

Archaeological works  
at  
Boothby Pagnell Manor House  
Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire  
by  
Heritage Lincolnshire

on behalf of  
Drew-Edwards Keene

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## SUMMARY

Archaeological works  
at  
Boothby Pagnell Manor House  
Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire  
by  
Heritage Lincolnshire

on behalf of  
Drew-Edwards Keene

Report compiled by M. Dymond

LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
- 4 JAN 1999  
CITY AND COUNTY  
MUSEUM



## SUMMARY

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Between the 7th and 14th July 1992, an archaeological investigation was undertaken at Boothby Pagnell Manor House, Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire (N.G.R. SK 971307), by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Drew-Edwards Keene. The purpose of the investigation was to expose and record the stone floor, and any associated archaeological features, in the undercroft of the Manor House.

### Fig. 1 - Location

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The results of the work are that:

### Fig. 2 - Site Location Plan

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1. Limestone, tile, cobble and mortar surfaces were revealed beneath modern deposits.

### Fig. 3 - Section Plan of Boothby Pagnell

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2. The floor surfaces could not be dated, although several phases of construction and repair were evident.

### Fig. 4 - Plan of Undercroft

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### Fig. 5 - Plan of Undercroft Floor Surfaces

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### Fig. 6 - Plan of Undercroft Floor Surfaces

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## INTRODUCTION

The objective of the work was to archaeologically record and remove details and all which had accumulated on the ground floor of the building, thereby exposing any original floor surfaces. The floor surfaces were exposed and recorded in detail, and a ground plan of the building was drawn.

It should be noted that a full chronological sequence for the floor deposits exposed cannot be provided within the scope of this report.



## INTRODUCTION

Between the 7th and 14th July 1992, an archaeological investigation at Boothby Pagnell Manor House, Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference SK 971307), was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Drew-Edwards Keene. The purpose of the investigation was to expose and record the stone floor and any associated archaeological features in two of the three rooms of the undercroft of the Manor House, preparatory to it being opened for public display. The Manor House is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument No. 13) and the archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with the terms of a Scheduled Monument Consent granted by the Secretary of State on 13th February 1992. (See Appendix 3).

## BACKGROUND

Boothby Pagnell Manor House is considered by Pevsner to be "...the most important small Norman manor house in England." (Pevsner, *et al*, 1989, p.153). It was built c. A.D. 1200 and was originally surrounded by a moat. The surviving structure represents a chamber block belonging to a much larger complex which included ancillary buildings. The manor house, as it stands today, is approximately rectangular, aligned north - south, and has a vaulted ground floor with a hall and solar above. The walls are of oolitic limestone rubble with ashlar dressings and are c. 1.22m. thick at ground level. In the lower storey, the windows have been re-cut, whereas elsewhere the original entrances still exist with lintels on quarter circle corbels. The undercroft is sub-divided into two rooms, with a smaller room located north of a larger one. These rooms are referred to in the text as Room 1 and Room 2 respectively.

During 1988 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the then Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology, as part of a scheme of repairs to the Manor House. Whilst these works were in progress medieval and Saxon pottery was recovered, and a small section of limestone wall, which probably pre-dated the 12th century manor was recorded.

## METHODOLOGY

The principal aim of the work was to archaeologically record and remove debris and soil which had accumulated on the ground floor of the building, thereby exposing any original floor surfaces. The floor surfaces thus exposed were recorded in detail, and a ground plan of the building was drawn.

It should be noted that a full chronological sequence for the floor deposits exposed cannot be presented within the scope of this report.



