LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Land to the North of Conging Street, Horncastle, Lincs.

NGR: TF 2599 6977
ELDC Planning Application: S/086/1090/00
Site Code: HCHA 00

LCNCC Accn No.: 2000.221

Archaeological Evaluation

Report for

Bell & Shinn

LAS Report No.: 481 November 2000

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Contents

List of Figures

The Plates

| List of Plates | |
|---|----|
| Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Site Location and Description | 1 |
| Planning Background | 1 |
| Desk based assessment by G.Tann | 2 |
| Method and Sources | 2 |
| Topography and Geology | 2 |
| Archaeological and Historical Background | 3 |
| Evaluation Trenches by S. Farr | 8 |
| Aims and Objectives | 8 |
| Method | 8 |
| Results | 8 |
| Discussion | 11 |
| Archaeological Potential of the Site | 12 |
| Potential Impact of the Proposed Development | 13 |
| Conclusion | 13 |
| Acknowledgements | 13 |
| References and Background sources | 14 |
| Appendix 1 Context Summary | |
| Appendix 2 Pottery Report and Pottery and Tile Archive (Jane Young) | |
| Appendix 3 Bone Report (Richard Moore) | |
| Appendix 4 The Roman Brooch Report (Jen Mann) | |
| The Figures | |

The Figures

- Fig. 1 Location of site reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS Map reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright © . LAS License number AL 50424A
- Fig. 2 The application area.
- Fig. 3 Plan of Horncastle by W.Stukeley 1722
- Fig.4 Sketch map of the 1880 Tithe Award showing open ground.
- Fig. 5 Detail of 1888 Ordnance Survey map.
- Fig. 6 Trench location
- Fig. 7 Plan and Section of Trenches 1.
- Fig.8 Plan and Section of Trench 2.
- Fig.9 Plan and Section of Trench 3.
- Fig.10 Plan and Section of Trench 4.
- Fig.11 A. Section through ditch 110 B. South West facing section of Trench 3.
- Fig. 12 Proposed development layout based on drawing supplied by CAD Associates, 1:200 scale

The Plates

- Pl. 1 Paddock House, former offices of Horncastle Rural District Council, at the rear of the application site. The photograph of the demolished building was supplied by P. Wheatley.
- Pl. 2 Rear of the application site, showing existing buildings (looking north towards Dovecot Alley). The spoil heaps mark evaluation trenches 3 & 4.
- Pl. 3 Southern end of the application site, looking south towards Conging Street. The supermarket is visible, top right.
- Pl. 4 Surfaced area at the Conging Street frontage, with trees from garden of Paddock House (looking east).
- Pl. 5 Outbuilding to the SW of the site of Paddock House (looking west).
- Pl. 6 Storage sheds to the NE of the site. The hedge is beside Dovecot Alley (looking north).
- Pl. 7 Machine trenching under archaeological supervision.
- Pl. 8 Trench 1, looking south-east. Scales 2m.
- Pl. 9 Trench1, looking east. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 10 Ditch 110, looking west. Scales 0.50m.
- Pl. 11 Trench 2, looking west. Scales 2m.
- Pl. 12 Trench 2 section looking west. Scales 2m.
- Pl. 13 Garden deposit 203, looking south. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 14 Trench 3, looking south. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 15 Trench 3, looking south. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 16 Ditches 319 & 321, looking north-east. Scales 2m.
- Pl. 17 Ditches 313, 311 & 315, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m & 0.25m.

- Pl. 18 Trench 4, looking north-west. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 19 Masonry 411, looking north-east. Scales 2m & 0.50m.
- Pl. 20 Ditch 403, looking north-east. Scales 2m.
- Pl. 21 Ditches 405 & 407, looking north-east. Scales 2m.

Land to the North of Conging Street, Horncastle, Lincs. Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

In September 2000 four archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated at the above site. Archaeological remains, including a late Saxon ditch, a number of medieval ditches and the foundations of a Victorian house were discovered. A Roman brooch of 1st century date was found in a medieval ditch fill. Three new types of late Saxon pottery were identified in the small assemblage of material from the excavations. Archaeological features on the site, although plentiful, appear to represent agricultural activity rather than evidence for occupation. However, the potential impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains will be high.

Introduction

LAS was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the above site by CAD Associates (on behalf of Bell and Shinn) in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998), and with the *Project Brief* issued by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section (undated).

Site Location and Description

Horncastle is an historic town that has always been well-placed to exploit the varied landscapes of Lincolnshire. It is located at the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, close to the Roman fenland margins and 23 miles east of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located on the north side of Conging Street, to the north of Horncastle town centre, extending north to Dovecot Alley (Fig. 2). At the time of these excavations the site was occupied by buildings and yards, with an area of hard standing on the Conging Street frontage used for car parking. (Pls. 2 & 4)

Planning Background

A planning application for demolition of existing buildings and the erection of 14 residential units has been submitted to East Lindsey District Council (S/086/1090/00). The site was identified as having significant archaeological potential, but more information was required before a planning recommendation could be made.

Desk Based Assessment

By G. Tann

Methods and Sources

A rapid desk-based assessment of the application site in the context of its immediate environs was undertaken in order to identify archaeological potential. Research for the assessment was conducted by G. Tann between September 10th and 12th. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeological Section (Sites and Monuments Record), Lincoln
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (Enclosure map, Ordnance Survey maps, manuscript maps and other documentary and published sources)
- Lincoln Central Library, and Horncastle Library, Reference Department Local Studies Collections

The assessment has made considerable use of information collated and presented by Field and Hurst (1983) and Robinson (1983).

