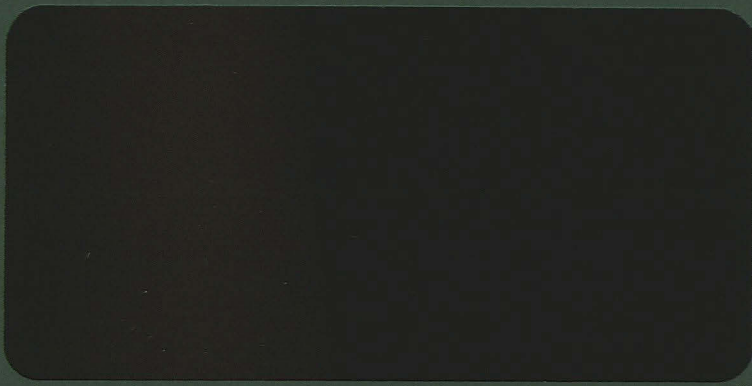
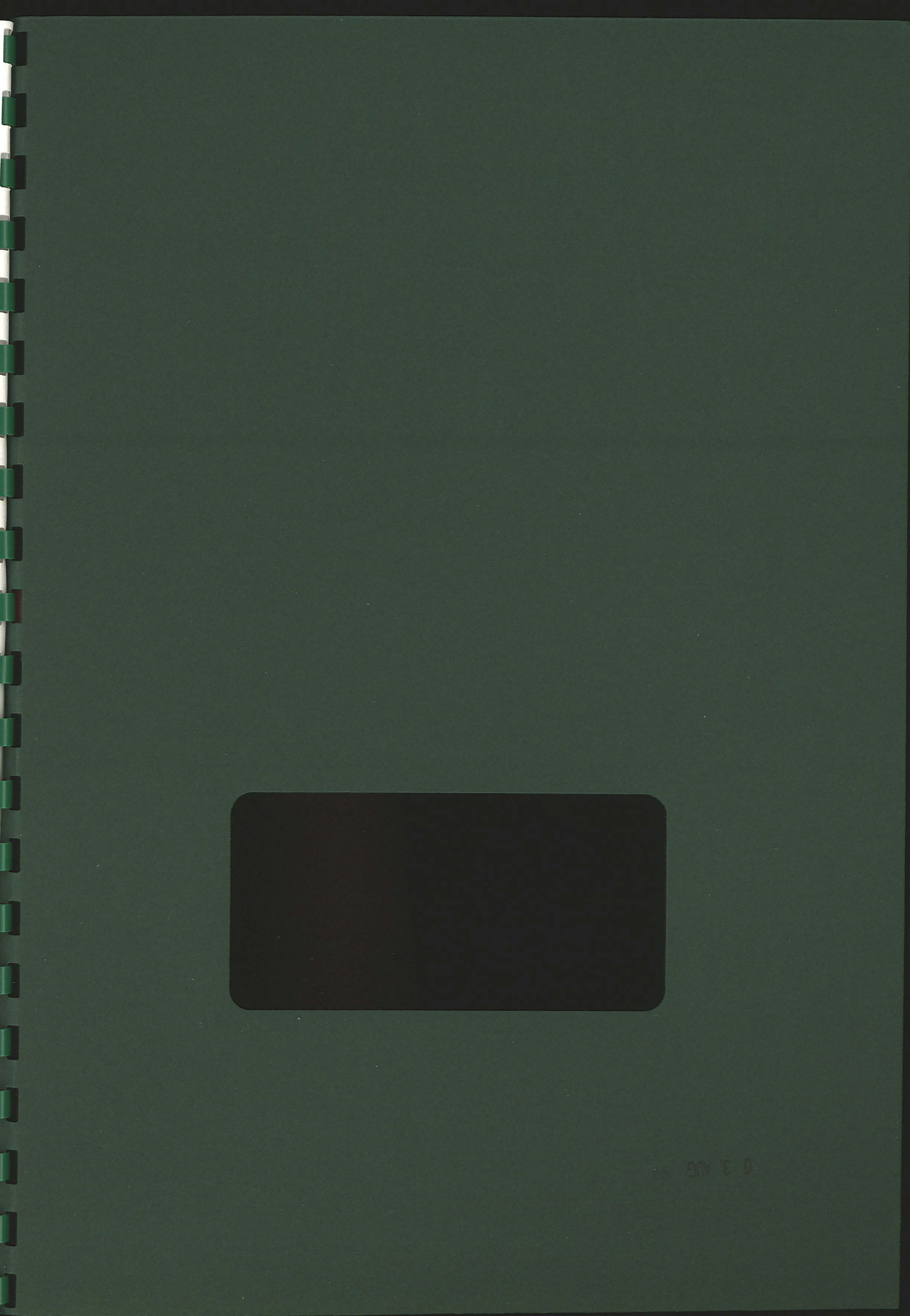