FIG. 1 LOCATION

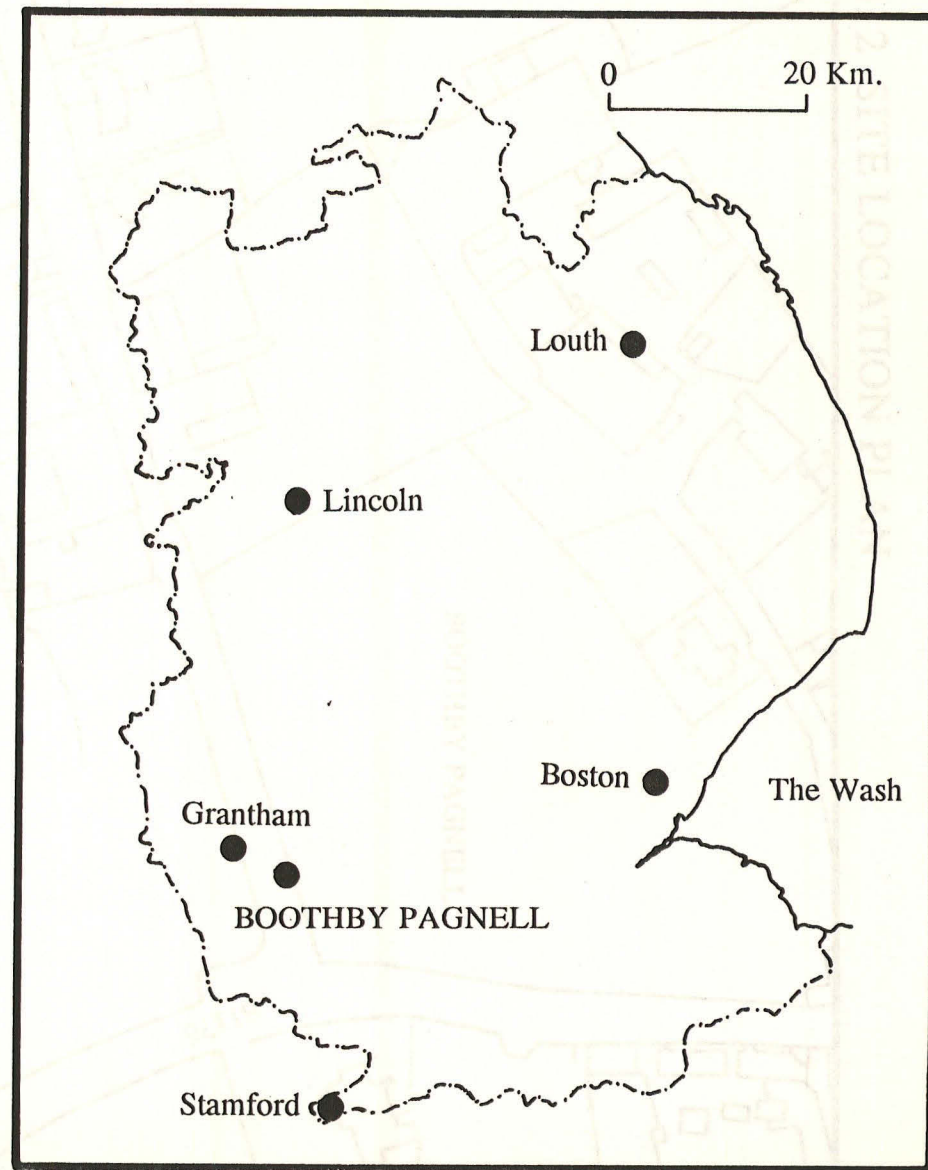