Topography and Geology

Horncastle lies on river terrace gravels close to the 30m OD contour in the valley of the River Bain near the SW corner of the Lincolnshire Wolds. At this point the Bain valley flattens out into the fenland surrounding the Wash. The Bain is the main river flowing south from the Wolds and it is joined at Horncastle from the east by a tributary, the Waring. The Bain itself joins the Witham nearly 10km. to the south at Dogdyke, from where it flows into the Wash.

The topography of the Fens has undergone such changes since Roman times that the significance of this setting is no longer apparent. It is thought that c.200 AD the Wash extended westwards over a substantial area of modern Fenland, with the high tide line at that date close to the 3m contour, with the sea level rising perhaps a further 1m by 400 AD (Simmons 1980). There is evidence from soil studies of estuarine-type silt deposits either side of the Bain below the 3m contour, suggesting that the lower part of the river was once an inlet of the sea. These deposits have been traced at least as far upstream as Coningsby, about 9km south of Horncastle.

The application site is at about 29m OD., sited on alluvium and river gravels above Kimmeridge clay; the clay has been exploited for brick manufacture 150m to the north.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Figs. 3, 4 & 5)

Prehistoric

Horncastle lies at the southern end of the Caistor High Street, a prehistoric ridgeway linking Horncastle with Caistor (Lincs.) and South Ferriby, which is thought to have been a major route between the Wash and Humber (May 1976, 8-9). In some places the High Street is flanked with intermittent prehistoric burial mounds and other archaeological sites. The route passes to the west of the town.

Archaeological excavations within the walled town area have produced numerous Neolithic and some Mesolithic flint artefacts, indicating contemporary occupation of the riverside gravels. During archaeological excavation of a small site beside the Roman town wall at 27 High Street, 42 worked flints, mostly Mesolithic with some Neolithic, were found in residual contexts; no prehistoric features were evident (SMR 42691). This quantity of finds (recovered from sieving soil) indicates occupation nearby during the eighth to fifth millennium BC (Field and Hurst 1983, 76). At 3-5 Bridge Street, further Neolithic flints were found (SMR 42711). A Neolithic polished stone axe was found in 1956 in a garden west of Linden Road (NE of the application site). Redeposited flints were found immediately south of the application site in 1993 (HTL 1993b).

Late Iron Age material has been recovered on river terrace gravels forming the east side of the Bain valley a little way south of the confluence of the Waring with the Bain (in the area of the unwalled Romano-British settlement at The Wong) suggesting that sustained occupation at Horncastle began in the Late Iron Age, although not close to the application site.

Roman

Roman Horncastle consisted of two main elements: a walled enclosure of about 2ha. at the junction of the rivers Bain and Waring (at the modern town centre), and an earlier unwalled settlement covering up to 54 ha. on a slightly higher gravel terrace south of the Waring and east of the Bain. The application site lies 80m NE of the walled area.

Horncastle has been considered as a possible site for an early Roman fort on the strength of its early Roman finds and strategic situation but this conjecture has not been substantiated (Whitwell 1982, 44).

The unwalled settlement

Evidence of occupation and cemeteries over a substantial area south of the river Waring, originating in the Iron Age and continuing into the late fourth century and probably beyond, has been revealed since the 19th century as the modern settlement has expanded.

The settlement of the first to fourth centuries AD was situated on river terrace gravels forming the east side of the Bain valley a little way south of the confluence of the Waring with the Bain.

The unwalled settlement seems to have covered an area of about 54 ha, but its actual extent at any period is unknown.

The Roman Defences

Horncastle has been recognised as a Roman walled site at least since the antiquarian William Stukeley's description and map of 1722 (Stukeley 1724; cf. Whitwell 1970, 71-4) (Fig. 3). The width of the wall is known from excavation and observation to have been at least 4m at the base of the western circuit. The wall was a late 3rd- or 4th-century AD military construction built on a site not previously continuously occupied in the Roman period The few reported casual finds of Roman objects or structures within the wall is in marked contrast to the abundance of material from outside it; an archaeological excavation at 27 High Street in 1978 identified late-3rd to mid-4th century finds, including traces of timber buildings and clay roof tiles but no evidence of stone structures (Field and Hurst 1983). Finds from 3-5 Bridge Street, excavated in 1984, were of the same date.

There is a case for the walled site at Horncastle being a late 3rd century or later military installation connected with coastal defence and designed to protect against river-borne invasion. Horncastle would have lain about 16 km up river from the Wash coastline as reconstructed by Simmons for the late Roman period. This was probably navigable as far as Horncastle at least by small vessels. In its situation near to a point which could be reached by sea-going vessels, Horncastle has a comparable position to other late Roman coastal fortifications around the shores of England. The massive walls and insubstantial nature of the intramural features accords with the picture produced by excavation within known Saxon Shore forts such as at Portchester.