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
HILLSIDE COTTAGE, FORDINGTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: HCF99  
LCNCC Acc No: 105.99  
NGR: TF 41768 71580

99/11





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Report prepared for Mrs L. Storr  
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Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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### Summary

- \* *An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks for an extension to Hillside Cottage, Fordington, Lincolnshire.*
- \* *Although the site lay adjacent to the earthwork remains of Fordington deserted medieval village, no archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered.*

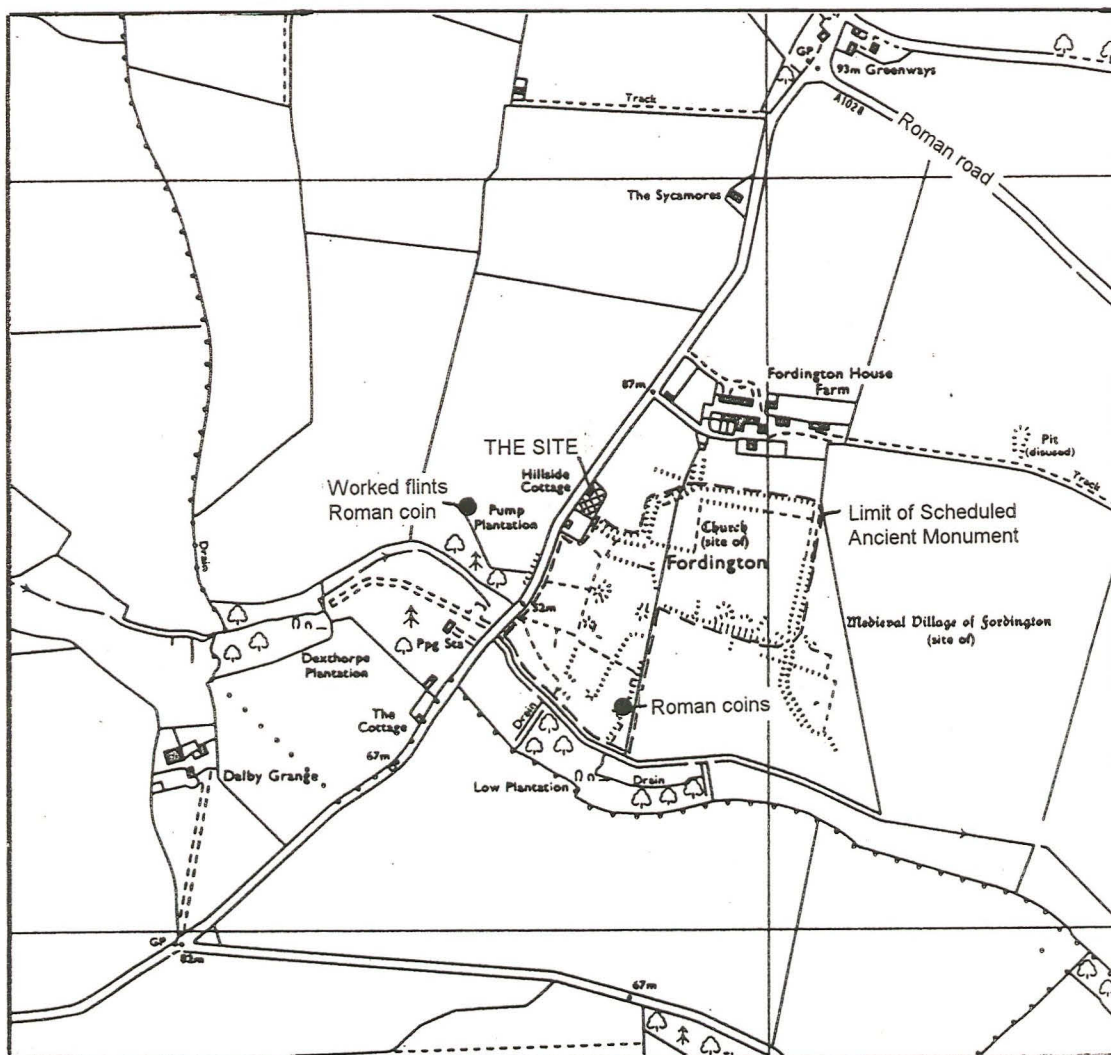


Fig. 1 1: 10,000 site location showing principal entries from the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to Hillside Cottage, Fordington, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Mrs L Storr to fulfil a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council (Ref. S/191/1880/98).

This project was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook; A manual of archaeological practice*, (LCC 1998).