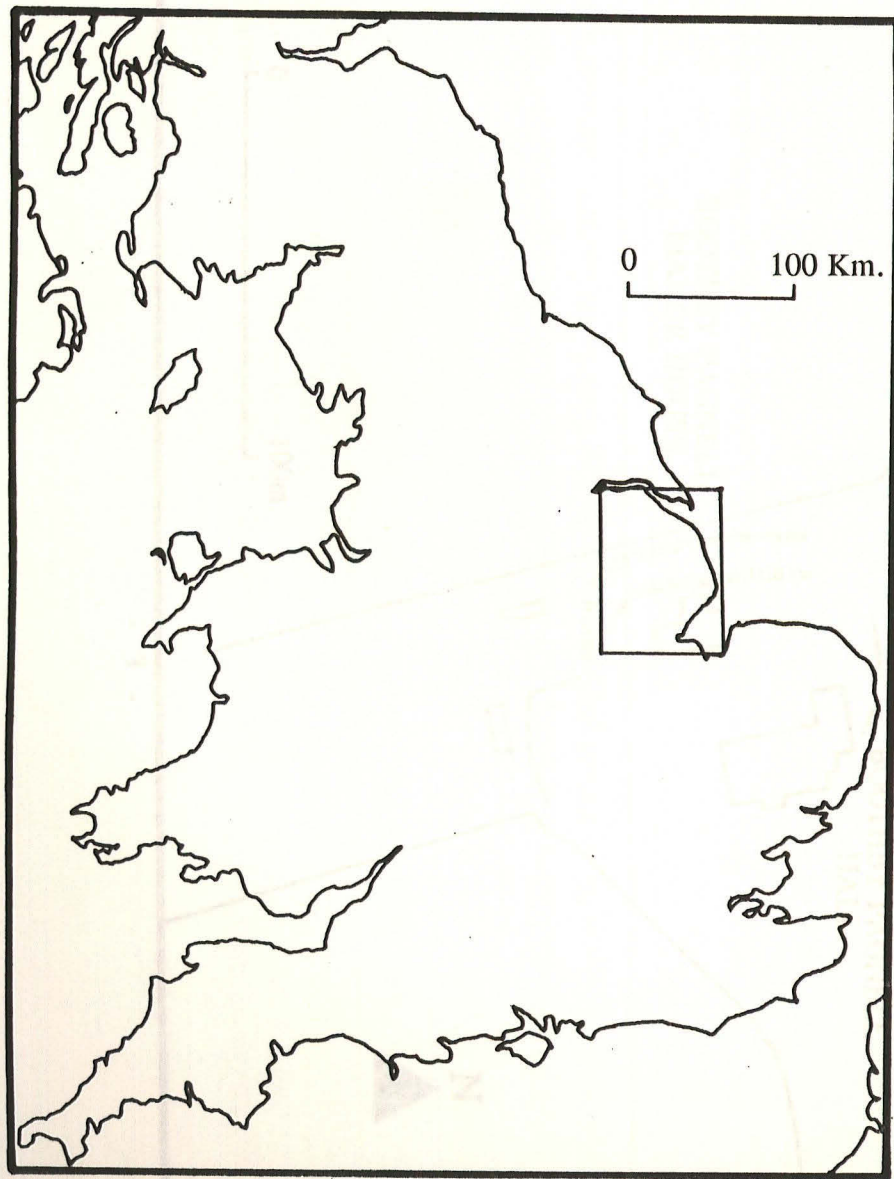
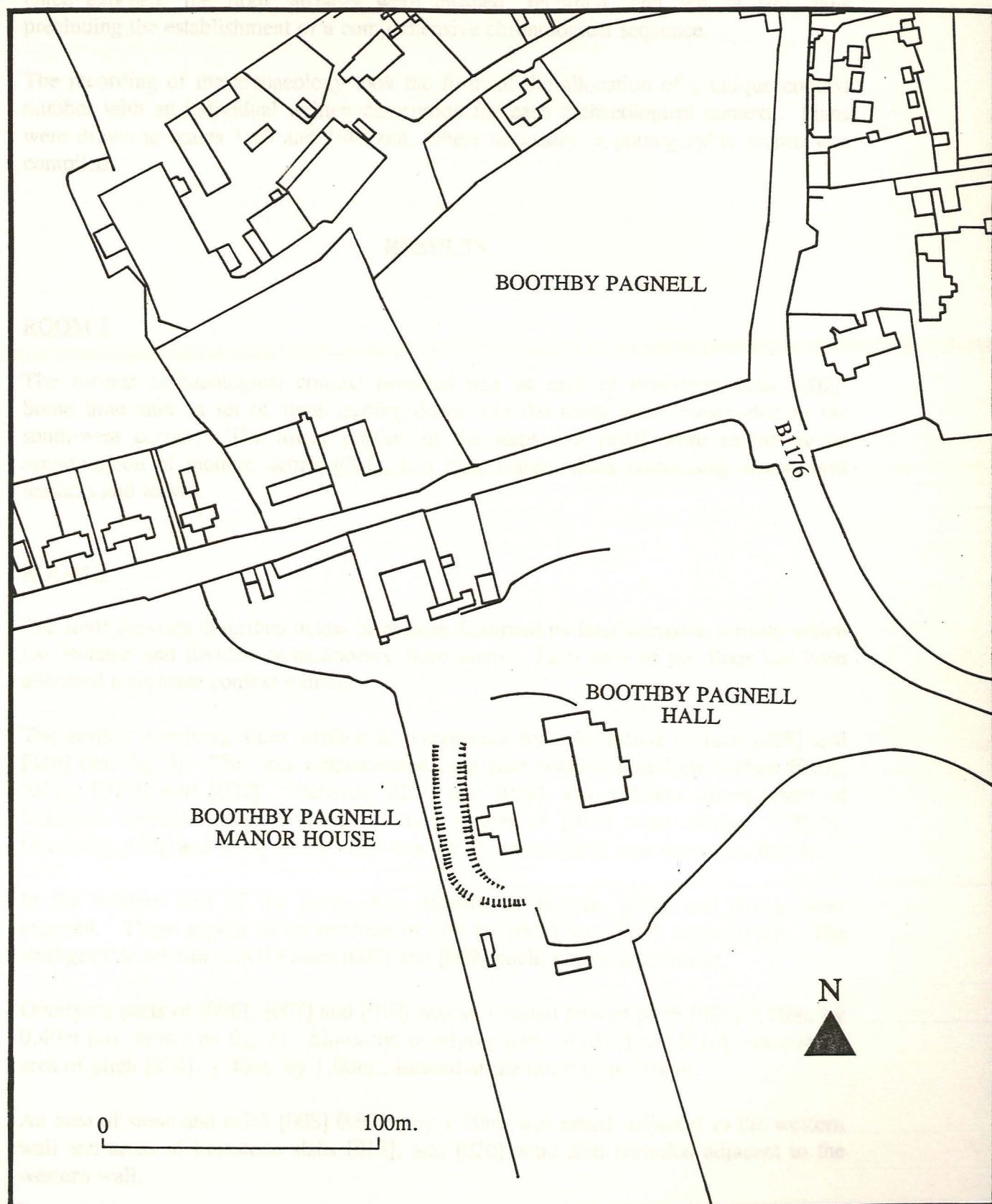