Saxon and Medieval

The earliest recorded form of the place-name is *Hornecastre* [1086 Domesday Survey]. The name appears to derive from the Old English terms for 'a Roman station' and 'a horn-shaped piece of land' (Mills 1996, 178). Anglo-Saxon graves were found east of the walled circuit, south of Conging Street, in 1980. In 1993, archaeological evaluation of land immediately south of the application site produced Early and Late Saxon pottery and a 0.25m-deep east-west feature identified as a boundary ditch (HTL 1993b).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that before the Norman Conquest Horncastle was the centre of a large royal estate held by Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor. Horncastle held land in many of the surrounding villages and was the centre of the wapentake. Its pre-Conquest status is confirmed by the presence of a mint in the tenth century (mints were only located in royal holdings).

The location of the parish church of St. Lawrence within the Roman walls is reminiscent of very early churches found inside Saxon shore forts. The manor and market place are also within the walled area, and all three formed the nucleus for the post-Roman settlement of Horncastle.

The medieval farming arrangement of the parish was the two fields, North and South, divided into strips. The application site lay within the North Field (also called West Ashby Field). Land south of Conging Street, at the edge of the town, was partly occupied by timber structures between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries (HTL 1993b). These structures were replaced by what the excavators described as numerous rubbish pits and cess pits; an adjacent deposit of tannery waste suggests that the pits may actually have been tan-pits for leather curing. This function is unlikely to have affected the application site.

Post-medieval

The Horncastle Navigation Act was passed in 1792 but was followed by difficulties in beginning the scheme. Work started in 1794 and the final section was opened in 1802. The canal experienced a drop in use by 1874, with the last recorded cargoes in 1878 (Wright 1982, 187). The Northern branch of the Horncastle Navigation extended upstream to the Horncastle Steam and Water Corn Mill NW of the application site; this stretch represents canalisation of the River Bain rather than construction of a separate course.

On Stukeley's map of 1722, Pudding Lane (now St. Lawrence's Street) is shown leading from the market place, through the northern wall of the Roman town, and then forking to the north into a ill-defined lane to the watermill, and to the east into an un-named road along the present alignment of Conging Street (Fig. 3). To the south of this latter road, two single-storey west-east aligned buildings are shown, leaving a narrow entrance between them. Apart from the church, manor house, sessions house, water mill and buildings in the market place, these are the only structures shown with windows, perhaps indicating them to have had an important or public function. One of these may have been the building whose sandstone foundations were found in 1993 (perhaps associated with limestone demolition rubble) (HTL 1993b). The land north of these two buildings is depicted as tree-lined along most of the street frontage, with a north-south aligned developed block apparently on the eastern side of the site frontage. This building is separated from the row of premises fronting onto the Louth road.

Dovecote Alley is not marked on the 1722 plan, but the omission should not be viewed as significant as it lies close to the periphery of the drawn town.

Stukeley's 1722 plan of the town does not name the street now referred to as Conging Street (Weir 1820). Instead, the word *Conging* appears beside the label 'To Louth' on the present position of North Street. This is the earliest use of *conging* in Horncastle identified by research for this report, and its position argues for a derivation from *konungr* (Old Norse, 'a king'; as in

Coningsby), referring to the road or 'king's highway' from Horncastle to Louth (Smith 1987a, 6). An alternative derivation from the Middle English *coninger* (a rabbit warren) is plausible for an extra-mural site (Smith 1987b, 106). On cartographic evidence, Conging Street may be a recent name for the street south of the application site, not associated with any adjacent feature but transferred from a different usage.

A plan of the town in **1819** also omits any reference to Conging or Conging Street. The main Louth road is labelled Millstone Street, and the street south of the application site is Mill Lane (Weir 1820). The modern Dovecot Alley (north of the site) is marked but not named; all of its southern frontage is marked as developed.

The Enclosure Award plan (dated **1850**, but since reproduced as 1803, when the Act was passed) shows the land block north of the modern Conging Street (which was not labelled) as irregularly divided (Fig. 4). To the SW, a north-south division of about 25% of the street frontage is marked as two Plot 93s. Apart from Plot 278, closest to the Louth road, the frontage was undeveloped. This is similar to the arrangement shown in 1819.

On the same map, some distance further north, a west-east boundary divides the land block to the rear of the Louth road properties. On the north side of the boundary, at the western end, is a windmill and an adjacent structure in Plot 94. Further to the east in Plot 94, centrally within the plot, is a separate large building which lies immediately west of the application site. A further west-east boundary to the north of these buildings is probably in the position of the modern Dovecot Alley.

David Robinson has recorded that the site opposite the rear entrance to the Red Lion in Conging Street was 'Harrison's Paddock', and was the site of auctions during the Horncastle horse fairs (Robinson 1987, 97). This land equates with the application site or land to the west.

Concentrating on the name Harrison, a search of trade directories of Horncastle was undertaken. In 1826, Mark and Richard Harrison had premises in Millstone Street (White 1826, 146). In 1835, Mark, a cattle dealer, had premises in St Lawrence Street, with both Richard and James in Millstone Street (Pigot 1835, 209). By 1849, Mark and James were in Mill Street (Hagar 1849, 324,327). Documented horse auctions took place in Harrison's Paddock during the **1850s** (Robinson 1987, 97).

In 1861, Mark and Robert Harrison were in Red Lion Street (Kelly 1861, 144). Either they had frequent moves, or perhaps more probably, their static addresses were confused by the directory compilers. Millstone Street is a name used for the Louth road, labelled Conging by Stukeley. As the Red Lion could be accessed from the lane, it may have become an important thoroughfare, indistinguishable from the turnpike road out of the town centre.

