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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON THE ERECTION OF A POULTRY SHED
AT WINKHILL FARM,
OFF LITTLEWORTH DROVE,
HECKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HLD99)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES



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Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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ON THE ERECTION OF A POULTRY SHED
AT WINKHILL FARM,
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(HLD99)**

**Work undertaken for B. Cullen & Sons
July 1999**

Report compiled by P.J.E. Mills BSc (Hons)

**National Grid Reference TF 153 453
Planning Application No: N/31/57/98**

City and County Museum Accession No: 18.99



APS Report No: 72 / 99

**Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered
Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)**

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during stripping for a poultry shed at Winkhill Farm, Heckington.

Prehistoric and Roman remains have previously been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

The stripped area did not exceed 0.3m depth and as a result only topsoil and subsoil deposits were encountered. No archaeological features were revealed and only a few recent artefacts recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as *a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

B. Cullen and Sons, Ltd. submitted a planning application (No: N/31/57/98) to North Kesteven District Council for permission to construct a poultry shed at Winkhill Farm, Heckington. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. As a result Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by B. Cullen & Sons to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development at Winkhill Farm, Heckington. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a specification, prepared by APS in

response to a brief for works produced by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, and was carried out on the 11-12th January 1999.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Heckington is situated 32km south west of Lincoln and approximately 7km east of Sleaford in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

Located at the eastern edge of the village, at National Grid Reference TF 153 453, the development covers an area of 856m² on the northern side of Littleworth Drove.

The site is located on flat ground at an elevation of 4m OD. Soils at the site comprise the Beccles II Association (Hodges *et al.* 1984 pp 119-120), typically stagnogleyey soils over permeable clayey subsoil. The soils are overlying deposits of sandy gravels.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A variety of prehistoric sites are located in the vicinity and flint tools of Neolithic date and a Bronze Age axe have been found within c. 350m to the east and west of the investigation site. Romano British pottery and tile, probably signifying a small settlement has also been found to the west of the site. Further Romano-British settlement remains and a tile kiln are located c. 2km to the east, near the Car Dyke Roman waterway.

A complex of earthworks is located at Winkhill Farm, 350m west of the site. This is thought to represent medieval gravel quarrying activity. Further earthworks were observed in the same field as the development during the site reconnaissance.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to record archaeological features exposed by areas of ground disturbance.

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features exposed;
- Determine the spatial arrangements of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practical to recover dating evidence from the archaeological features recorded;
- Establish the sequence of archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Topsoil stripping was carried out by machine (JCB) using a toothless bucket and was archaeologically supervised. Stripping was to a depth of 0.1-0.34m. Any archaeological features were to be recorded by written, drawn and photographic methods. Deposits identified during the investigation were uniform throughout the site. In consequence a single representative section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Records of the deposits were examined and a stratigraphic matrix compiled. A list of all contexts and descriptions appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

A single phase was identified in the stripped area (Fig. 3).

Phase 1 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Modern deposits

The phase consisted of the topsoil (001) over the subsoil (002) (see Fig 4). Topsoil (001) was a dark brown sandy silt *c.* 0.19m in depth. Subsoil (002) was a yellow sandy silt containing occasional small fragments of flint and was at least 0.17m thick and extended below the limit of excavation.

Subsoil (002) contained 1 fragment of modern glass, 1 sherd of glazed ceramic and one fragment of animal bone (Appendix 3).

6. DISCUSSION

Only recent subsoil and topsoil layers were identified during the watching brief. The depths of the stripped areas were insufficient to identify any archaeological features that may be deeper. The artefactual remains: a sherd of modern ceramic, a fragment of modern glass, and the fragment of animal bone, a jaw bone fragment from a sheep sized animal, all probably relate to the modern agricultural usage of the field.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during development at Littleworth Drove, Heckington, because prehistoric remains were located in the vicinity and might be disturbed by the development.

