

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at A.R.C. Baston No. 2 Quarry**  
(NGR: TF 145135)  
L. Higbee

**Phase 1**

Between the 1st and 4th of September 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to record archaeological remains prior to gravel extraction in an area approximately 123m by 60m SE of Outgang Road and Cross Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. The overburden stripping was carried out by a large tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Both topsoil [001] and gravel overburden (yellow and grey sands with patches of clay and pockets of gravel) were removed down to the calcareous gravel natural sub surface at a depth of approximately 0.85-1.10m below the ground surface. No archaeological features were observed in plan on the machined surface, however, two linear features aligned N-S were observed in section and it was possible to trace these for a short distance since they showed up in the section of successive strips. Where these features were revealed in section the topsoil was stripped back over the feature so that a slot could be excavated through it in order to clarify its form, date and function. Both features were recorded in plan (Scale 1:500) and section (Scale 1:10) and detailed descriptions were made of the fills; no dating evidence was retrieved. Deposit and feature descriptions are given below and both the plan and sections are held in archive at the CAU offices, Cambridgeshire.

[001] Topsoil: dark brown clay silt approximately 0.35-0.40m thick (Section 1 and 3).

**F1** [003] linear: with gently graded sides and a flat base, approximately 0.67m wide and 0.24m deep and traceable N-S for 15m. Filled by [002] a pale grey green clayey silt with moderate manganese flecks and dark orange mottles throughout (Section 1).

**F2** [006] linear: with steeply graded sides and a concave base, approximately 1.35m wide and 0.66m deep and traceable N-S for 18m. Filled by [004] a pale grey clayey silt with frequent orange mottles and plant macro pores throughout and lower fill [005] a pale grey clayey silt with coarse sandy patches, very occasional small rounded stones, pea grit and frequent large dark orange mottles (Section 2 and 3).

It is impossible to relate these two features to adjacent sites given the paucity of the archaeology and the unfortunate lack of dating evidence.

Date: 14/9/98

**Phase 2**

A second phase of overburden stripping was undertaken between the 29th October and the 6th November 1998 on an area approximately 60m x 120m and 72m x 80m (see figure .1). During this phase of the watching brief six features were observed, excavated and recorded (plan and section scales as above). Dating evidence was recovered from the basal fill of one pit **F3** and suggests a possible Bronze Age date for its infill. Deposit and feature descriptions are given below.

**F3** [015] a large pit with a steeply graded southern edge, a gently graded northern edge, and a concave base. Approximately 3.50m in diameter and 0.88m deep. The upper fill [010] is a dark brown silty clay, with a firm consistency, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small fragments of fired clay. A small quantity of bone (?animal skull fragments) and shell was recovered from this fill. Fill [011] a mid brown silty clay with a firm consistency and occasional charcoal flecks extended over the upper southern edge of the cut. Below [011] are fills [012] and [013], both are pale grey brown silty clay with a soft consistency however, [013] is characterised by moderate patches of redeposited natural and [012] by very occasional charcoal flecks. The basal fill [014] is a mid grey brown silty clay with a soft, slightly plastic consistency with

moderate blue grey mottles, occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of fired clay throughout. One sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric (possibly Bronze Age) pottery was recovered from the interface between this fill and the base of the cut.

**F4 [020] and F5 [021]** are two parallel ditches orientated north-south and traceable for approximately 7.50m. The first ditch **F4** is 1.40m wide and 0.32m deep, has a steeply graded eastern edge and a gently graded western edge which merge into a concave base. It contained a single fill [017] a mid grey brown slightly sandy, silty clay with a soft consistency, moderate small rounded stones, occasional medium angular stones and frequent patches of redeposited natural. Approximately 0.16m to its west is **F5** a slightly smaller ditch (1.20m wide and 0.25m deep) with steeply graded sides and a slightly irregular but concave base. The upper fill [018] is similar to [017] described above but contains less redeposited natural. The basal fill [019] is a thin deposit of dark grey brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks. Both ditches are sealed by layer [016] a mid brown silty clay with frequent small rounded gravel. This layer extends for approximately 4m over the ditches and is itself sealed by top soil [001]. The similarity of fills [017] and [018] suggests that the infill of these ditches is contemporary.

**F6 [023]** a small posthole 0.45m in diameter and 0.25m deep, filled by [022] a deposit very similar to the top soil but with patches of redeposit natural towards the base of the cut and very occasional subangular stones.