In **1863**, proof appears that Harrisons occupied the application site. Mark was at Red Lion Street, Louth Road, while James and Robert were at Paddock House (Morris 1863, 459,462). This is the earliest documented development within the application site. Robinson stated that Paddock House was built about 1912, but unless it was entirely rebuilt, his information seems incorrect. Pearl Wheatley has suggested that the house was built about 1850, with a large tank below the house for collection of surface water (pers. comm., citing J.N. Clarke).

The street name confusion of the nineteenth century was not yet over: the name Conging Street appears in the directory for 1868, and was connected with The Paddock (No. 6 Conging Street) in **1872** (Kelly 1868, 171; White 1872, 359). Horse sales in Harrison's Paddock continued through the 1870s, and may have continued into the twentieth century.

A 1:500 Ordnance Survey plan of 1888, surveyed in 1887, shows the application site in detail (Fig. 5). The Louth road is labelled North Street, Conging Street passes to the south of the site, Dovecot Alley to the north, with Water Mill Road to the west. The application site is visible as a discrete property similar in size and shape to the grounds of Paddock House, a large building fronting south, but set back onto Dovecote Alley. All apart from the northern end of the site was open ground, with a path and trees and shrubs along the western edge. A drive led up the eastern side of the plot. Buildings and enclosed areas occupy the sites of most of the buildings recently demolished on the site.

The house name 'Paddock House' describes either the site on which the building was placed, or an adjacent field. The 1887 map shows an open field to the SW, south of the windmill and its ancillary buildings. This might be the paddock, lined with stable-like structures to the west, but clearly this whole block of land north of Conging Street was only gradually further developed during the nineteenth century. This could reflect the vulnerability of the plot, as flooding affected Conging Street in 1900 (Robinson 1983, 16).

Paddock House survived in its late nineteenth century form, but known as The Paddocks, as the offices of Horncastle Rural District Council, until about 1980 (OS 1969; Pearl Wheatley, pers. comm.). Sometime after that date, the house was demolished and the premises used as a storage depot. Attempts to locate the plans relating to the site during its use by the RDC have been unsuccessful, although they are believed to exist.

The Evaluation Trenches by Sue Farr

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Method

Four trenches were dug through the hard standing, one located perpendicular to Conging Street with the remaining three positioned within the fenced area to the north (Fig. 6). Each trench measured 10m x 1.8m and was excavated by JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Pl. 7), the solid upper layers having first been broken up. These groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision.

Topsoil was removed to the first recognisable archaeological horizon by machine. The trenches were then hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and selected excavation of features was carried out in order to achieve the objectives outlined above.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made during the excavations, along with a plan of each trench and section drawings of one side (Pl. 3). All recorded deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS who operate a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years, based on MOLAS and CAS formats.

Results

Trench 1 (Fig.7, Pls. 8 & 9)

The upper layer in this trench consisted of a 0.07m thick tarmac surface, **101**. Adjacent to **101** at the southern end of the trench, alongside Conging Street was a 0.08m modern cobbled surface **102**. Neither of the aforementioned layers were visible in the trench section, having been removed from the trench edges as a Health and Safety consideration.

Below 101 and 102 was 103, a 0.25m deep orange grey sand and gravel bedding layer, underlying which was 104, a dark grey black ashy silt containing modern tile, chalk, clinker and sand inclusions. Beneath this was 105, a mid grey brown sandy loam containing large angular and sub-angular gravels. Below 105 was, 106, a mixed orange sand natural with some gravel

which became more clay-rich towards Conging Street.

Immediately below **103**, and cutting **104**, **105** and **106** was **114**, a partially exposed linear ditch located in the southern half of the trench. It had a width in excess of 0.50m and a depth greater than 0.60m. Aligned east-west, parallel to Conging Street, it contained a single fill **115**, a dark brown silty sand which contained moderate sub-angular and rounded stones, moderate iron panning and charcoal flecks. Two sherds of 16th-18th century pottery, animal bone and building materials were recovered from this deposit.

Located in the northernmost part of the trench was ditch **112** which ran perpendicular to Conging Street and was visible along most of the west facing section. It had a width no greater than 0.30m, a maximum depth of 0.68m and contained a single fill, **113**, a mid grey silty sand with occasional angular and sub-angular gravels. One 13th-15th century jug fragment, animal bone and 13th-16th century tile were recovered from this deposit.

Cut by ditch **112**, was **110**, an east-west aligned ditch, 1.90m wide and a maximum depth of 0.63m. Its single fill **111**, a friable grey silty sand, contained occasional angular and sub-angular gravel (Fig.11, Pl. 10). A quantity of animal bone along with two fragments of late 9th-12th century pottery were collected from this fill.

In the centre of the trench aligned NE-SW was 107, a 2.00m wide natural channel probably the result of fluvial activity. This palaeochannel contained 108, a loose light grey fine sand and rolled gravel deposit. A dark orange iron-rich sand and gravel deposit, 109, adjacent to both sides of 108, probably represented the remnant of natural banking associated with this channel.