FIG. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



Once exposed, the floor surfaces were cleaned, recorded, and left *in situ*, thus precluding the establishment of a comprehensive chronological sequence.

The recording of the archaeology took the form of the allocation of a unique context number with an individual written description for each archaeological context. Plans were drawn at scales 1:10 and 1:40 and, where necessary, a photographic record was compiled.

## RESULTS

### ROOM 1

The earliest archaeological context revealed was an area of limestone slabs [002]. Some time later, a set of steps leading down into the room were constructed in the south-west corner. The lower portion of the steps and [002] were sealed by an accumulation of modern debris [001], less than 10mm. thick comprising straw, bird feathers and leaves.

### ROOM 2

The floor deposits described below have been disturbed by later intrusive activity which has isolated and divided contemporary floor areas. Each area of the floor has been allocated a separate context number.

The earliest surviving floor surface is represented by a limestone surface [028] and [016] (see fig. 4). This was supplemented by a later cobbled limestone surface [010], [012], [018], and [027]. Between [027] and [018] was a linear arrangement of limestone cobbles [026]. Whilst in use, repairs to [012] were evident - [015]. Overlying [026] and [018] was a small deposit of mortar [023] (not shown on fig. 4).

In the western half of the room, two deposits of mortar, [006] and [011], were exposed. These appear to be overlain in part by [007] and [009] respectively. The stratigraphic relationship between [007] and [009] could not be determined.