## 2.0 Location and description

Fordington is located in the parish of Ulceby with Fordington in the administrative district of East Lindsey. It is situated approximately 5.5km south-west of Alford in a small river valley in the Lincolnshire Wolds. The proposed development site is in the centre of the settlement at NGR TF 41768 71580 and lies at a height of approximately 70m. above sea level. The site lies in the Lincolnshire Wolds and the underlying geology consists of chalk.

Prior to development the site of the extension was covered by a small porch attached to the existing house and an area of garden.

## 3.0 Archaeological and historical background

A number of Neolithic long barrows have been located along the top of the valley in which Fordington lies. The Giants Hill barrow, which was excavated in the mid 1930s, is situated 2.4km to the south east of the site (May 1976, 46). Worked flints of unknown date have been found c.120m to the west of Hillside Cottage.

The Bluestone Heath Road runs along the crest of the ridge 1.3km to the north east of Fordington. This is known to be a Roman road, although it may have its origins as a prehistoric trackway. Roman coins have been found within 200m of the site to the west and south.

The settlement of Fordington (*Fortintone*) was certainly in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, when Earl Hugh was recorded as the principal landowner. There is a possible reference to there being a parish church at this date (Morris 1986). The place-name Fordington is Old English in origin and refers to *Fortha's* village or farmstead (Cameron 1998). The earthwork remains of the medieval settlement of Fordington are located immediately to the east of Hillside Cottage and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 284). The site of the former church and churchyard and two possible mill mounds have been identified within the complex of earthworks. A possible hollow-way appears to align with the southern boundary of the development site. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, coins and tokens have been recovered from the area of the earthworks. The settlement was combined with Ulceby parish in 1450 due to the low number of residents (Beresford 1954, 168)



## 4.0 Methodology

The watching brief was carried out by the writer on the 19th July 1999. The fieldwork element of the project consisted of archaeological observation during the excavations and a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces exposed as a result of the groundworks. Written recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets. A photographic record was also made and some prints are reproduced in this report. The photographs, and the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive.