Trench 2 (Fig. 8, Pls. 11 & 12)

Underlying the 0.06m thick tarmac car park surface 200, was a 0.25m deep layer of yellow brown sand and gravel, 201. Beneath 201, along most of the length of the trench was 202, a 0.05m cemented dark black silty sand containing occasional gravels, chalk and charcoal flecks. Below 202, was 203, a 0.60m thick dark grey brown silty sand with occasional gravels, chalk and charcoal flecks (Pl. 13). Animal bone and Roman/Late Saxon pottery sherds were recovered from this deposit. At the base of the trench was the natural, 204, a mid yellow orange sand and gravel mix which became more clay rich to the west.

Trench 3 (Fig. 9 & 11, Pls. 14 & 15)

Beneath 300, the 0.07m deep tarmac car park surface, in the southern half of the trench, was 301, a 0.16m thick bedding layer consisting of orange brown sand and gravel. In the northern half of Trench 3 underlying 300, was 302, a 0.08m thick area of concrete hard standing, below which was 303, a 0.09m conglomerate serving as bedding for the overlying concrete surface. Below this was 304, a 0.12m thick deposit comprising modern bricks within a dark brown silt

visible only in the northern section.

Cut by **304**, was **318**, a dark ashy sand layer containing a few flecks of tile and chalk, with a maximum depth of 0.20m. This deposit sealed feature **306** a 0.22m deep shallow scoop containing **307**, a mid brown sandy silt with degraded plaster and mortar possibly relating to groundworks undertaken during the construction of 'Paddock House', a Victorian property located within the boundaries of the application site and discussed in greater detail above (p. 7).

Cut by **306**, was **310**, a 0.60m thick dark grey brown silty sandy layer with occasional gravels, chalk and charcoal flecks.

Also cutting **310** was **308**, a possible rubbish pit only partially exposed and excavated in the north western end of the trench. It contained a single fill, **309**, a 0.65m deep compact brown sandy silt with occasional mortar, bricks and sandstone. A single sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from this deposit which exhibited a very similar nature and form to **307**.

A number of linear features were cut into 317, the orange sandy clay natural. Ditch 321 was 1.80m wide, 0.28m deep and contained two fills, the upper of which, 322, was a 0.16m thick dark grey brown silty sand which contained moderate iron panning and rare small pebbles. Below this was the primary fill of the feature, 323, a light grey brown silty sand with moderate iron panning becoming more frequent towards the edges of the feature.

East of **321** was **319** a NE-SW aligned ditch containing a single fill, **320**, a 0.12m deep dark grey brown silty sand which contained rare flint gravels (Pl. 16). One 12th century rim sherd, animal bone and a first-century late la Tène style Roman brooch were recovered.

West of **319**, and following a similar alignment was ditch **324**. It contained a single fill, **325**, a 0.10m deep dark brown sandy silt with rare sub-rounded stones. No finds were recovered from this deposit and no relationships between any of the 3 aforementioned linear features could be established.

Adjacent to **324**, was **315**, a 0.45m wide, NE-SW aligned ditch. The sole fill, **316**, was a 0.36m deep dark grey brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Cutting **315** was **313**, a sub-circular feature. Although not fully exposed a width of 0.32m and a depth of 0.30m were recorded. The single fill of this feature was **314**, a dark grey brown silty sand containing rare sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks (Pl. 17). The function and date of this feature were undetermined due to a lack of finds within the fill.

Only partially revealed in the westernmost end of the trench was 311 a 0.37m wide, 0.25m

deep, steep sided linear feature with a rounded base. This possible gully contained one fill, **312**, a dark grey silty sand containing rounded and sub-angular stones.

Trench 4 (Fig. 10, Pl. 18)

The uppermost layer, **400**, a 0.08m thick concrete surface, was removed prior to machining and is, therefore, not recorded in the section drawings. Underlying **400**, was **401**, a 0.25m deep bedding layer comprising broken concrete, bricks, stones and sub-angular gravels within a loose sand matrix. Between **401** and **402** in the southernmost part of the trench was **410**, a 0.04m thick layer of very hard dark grey material containing occasional charcoal and chalk flecks and rare small gravels. Beneath **401** and **410**, was **402**, a mid greyish brown silty sand containing occasional sub-angular gravels and rare charcoal flecks.

Cutting **402** was **411**, the remains of a cement bonded brick wall, seven courses of which survived (Pl. 19). These almost certainly represent the foundations of a Victorian residence, namely 'Paddock House', which formerly occupied the site. Further information on this building is available in the desk-based assessment.

Sealed by **402**, and only partially exposed in the northernmost end of the trench was **403**, an east west aligned, 0.40m deep ditch containing a single fill, **404**, a soft grey brown silty sand with rare iron panning and sub-angular gravel inclusions (Pl. 21).

South of **403**, was **405**, an east west aligned ditch 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep. It contained one fill, **406**, a soft grey brown silty sand containing occasional sub-angular gravels, chalk and charcoal flecks.

Also sealed by **402**, the northernmost ditch in trench 4, **407**, followed a similar alignment to **403** and **405**. It was 0.70m wide, had a maximum depth of 0.30m and contained a single fill, **408**, a mid grey brown silty sand with sub-angular inclusions (PI. 22). At the base of the trench was **409**, a natural orange sand.

Discussion

No evidence for prehistoric activity was found during the evaluation. The application site lies some distance from the Roman settlement south of the walls which probably goes some way toward explaining the dearth of Roman material recovered during the excavations. Only one possible sherd was identified from the garden deposits (203) in Trench 2 and the brooch from the fill of a ditch (320) was found together with a sherd of medieval pottery and is assumed to have been a stray find.