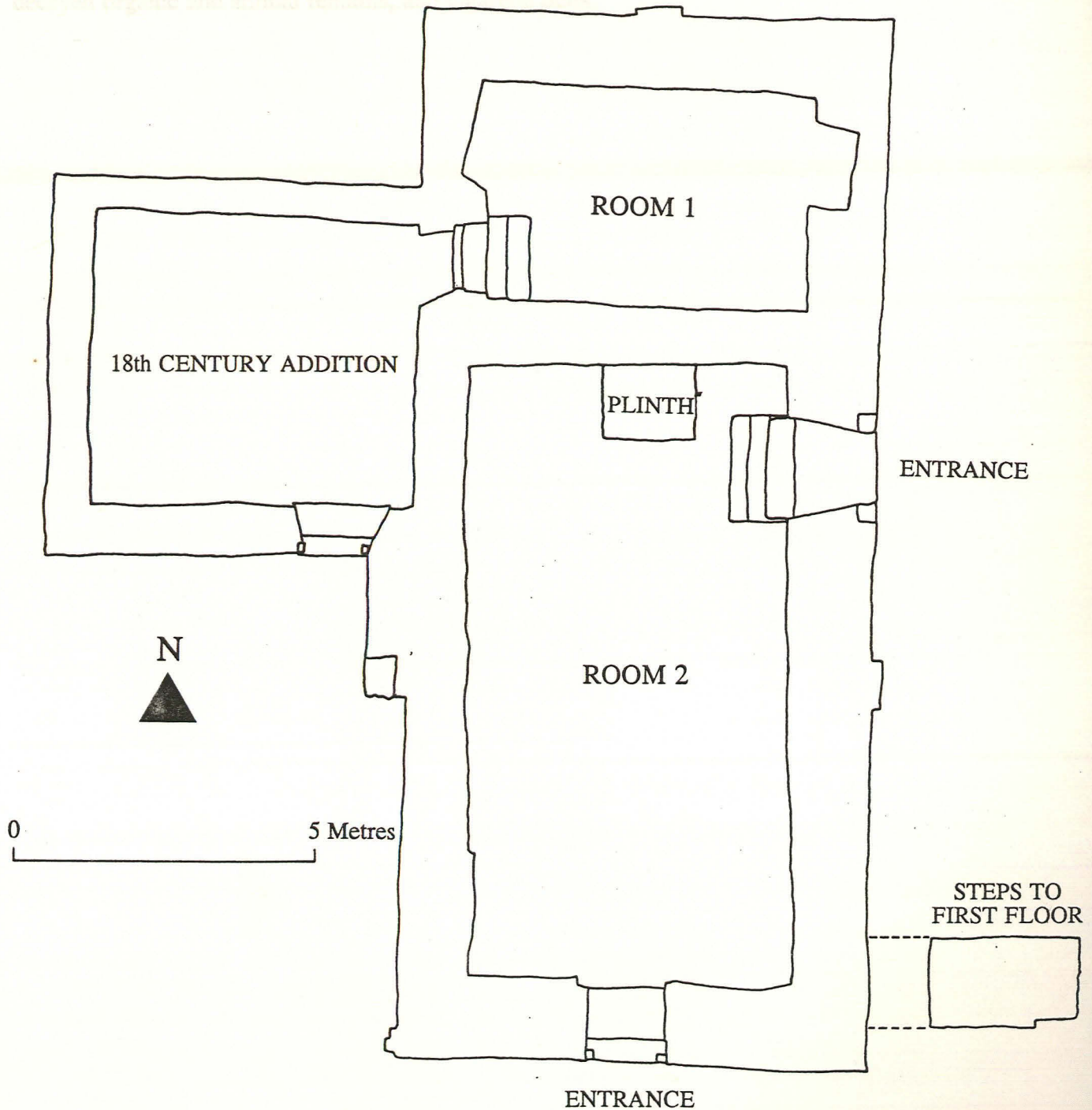
Overlying parts of [006], [007] and [010] was an isolated area of pitch [025] 0.60m. by 0.40m (not shown on fig. 4). Similarly, overlying parts of [016] and [010] was a small area of pitch [024], 1.40m. by 1.00m., located at the north of the room.

An area of stone and brick [008] 0.97m. by 1.70m. was noted, adjacent to the western wall and areas of limestone slabs [013], and [020] were also recorded adjacent to the western wall.



FIG. 3 GROUND PLAN OF BOOTHBY PAGNELL  
MANOR HOUSE

The archaeology overlying these deposits within the site was comprised an accumulation of modern debris (19th), less than 100 years old, which included glass, decayed organic and mineral remains, and other debris.



Cutting through the centre of the room was a line of disturbance [030], aligned east-west. At the eastern end of [030] were the remains of a lead pipe and at the western end the remains of a pump were present. [030] was filled with limestone slabs and cobbles [017].

The archaeology overlying these deposits within the undercroft comprised an accumulation of modern debris [003], less than 10mm. thick, which included glass, decayed organic and animal remains, and cigarette butts.