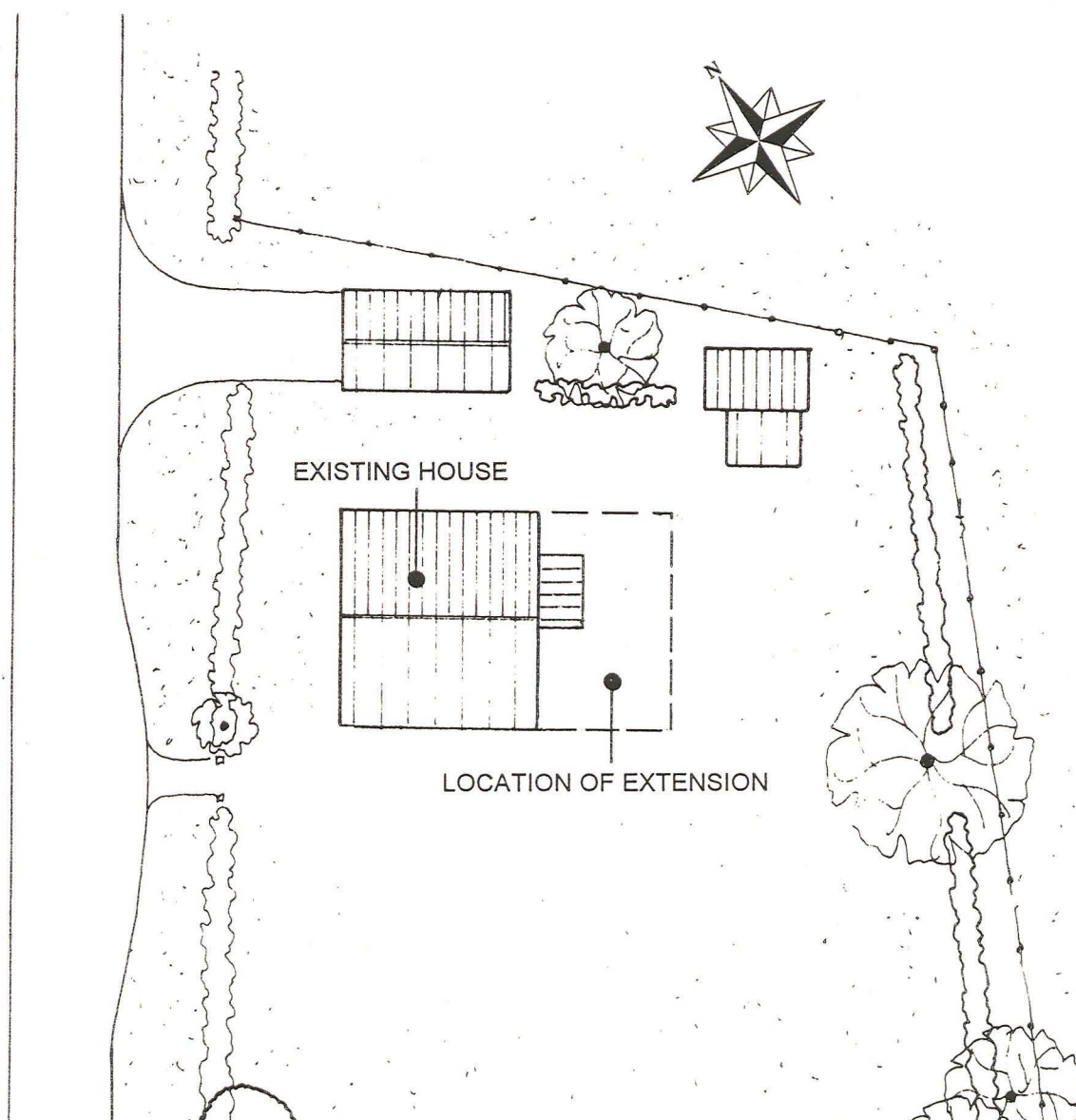


Fig. 2: Location of the extension to Hillside Cottage (1:250)

## 5.0 Results

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the watching brief. The dark brown silt topsoil lay directly above natural rubbly chalk and contained nineteenth and twentieth century pottery and rubble. The upper part of the chalk was stained orange brown, perhaps suggesting that it had once been sealed by a layer of boulder clay which has since been completely eroded.

## 6.0 Conclusions

The absence of any archaeological features or artefacts suggested that the site lay beyond the extent of the medieval village. The complete lack of evidence prior to the early modern period meant that the construction of the extension had no impact on the archaeological resource

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to Mrs L Storr for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR.

## 8.0 References

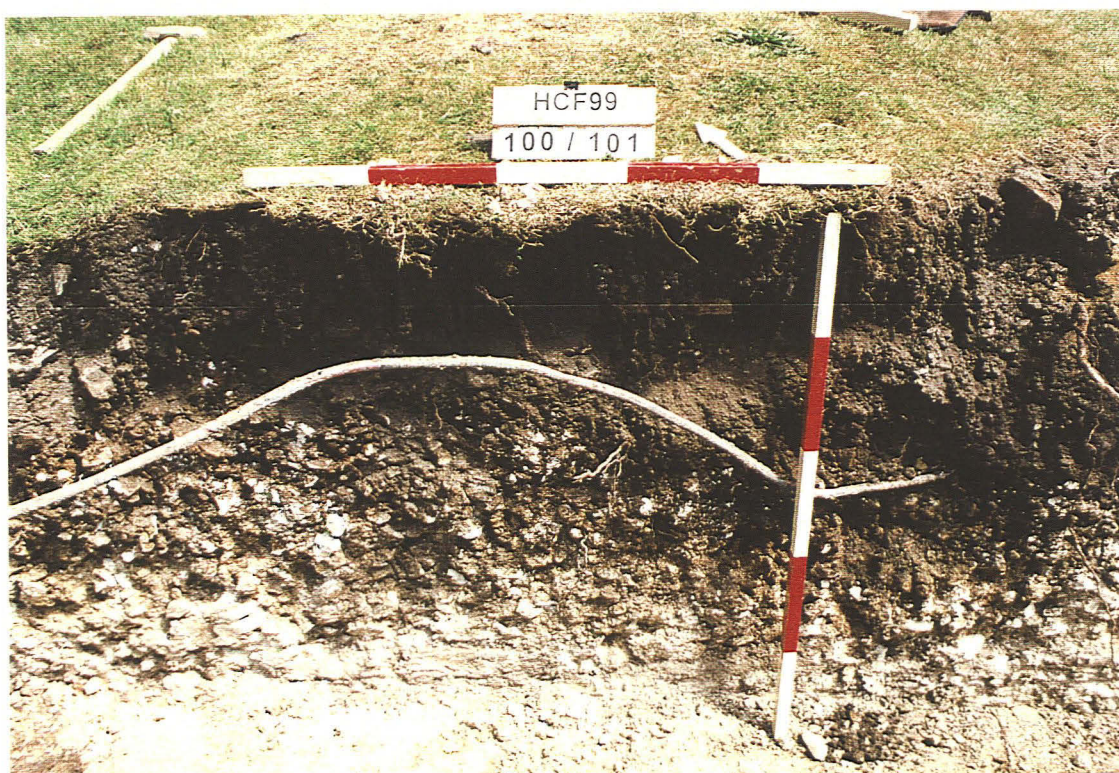
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- Lincolnshire County Council    1998    *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook; A Manual of Archaeological Practice*
- May, J.                 1976    *Prehistoric Lincolnshire.*
- Morris, J.              1986    *'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book.*



Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of the foundation trench for the extension, looking west.



P.2 Representative section showing the natural stratigraphy.