However the development excavations were shallow and no archaeological remains were encountered during the investigation. This does not however preclude the possibility of

archaeological remains occurring at depth within the area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Cullen of B Cullen & Sons for commissioning the field work David Fell co-ordinated this project and this report was edited by Gary Taylor. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven District Heritage Officer, permitted access to the relevant parish archaeological files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Co-ordinator: David Fell
Supervisors: Phil Mills, Mark Dymond
Illustration: Phil Mills
Post-excavation Analyst: Phil Mills

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1973 *Lincoln, Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 114

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4th Ed)

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13 (Harpenden)

IFA, 1997 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services.

BGS British Geological Survey.

IFA Institute of field archaeologists.

NK Numbers prefixed with these letters are the reference code used by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council for identifying archaeological sites and finds

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

Appendix 1 Specification for archaeological watching brief

1 SUMMARY

A watching brief is required during development of a poultry house at Winkhill Farm, Heckington, Lincolnshire.

The application area lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest. A range of Bronze Age to Roman artefacts have been recorded in areas neighbouring the application site.

The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document presents a specification for an archaeological watching brief at Winkhill Farm, Heckington, Sleaford.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 The application area is located at Winkhill Farm, Heckington, in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire, at NGR TF 153 453.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 B. Cullen & Sons intend building a new poultry house on land at Winkhill Farm, Heckington, Lincolnshire. A planning application has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council (planning application no. N/31/57/98) in support of the development. The Community Archaeologist of North Kesteven District Council advised that the application area is an area of archaeological interest and recommended that the applicant should sponsor an archaeological watching brief during the development. *Archaeological Project Services* have been appointed archaeological contractors to the developer.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The application area is flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 4m OD. Soils at the site comprise the Beccles II Association, typically stagnogleyey soils over permeable clayey subsoil.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The application area lies in an area of archaeological interest and archaeological remains of a variety of periods have been found in close proximity to the application area.
- 6.2 A variety of prehistoric sites are located in the area and Neolithic flints, including an axe head have been found 150m-300m west of the application area. An assemblage of Romano-British pottery and tile has been found at the same location.
- 6.3 The Car Dyke, a possible Roman Canal, runs c.2kms east of the application area and a cropmark site, of probable prehistoric or Roman date lies a further 800m west of the Car Dyke.
- 6.4 A complex of medieval earthworks are located at Winkhill Farm, 350m west of the application area.
- 9.3 In view of the range of archaeological sites in proximity to the application area, it is likely that sites or artefacts of a range of dates may be located during the watching brief.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (no. 21).
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 The section of the trench will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. Section drawings will be produced at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on *Archaeological Project Services* pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 9.3.2.1 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

- 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
- 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- 9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
- 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work. Approximately one day of post-excavation time is available for each fieldwork day.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - Jane Cowgill, independent specialist Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification prepared by David Fell,

Appendix 2 Context descriptions

No	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Dark brown sandy silt, 0.19m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Yellow sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small flint fragments	Subsoil

Appendix 3 The Finds

Three finds were recovered from the site:

Context	Find Type	Description
002	Animal Bone	Fragment of jaw bone from a sheep-sized animal
002	Glass	Blue green fragment of possible window glass. Modern
002	Glazed ceramic	White glaze. Possible tile. Modern

Potential

The further analysis of the finds will not contribute any useful information about the archaeological potential of the region.

Appendix 4 The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context sheets
- 2 photographic record sheets
- 6 Black and white negatives and contact prints
- 9 colour slides
- 1 sketch plan
- 1 scale section drawing
- 2 watching brief daily record sheets
- 1 plan record sheet
- 1 section record sheet
- 1 context register
- 1 bag finds (contents 1 x animal bone fragment, 1 x ceramic sherd, and 1x glass fragment).
- This document

The digital archive consists of:

- Copies of the digitised plan and section in DCAD 2000 format
- Copies of the photos used in this report in JPEG format
- Copies of this report in Word 97 format
- All digital archives are stored at APS.