#### Excavation

The results of Excavation 2, in contrast to Excavation 1, revealed a complete series of stone, brick and tile surfaces.

It is likely that [010] and [011] represent the earliest surviving floor surfaces of the room, possibly replaced or supplemented by later [012], [013], [014] and [015]. Alternatively, it is possible that the western side of [010] and the eastern side of [011] are evidence for the floor of a small room which was later destroyed and replaced by [010] and [011].

Although [010] and [011] are likely to be the earliest floor surfaces, the evidence of subsequent levels, [012], [013], [014] and [015], is more complex. [012] and [013] are likely to be the floor of a small room which was later destroyed and replaced by [010] and [011].

The lower arrangement of surfaces [012], [013] and [014] is between [010] and [011], probably as part of a small room which was later destroyed. The evidence of these, subsequent to [010], [011], [012] and [013], is more complex and cannot be determined due to the nature of the deposits.

However, [012], [013] and [014] are likely to be the floor of a small room which was later destroyed. The evidence of these, subsequent to [010], [011], [012] and [013], is more complex and cannot be determined due to the nature of the deposits.

The small area of surface [015] and the pit-like deposit [016] and [017] probably represent the floor of a small room which was later destroyed.

The area of disturbance [030], aligned NE-SW across the centre of the room was caused by the installation of a pipe, and is almost entirely new-date with the remains of a water pump located against the western wall, close [013], which is where it was probably situated before being destroyed. When [030] was surfaced by [017], small areas of the surrounding floor were repaired (the newly having been damaged when the pipe-work was originally excavated). These repairs are represented by [014], [015], [016] and [017].



## INTERPRETATION

### ROOM 1

Floor [002] covered the whole interior of Room 1 (see fig. 5). The floor cannot be dated but is earlier than the steps leading into the western room.

### ROOM 2

The interior of Room 2, in contrast to Room 1, revealed a complex series of stone, brick and tile surfaces.

It is likely that [016] and [028] represent the earliest surviving floor surface which was partially replaced or supplemented by floor [010], [012], [018] and [027]. Alternatively, it is possible that the western edge of [016] and the southern edge of [028] are evidence for the limit of a subdivision within room 2, which would have measured c. 4.50m. N-S by c. 3.00m. E-W.

Although it is claimed that [016] and [028] are the earliest floor surface, the remains of stonework keyed into the western wall, and at a higher level than [016] and [028], was noted. These remains may be all that is left of the original floor of the undercroft.

The linear arrangement of cobbles [026], located between floor [018] and [027], probably served as a drainage channel draining to the south. The sequence of floors, subsequent to floor [010], [012], [018] and [027] being laid, cannot be determined due to the need to preserve the exposed surfaces.

However, floor [007], located in the NW of the room, encloses an area of mortar [006]. This mortar surface may have been a hard standing surface used to support some form of apparatus, while [007] was built around it. Also, the alignment of the tiles which make up [007] is different from those used for [009], located immediately to the SE. It is possible that [009] merely represents a variation in the pattern created by the tiles forming [007], and that these floors may have been contemporary.

The small area of mortar [023] and the pitch/tar deposits [024] and [025] probably derive from repairs to the interior of the undercroft.

