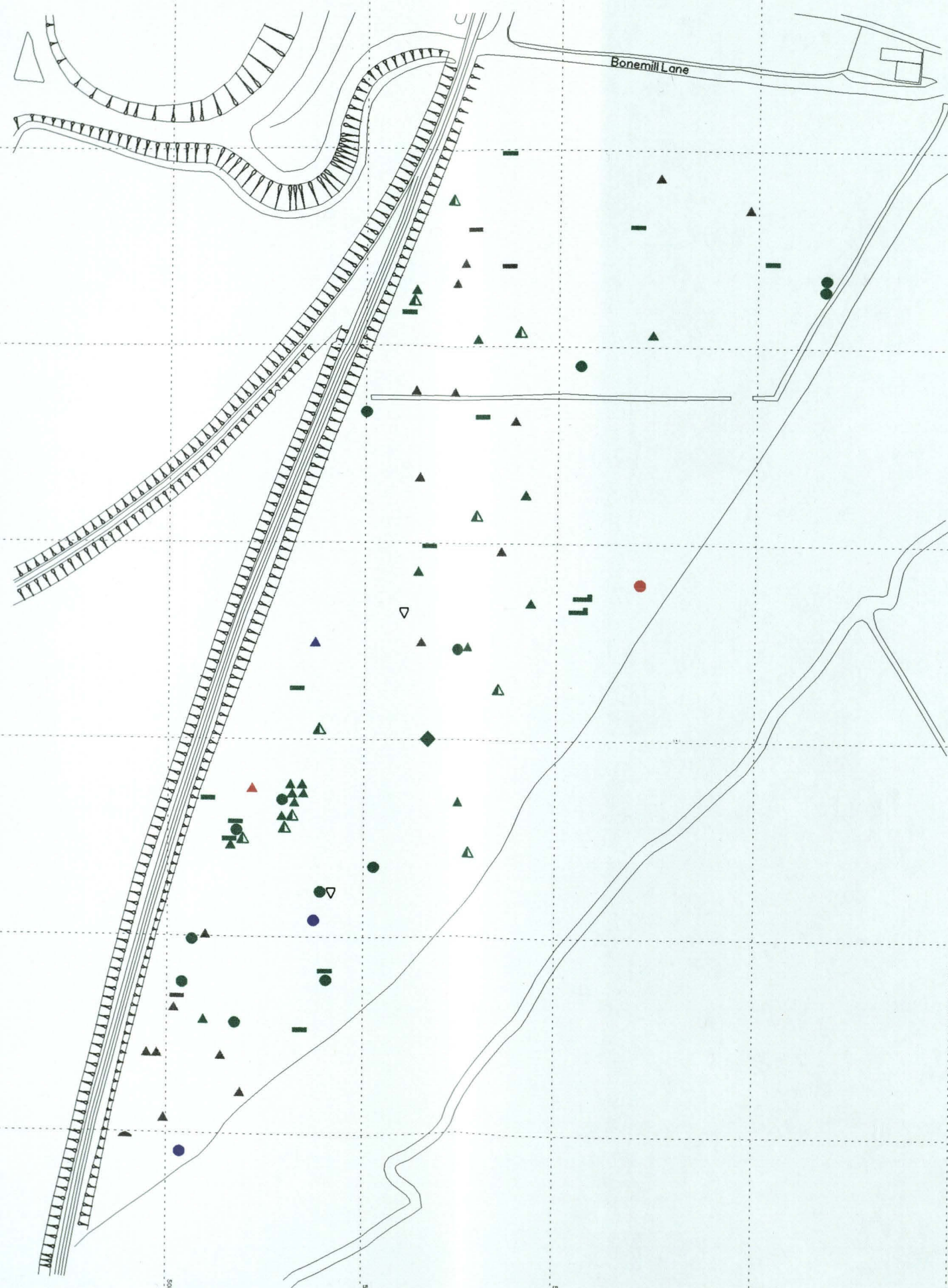


OXFORD ARCHAEOTECHNICS

FIG. 2

Fig. 2 Location of gradiometer survey grids





347900m  
347000m  
348900m  
346800m  
348700m  
346600m

Reference

- ▽ Flint
- Roman pot
- ▲ Roman roof tile
- Medieval pot
- ▲ Medieval roof tile
- Post-Medieval pot
- ▲ Post-Medieval roof tile
- ▲ Post-Medieval drain tile
- Post-Medieval brick
- ◆ Post-Medieval glass
- Post-Medieval tobacco pipe
- Undated pot
- ▲ Undated roof tile
- Undated brick
- Undated slag

Grid is in metres to approx O.S. datum

Site  
**Bonemill Lane  
Sleaford**

Plan  
**Distribution of Finds  
From Fieldwalking**

Scale : 1/2500 Date : 15/12/98

Plan Ref No. : LAMSE/1190-1



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