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services,
The Old School,
Cameron Street,
Heckington,
Sleaford,
Lincolnshire,
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum,
12, Friars Lane,
Lincoln,
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project archives, Produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: **18.99**

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: **HLD99**

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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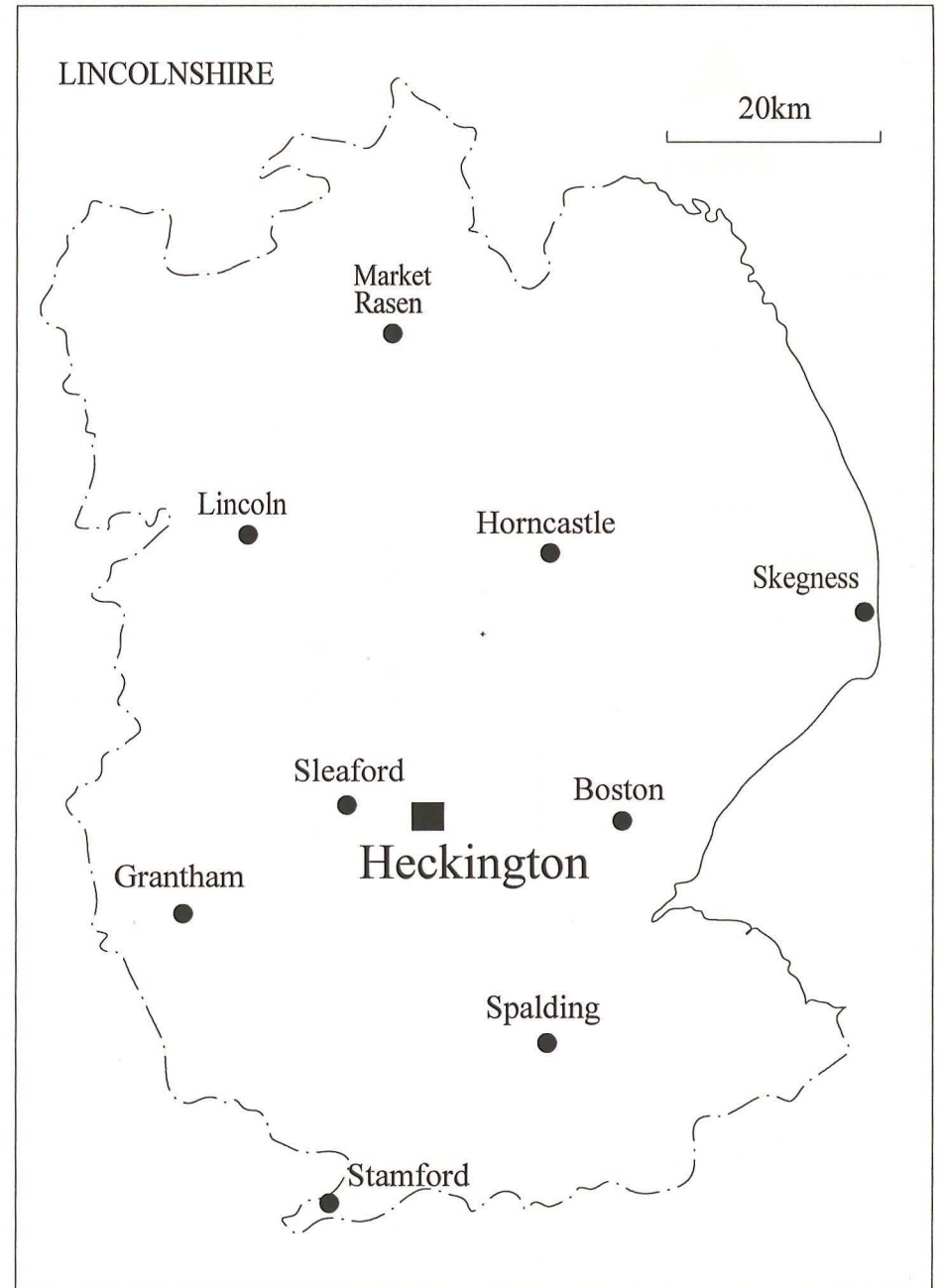
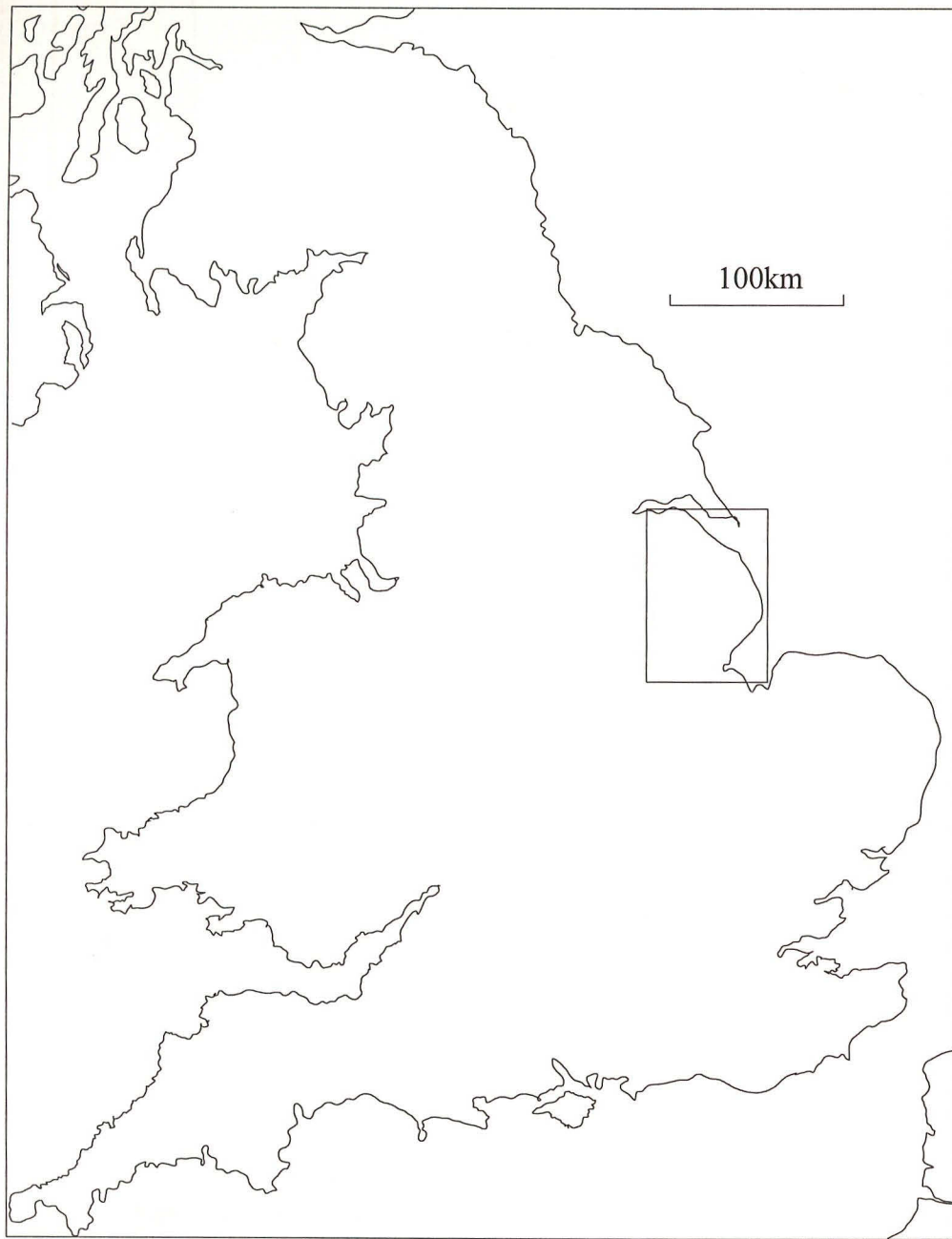