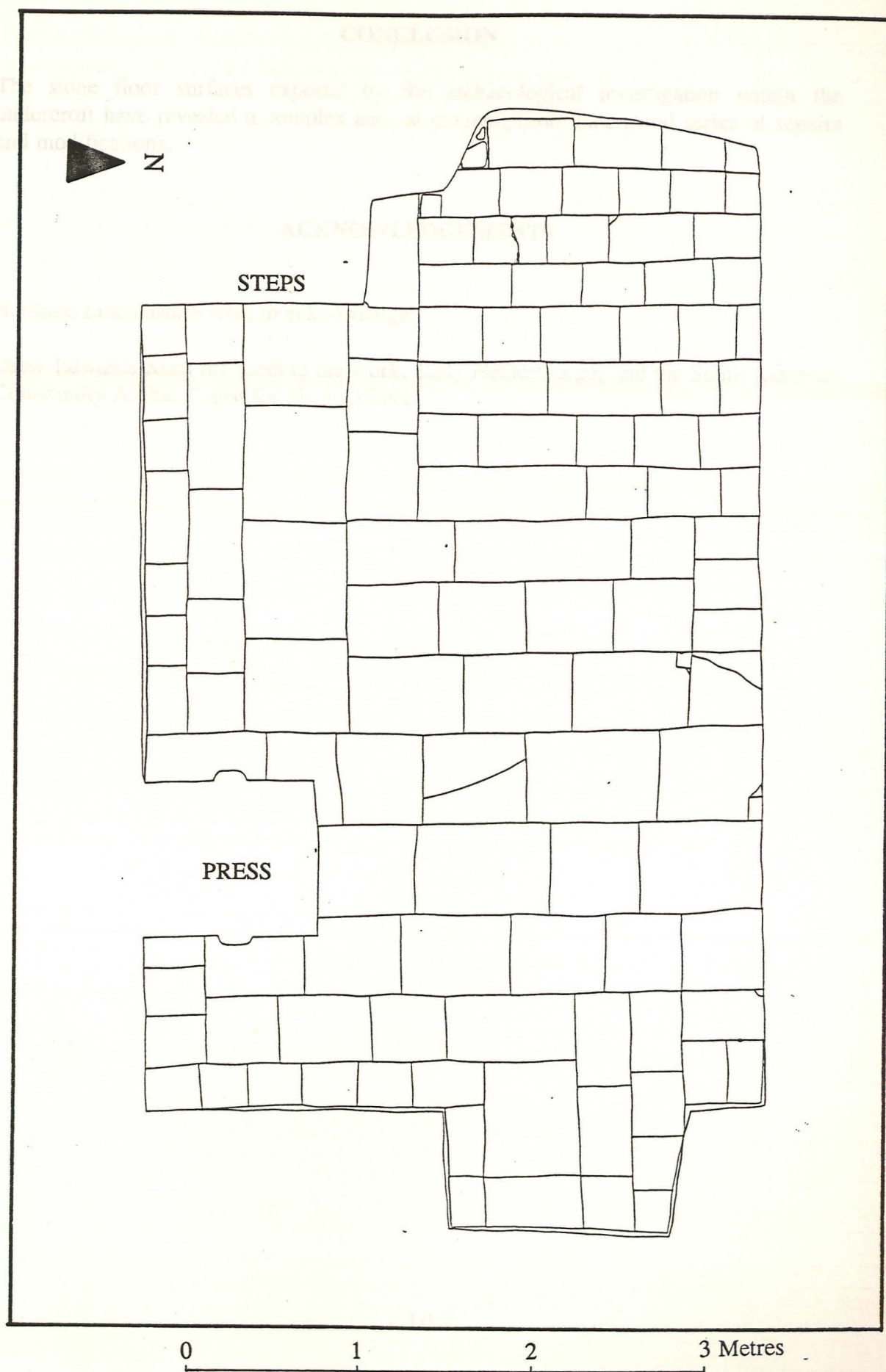
The area of disturbance [030], aligned NE-SW across the centre of the room was caused by the insertion of a pipe, and is almost certainly associated with the remains of a water pump located against the western wall, above [014], which is where it was probably situated before being destroyed. When [030] was surfaced by [017], small areas of the surrounding floor were repaired (presumably having been damaged when the pipe-trench was originally excavated). These repairs are represented by [014], [015], [031] and [032].







FIG. 5 ROOM 1 SHOWING EXPOSED FLOOR  
SURFACE [002]



## CONCLUSION

The stone floor surfaces exposed by the archaeological investigation within the undercroft have revealed a complex and, at present, little understood series of repairs and modifications.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to acknowledge:

Drew-Edwards Keen for funding the work; Lady Netherthorpe; and the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist for his assistance.



## LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL GLOSSARY TERMS

- 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 back-fill (the fill). Each context encountered during an excavation or evaluation is allocated a unique context 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 square brackets e.g. [001].
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a post-hole, pit, ditch etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an excavation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug, it immediately 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).
- Layer** A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil which is not contained within a cut.