Anglo-Saxon burials have been recorded to the south of Conging Street, and the full extent of the cemetery is not known. Excavators identified a soil horizon with late-Saxon pottery, and an

east-west 0.25m deep boundary ditch with early- and late-Saxon pottery; there may have been occupation in the vicinity as well as burials.

Of similar date was the late Saxon/early medieval pottery recovered from ditch 110 in evaluation Trench 1. As only 2 metres of it was exposed it is very difficult to speculate as to its function but drainage or boundary related uses are possible. Although Conging Street may mark an early boundary associated with the cemetery, nothing certain was established by the 1993 evaluation. No other Saxon features were identified within the application site although late 9th to 11th century pottery was recovered from the 'garden deposits' (203) in Trench 2. The unabraded nature of this pottery suggests that it has undergone little disturbance since its original deposition.

Ditch 112 running perpendicular to Conging Street contained pottery of between the 13th to 16th century, from a phase when according to the desk-based assessment the application site "appears to have been within, but at the edge of the northernmost of Horncastle's two open fields". This may represent perhaps part of a series of north-south aligned ditches functioning as drainage features or acting as boundaries for individual houses or domestic plots, although no evidence of any associated structure was identified. Conging Street may have developed along the edge of the field, possibly even on a ridge; could the east-west 'ditch' found in 1993 south of the street represent a Saxon or medieval plough furrow?

The ditches in Trenches 3 and 4 were all aligned roughly NE-SW, and, whilst no absolute date or relationships to the other linear features was established, they were stratigraphically below (and thus earlier than) the garden deposits relating to Paddock House and may, therefore be associated with land use of medieval or earlier date.

Pottery recovered from ditch **114** in Trench 1 suggests a connection with Paddock House, a Victorian residence, functioning as a property boundary and/or a drainage feature, possibly in response to flooding episodes recorded as having affected Conging Street in 1900 (Robinson 1983, 16). Earlier garden deposits (**105**) were identified in the southern half of Trench 1, corresponding with the 1:500 Ordnance Survey plan of 1888, which shows the site as open ground with a path complemented by trees and shrubs along the western edge. Furthermore, the western end of Trench 2 displays evidence of tree root disturbance.

Archaeological Potential of the Site

The proposed development site lies beyond the Roman walled area, which formed the core of the Saxon and medieval settlement at Horncastle. The low level of Roman and Anglo-Saxon material is therefore not surprising, but the discovery of three new Saxon pottery types is of interest. The evaluation has established that despite the close proximity of the River Bain, 80m to the west, deposits that one would expect from episodic flooding were absent, although a possible former water channel (108) was identified in Trench 1. Given the small size of the evaluation trenches there was a surprising amount of archaeological material present but there is no suggestion of buildings along the street frontage. The site appears to have escaped dense post-medieval occupation and there is good potential for undisturbed medieval and earlier remains on the site which appear to agricultural in form rather than evidence for occupation.

Potential Impact of Proposed Development

Archaeological deposits were found immediately below existing ground level which had been partly disturbed by previous areas of hard standing and building foundations. These deposits would be further disturbed by the foundations and service trenches of the proposed housing scheme.

Conclusion

There is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman use of the site. Late Saxon and medieval use of the site points to agricultural activity rather than occupation but the potential impact of development on surviving archaeological remains is high because they lie immediately below the existing ground surface.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Greg Shinn (Bell and Shinn Associates Ltd), and the staff of Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team (especially Beryl Lott) for their assistance on this project.

Pearl Wheatley supplied a colour slide showing the demolished building on the site, and this was scanned by Alan Vince. Further help establishing the date of demolition was provided by Mike Ball.

Excavation, site recording and post-excavation for the evaluation trenching was directed by Sue Farr, assisted on site by Mick McDaid and Rob Armour-Chelu. The pottery assemblage was analysed by Jane Young, and the Roman brooch was identified by Jen Mann (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit). Illustrations were produced by Sue Farr.

The report was edited by Naomi Field and collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Sue Farr November 8th 2000

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APPENDIX 1

| Context Type Description | | Finds | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Trench 1 | | Egit of Car | |
| 101 | L | Tarmac carpark surface | |
| 102 | <u>_</u> | Concreted cobbles | |
| 103 | | Hardcore | |
| 104 | | Dark ashy layer | |
| 105 | L | Garden deposits | |
| 106 | <u> </u> | Natural Sand | |
| | C | Palaeochannel | |
| 107 | F | | |
| 108 | | Fill of 107 | |
| 109 | Bank | Bank' material | |
| 110 | С | E/W ditch | |
| 111- | F | Fill of 110 | animal bone, pot |
| 112 | C | N/S ditch | |
| 113 | F | Fill of 112 | pot, tile |
| 114 | С | E/W ditch | |
| 115 | F | Fill of 114 | animal bone, pot, tile |
| Trench 2 | | | |
| 200 | L | Tarmac carpark surface | |
| 201 | L | Hardcore | |
| 202 | L | Black ashy layer | 2 |
| 203 | L | Garden deposits | animal bone, pot |
| 204 | L | Natural sand and gravel | * |
| Trench 3 | | | |
| 300 | L | Tarmac | |
| 301 | <u>_</u> | Bedding for tarmac | |
| 302 | Ī | Concrete | |
| 303 | L | Bedding for concrete | animal bone, tile |
| 304 | L | Bricks | |
| 305 | | Black ashy layer | |
| 306 | | Foundation Trench | |
| | C | | |
| 307 | F | Fill of 306 | |
| 308 | C | Modern Pit | |
| 309 | F | Fill of 308 | pot, brick |
| 310 | <u> </u> | Garden Deposit | |
| 311 | C | Posthole? | |
| 312 | F | Fill of 311 | |
| 313 | С | Posthole? | |
| 314 | F | Fill of 313 | |
| 315 | С | Ditch | |
| 316 | F | Fill of 315 | |
| 317 | L | Natural sands | |
| 318 | L | Garden Deposit | |
| 319 | С | Ditch | |
| 320 | F | Fill of 319 animal bone, | |
| 321 | С | Ditch | · |
| 322 | F | Upper fill of 321 | |