Figure 1 General Location Plan

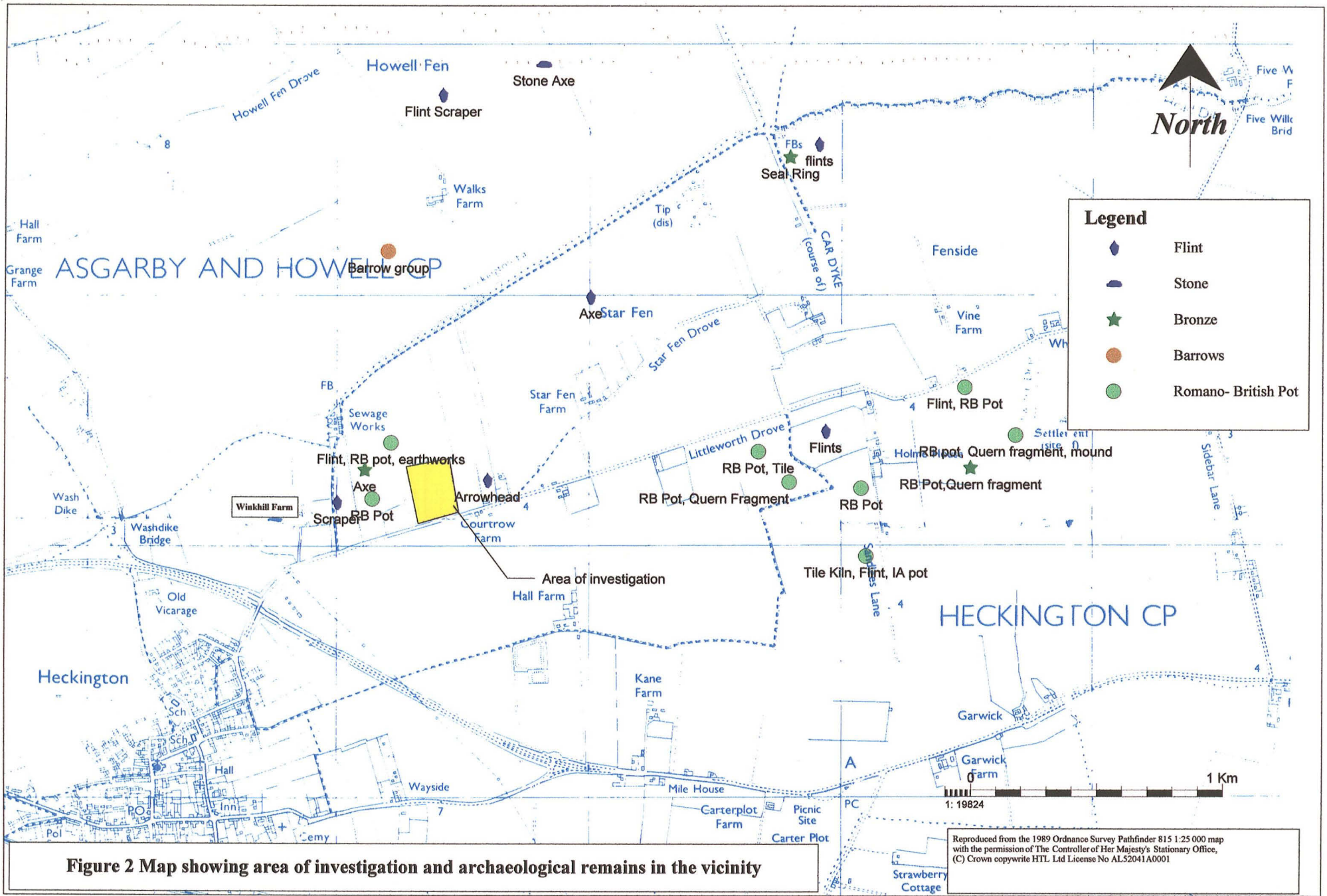


Figure 2 Map showing area of investigation and archaeological remains in the vicinity

Reproduced from the 1989 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 815 1:25 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, (C) Crown copyright HTL Ltd License No AL52041A0001