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## APPENDIX 2

## LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

| CONTEXT | ROOM | DESCRIPTION                   |
|---------|------|-------------------------------|
| 001     | 1    | Modern floor debris           |
| 002     | 1    | Limestone floor surface       |
| 003     | 2    | Modern floor debris           |
| 004     | 2    | Mortar spread                 |
| 005     | 2    | Modern floor debris           |
| 006     | 2    | Mortar floor surface          |
| 007     | 2    | Brick and tile floor surface  |
| 008     | 2    | Stone and brick floor surface |
| 009     | 2    | Brick and tile floor          |
| 010     | 2    | Cobbled floor surface         |
| 011     | 2    | Mortar spread                 |
| 012     | 2    | Cobbled floor surface         |
| 013     | 2    | Limestone floor surface       |
| 014     | 2    | Repaired floor surface        |
| 015     | 2    | Repaired floor surface        |
| 016     | 2    | Limestone floor surface       |
| 017     | 2    | Fill of 030                   |
| 018     | 2    | Cobbled floor surface         |
| 019     | 2    | Tile deposit                  |
| 020     | 2    | Limestone floor surface       |
| 021     | 2    | Brick and tile deposit        |
| 022     | 2    | Deposit of nails              |
| 023     | 2    | Mortar spread                 |
| 024     | 2    | Pitch/tar deposit             |
| 025     | 2    | Pitch deposit                 |
| 026     | 2    | Drainage channel              |
| 027     | 2    | Cobbled floor surface         |
| 028     | 2    | Limestone floor surface       |
| 029     | 2    | Sandstone plinth              |
| 030     | 2    | Cut for pipe-trench           |
| 031     | 2    | Repaired floor surface        |
| 032     | 2    | Repaired floor surface        |
| 033     | 2    | Repaired floor surface        |





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Our reference  
HSD 9/2/1324 pt3

Date  
13 February 1992

Sir

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 (AS AMENDED)-  
SECTION 2**

**PROPOSED WORKS AT: NORMAN MANOR HOUSE (12th CENTURY), BOOTHBY PAGNELL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**COUNTY MONUMENT NO: 13**

**APPLICATION BY: THE LADY NETHERTHORPE**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to refer to your client's application for scheduled monument consent dated 3 January 1991 submitted direct to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and to your covering letter and the site plan submitted therewith in respect of proposed works at the above-named scheduled ancient monument concerned with the removal of a layer of soil from the floor of the undercroft to expose the flagstones and cobbles and the removal of any loose stone and debris.

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford to the applicant, and to any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity has been declined in your telephone conversation with Mr Casselton of the Department on 13 February 1992.

3. The Secretary of State is required also by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England before determining whether or not to grant scheduled monument consent. The Commission have advised him that the proposed works will be beneficial for the preservation of the monument with the necessary archaeological work included within the application. Accordingly, the Commission recommend that scheduled monument consent be granted, subject to the following conditions:-



i. the works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. At least 2 weeks notice in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mr A J Fleming of the Commission at Room 329, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB in order that a Commission representative can inspect and advise;

ii. the works to which this consent relates shall be carried out only by Mr D Start, Director of Heritage Lincoln or his nominated representative;

iii. this consent shall cease to have effect on 31 December 1992;

iv. Heritage Lincoln are requested to send an interim report to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission at Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB within 2 months of completion of the works and to prepare and make available a final report within 2 years of completion of the works; and

v. equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument.

4. Having considered the advice of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, the Secretary of State notes that the proposed works will be beneficial for the preservation of the monument and that the appropriate archaeological work is included within the application. He is agreeable to the proposed works proceeding provided the conditions specified below are adhered to. Accordingly, the Secretary of State hereby grants scheduled monument consent under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the proposed works described at paragraph 4 of the application dated 3 January 1991 and in your covering letter and shown on the site plan submitted therewith, subject to the following conditions:-

i. the works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. At least 2 weeks notice in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mr A J Fleming of the Commission at Room 329, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB in order that a Commission representative can inspect and advise;

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v. equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument.



5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye-law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person (hereinafter referred to as the 'applicant') who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded his powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

7. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and to Heritage Lincoln.

I am Sir  
Your obedient Servant



B W FITZGERALD  
Authorised by the Secretary of State  
to sign in that behalf