| 323 | С | rimary fill of 321 | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------------------------|----|--|--|--|
| 324 | С | Ditch | ch | | | |
| 325 | F | Fill of 324 | | | | |
| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
| 400 | L | Concrete | | | | |
| 401 | L | Hardcore | | | | |
| 402 | L | Garden Deposit | | | | |
| 403 | L | Ditch | | | | |
| 404 | F | Fill of 403 | | | | |
| 405 | С | Ditch | | | | |
| 406 | F | Fill of 405 | | | | |
| 407 | С | Ditch | | | | |
| 408 | F | Fill of 407 | | | | |
| 409 | L | Natural | | | | |
| 410 | L | Make up layer | | | | |
| 411 | Masonry | Wall | | | | |
| 412 | С | Foundation trench for 411 | | | | |

Archive Report on the Pottery from an Evaluation at Conging Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (HCHA00)

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

Introduction

A total of 11 sherds of pottery were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the early modern period. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 magnification, then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames and entered on an Access Database.

Condition

The assemblage is in a fair condition with only slight evidence of abrasion and although obviously not primary deposition, does not appear to have undergone much post-breakage movement. None of the material appears to have suffered plough damage.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of seven different, identifiable pottery types and one miscellaneous sherd were found on the site, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd count and vessel count where appropriate

| codename | full name | sherds | earliest date | latest date |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| GRE | Glazed Red Earthenware | 2 | 1500 | 1750 |
| LSLOC | Late Saxon Local Fabrics | 2 | 850 | 1050 |
| LSX | Non-local late Saxon fabrics | 1 | 850 | 1080 |
| MEDLOC | Medieval local fabrics | 1 | 1150 | 1450 |
| MISC | Unidentified types | 1 | 400 | 1900 |
| PORC | Porcelain | 1 | 1700 | 1900 |
| WEMS | Wheelthrown Early Medieval | Sand 2 | 1050 | 1220 |
| | and Shell tempered | | | |
| WS | White stoneware | 1 | 1730 | 1770 |

A single sherd from context 203 may date to the Roman period. The sherd is from a jar, the fabric is a local quartz-tempered type and may equally well belong to the Roman or post-Roman period.

The earliest post-Roman pottery (from contexts 203 and 111) is of Late Saxon date, all three vessels are probably of previously unrecognised local or Lincoln types. Two sherds are from jars of 11th to 12th century date, they are both in a ware type peculiar to the area around the Bain Valley (WEMS). A single medieval sherd is present in the assemblage, the sherd is from a local source and can only be dated to within the

medieval period. Little post-medieval or early modern pottery was recovered from the site.

4. Summary and Recommendations

Despite the small size of the ceramic collection, this is an important group of pottery. The material includes three new Late Saxon types, two of which have temporarily been removed to a LAS fabric type series. The presence of these vessels suggests the importance of Horncastle during the Late Saxon period and adds to the growing evidence for a pottery production centre in the area. The WEMS jar rim from context 320 provides for the first time, a definite link, between a minor Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly ware fabric found in Lincoln and the early medieval fabrics being produced in the Bain Valley. Ceramic assemblages from this area have not yet been categorised and the entire group therefore should be kept for future research.

Pottery Archive HCHA00

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

| context | cname | sub fabric | form type | sherds | vessels | part | action | description | date |
|---------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|---------|------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 111 | LSLOC | grey sandy | jar | 1 | 1 | BS | | quartz with odd greensand;? wolds source;polished ext | late 9th to 11th |
| 111 | WEMS | В | jar? | 1 | 1 | BS | | | 11-12th |
| 113 | MEDLOC | | jug | 1 | 1 | BS | | reduced glaze;fine subround quartz | 13th to 15th |
| 115 | GRE | | ? | 1 | 1 | BS | | flake | 16th to 18th |
| 115 | GRE | | bowl | 1 | 1 | rim | | | 16th to 18th |
| 115 | WS | | dish | 1 | 1 | rim | | drab | mid 18th |
| 203 | LSLOC | grey sandy | jar/pitcher | 1 | 1 | rim | draw; removed to LAS fabric type series | Wheel thrown rim; distinct applied pressings at neck either from adding rim or a handle;grey to dark grey fabric with lighter grey interior;abundant subround to round poorly sorted quartz occ greensand occ flint & chalk | late 9th to mid11th |
| 203 | LSX | grey sandy | jar | 1 | 1 | BS | removed to LAS fabric type series | light grey fabric with black ext surfaces; finesubround quartz >0.4mm; similar to LSLS fabric D | late 9th to late 10th |
| 203 | MISC | | jar | 1 | 1 | BS | | ? ID;quartz & greensand;grey core with buff ext surfs;wheelthrown;? date;soot | Roman or late 9th to 11th |
| 309 | PORC | | saucer | 1 | 1 | BS | | applied blue sprig dec | 19th |
| 320 | WEMS | С | jar | 1 | 1 | rim | | sharp everted LEMS type rim | 12th |