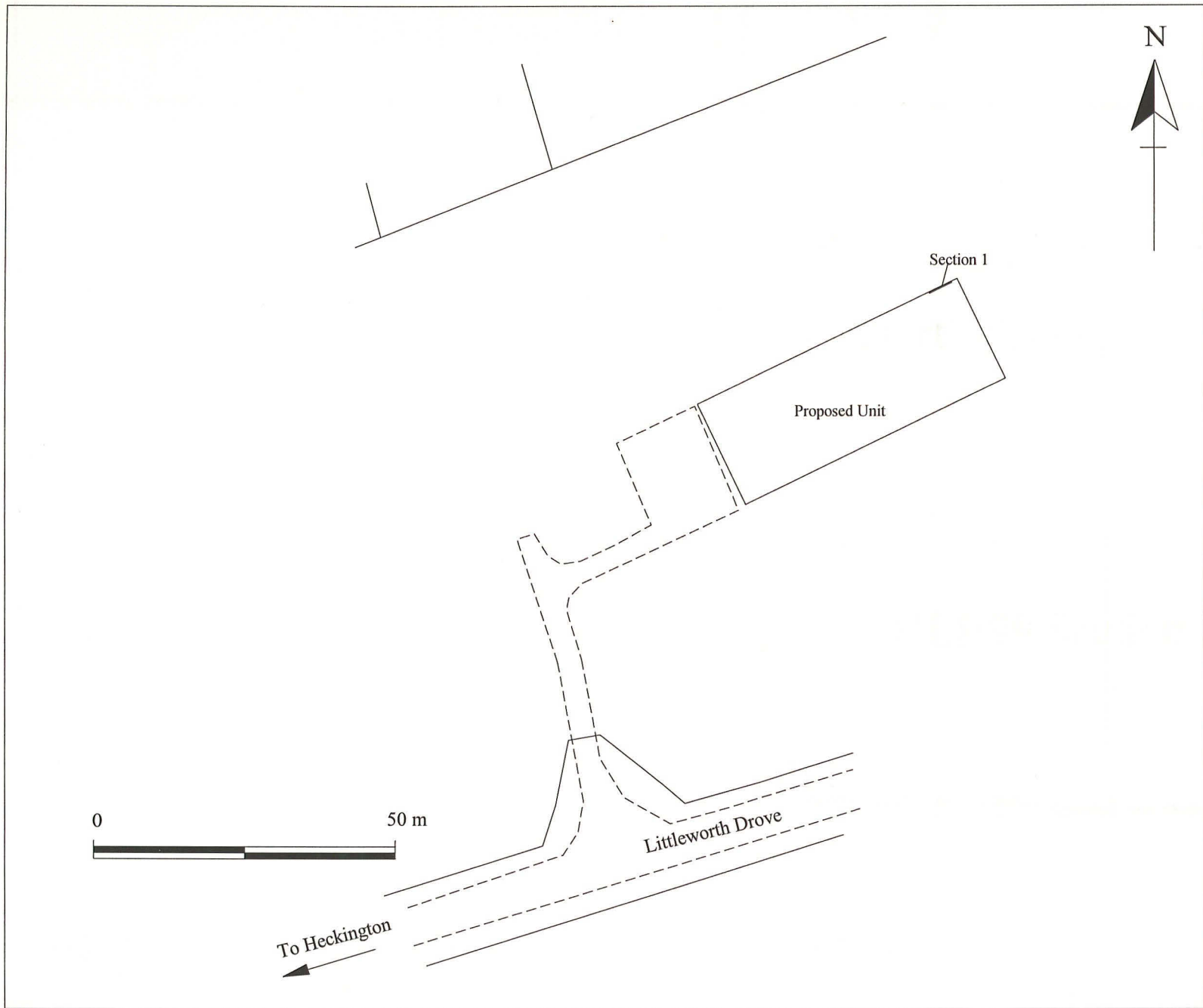


Figure 3 Plan showing proposed building plot and location of section

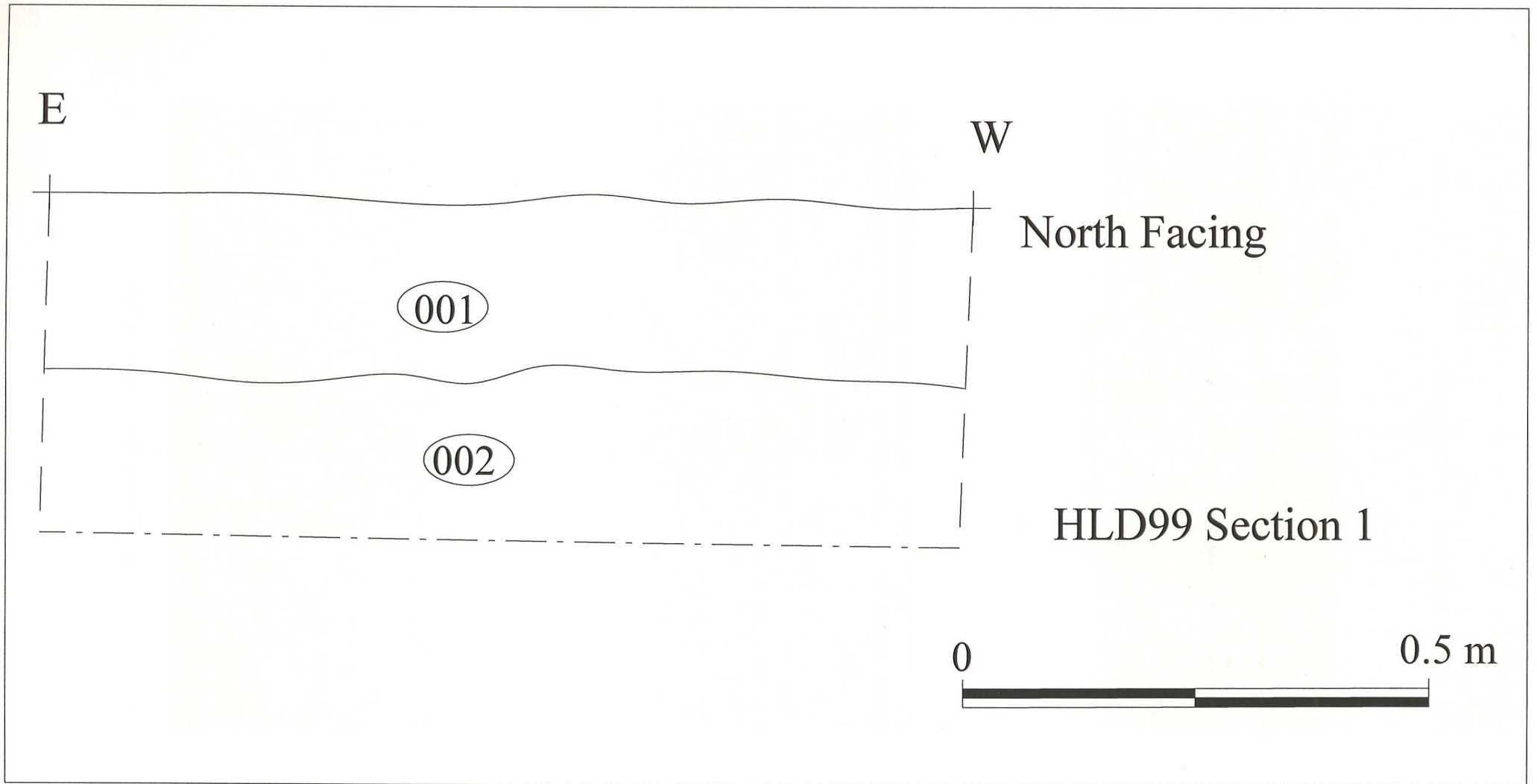


Figure 4 Representative section, showing topsoil and subsoil



Plate 1 View of site, facing NW



Plate 2 View of stripping, facing N



Plate 3 View of stripped area, facing NE