**F7 [026]** a pit 0.80m in diameter and 0.32m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Filled by [024] a mid olive brown silty clay with a soft consistency, very occasional rounded stones and patches of redeposited natural. Its basal fill [025] is a dark grey silty clay with a soft consistency, occasional patches of redeposited natural and charcoal flecks.

**F8 [030]** a pit 1.15m in diameter and 0.40m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its upper fill [027] is a dark grey brown silty clay with a soft consistency, moderate charcoal flecks and small fragments of fired clay. A mixed deposit [028] of mid brown silty clay with frequent patches of redeposited natural lies below this. The basal fill [029] of this feature is similar to [027].

Date: 11/11/99

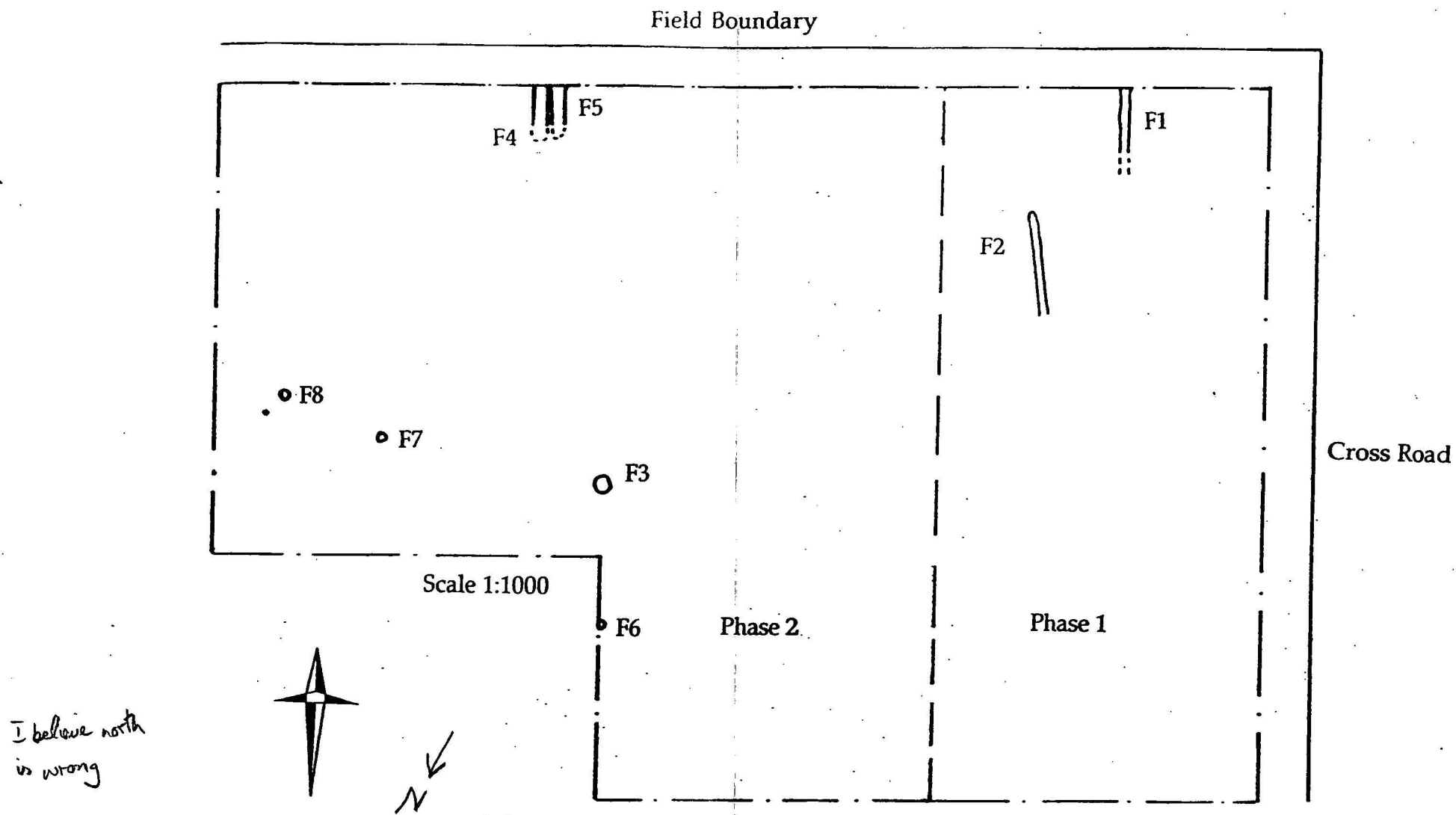


Figure 1. Plan of stripped area showing location of features

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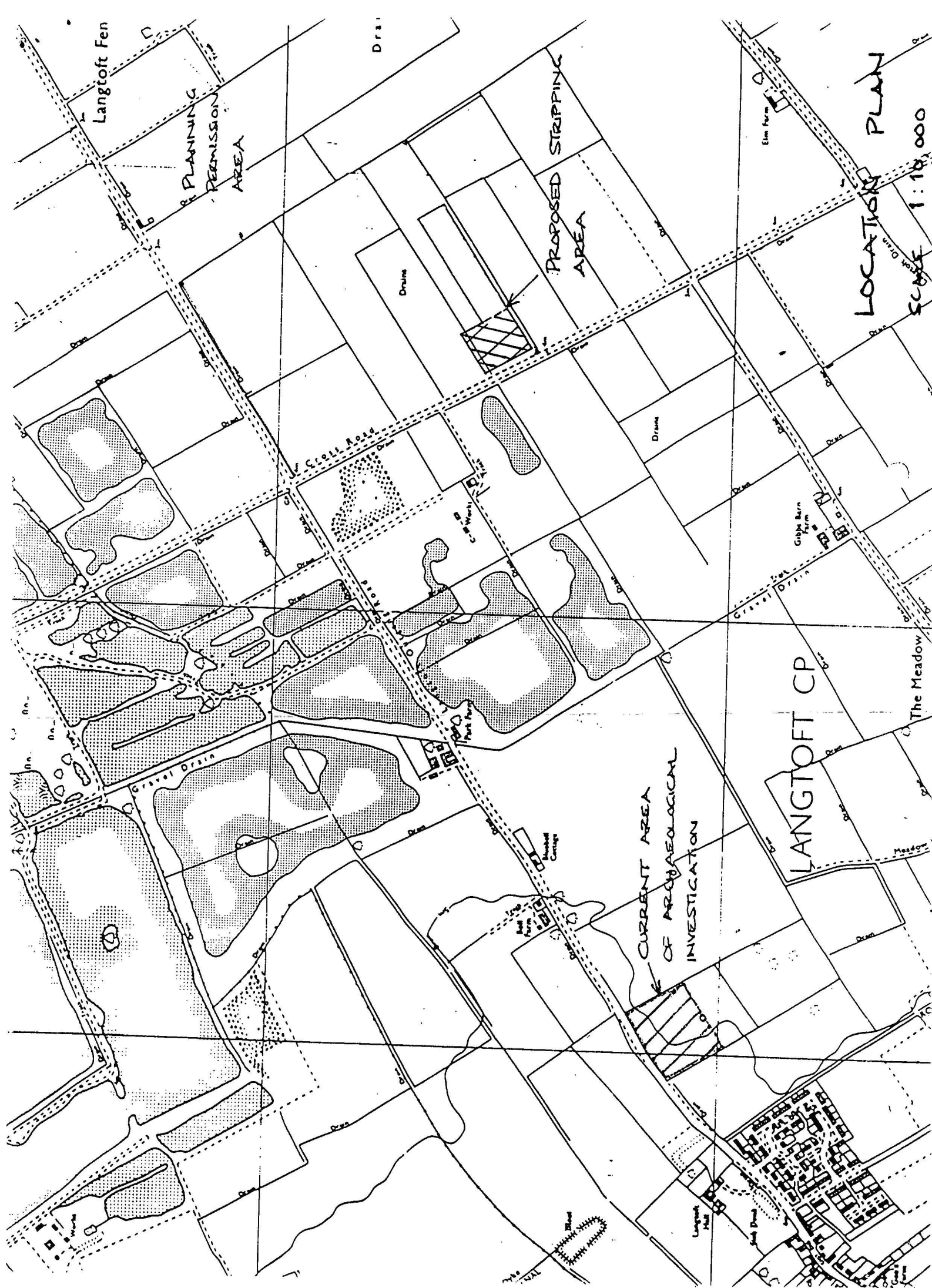
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Date: 14/9/98

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Lincolnshire  
Archaeological Unit

07 OCT 98

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