Tile Archive HCHA00

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

| context | cname | full name | frags | weight | description | date |
|---------|------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|---|--------------|
| 113 | PNR | Peg, nib or ridge tile | 1 | 0 | medieval;flat roofer;semi vtrified | 13th to 16th |
| 115 | MISC | Unidentified types | 2 | 0 | brick or fired clay | 16th to 18th |
| 115 | PNR | Peg, nib or ridge tile | 3 | 0 | various fabrics; medieval to post- medieval flat roofers | 13th to 17th |
| 303 | MODTILDISC | Modern tile (discarded) | 1 | 84 | | 18th to 20th |
| 309 | BRKDISC | brick (discarded) | 1 | 150 | | 18th to 20th |
| 309 | BRKDISC | brick (discarded) | 1 | 40 | | 18th to 20th |
| 309 | BRKDISC | brick (discarded) | 1 | 980 | | 18th to 20th |

APPENDIX 3

HCHA00 Bone Report

Richard Moore

A total of 475g of animal bone was retrieved from five contexts. Cattle, sheep and pig bones were present. Most of the material consisted of fairly small fragments, much of it not readily identifiable.

At least two bones in context (111) had clear evidence of butchery, in the form of deep transverse knife cuts. The damage to the cattle foreleg bones in context (115) is not typical of butchery, and may have been sustained after deposition, suggesting that this deposit has been disturbed.

An upper jaw of a sheep in (111) is from a fairly old animal, probably a breeding ewe that had come to the end of its productive life.

Generally, the assemblage is typical of domestic waste. Where meat is brought into an area from a slaughter site elsewhere, there tends to be biases in the parts of the body that are represented; this does not appear to be the case here, suggesting that the bones are from animals raised very locally. However, with such a small assemblage, any such general statements are very tentative.

In addition to the animal bone, a single shell was retrieved from context (115). This was an upper valve of a common oyster, and showed four annual growth rings. Oysters were very common food items until the later part of the nineteenth century.

Bone List

The table lists all the bones found. The species of animal has been given where there is reasonable confidence about its identification. An indication of the general size and robustness of bones is given in uncertain cases, as, for instance, 'cow-sized'. Small fragments that defy even this level of identification are listed as 'unidentified'. Uncertain identifications are generally indicated in the comments column. This is also used to record the parts of the bone present where it is incomplete, its size where this is significant, and also whether there are signs of burning or of butchery marks.

Teeth, including those in place in mandibles and maxillae, are listed using the following abbreviations: i - incisor, c - canine, pm - pre-molar, m - molar, d - deciduous or 'milk tooth'. The degree of wear of mandibular teeth is indicated by a letter, based on those given in Hillson (1986, pages 327-330, after Grant, 1982). For example, 'dpm4(g)' should be read as fourth deciduous pre-molar with wear to stage g.

| Context | Animal | Bone | Side | Comments |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-------|---|
| 111 | Sheep | Maxilla | Right | Large fragment with pm2, pm3, pm4, m1, m2, m3 |
| 111 | Cattle | Phalanx | | Primary phalanx, some damage to distal end, otherwise complete. |
| 111 | Cattle | Scapula | Left | Part of glenoid. Transverse knife cuts. |
| 111 | ?Pig | Humerus | | Fragment of shaft, cut marks. |
| 111 | Cattle | Humerus | Left | Fragment of lateral condyle. |
| Weight (1 | 11): 115g | | | • |
| 115 | Sheep | Tibia | Left | Distal end. |
| 115 | Pig | Femur | Right | Distal end |
| 115 | Cattle | Radius | Right | Part of distal end of shaft, probably unfused, knife cuts. |
| 115 | Cattle | Ulna | Right | Distal end of shaft, articulates with above. |
| 115 | Sheep-sized | Vertebra | | Fragment with lateral process. |
| 115 | Sheep-sized | Ribs | | 4 fragments. |
| 115 | Cow-sized | Rib | | Fragment. |
| Weight (1 | 15): 285g | | | |

| 203 | Sheep | Humerus | Right | Distal end |
|----------|------------|------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Weight (| 203): 10g | | | |
| 303 | Sheep | Tibia | Right | Distal end and part of shaft |
| Weight (| 303): 10g | | | |
| 320 | ?Cattle | Radius | Right | Part of distal end of shaft. |
| 320 | Sheep | Metatarsal | | Shaft fragment. |
| 320 | Cow-sized | | | Long-bone shaft fragment. |
| 320 | Cow-sized | | | Long-bone shaft fragment. |
| Weight (| 2027): 50g | | | - |

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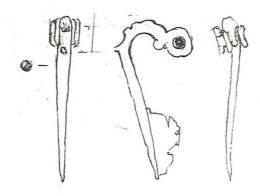
APPENDIX 4

A Copper Alloy Brooch from Horncastle (HCHA00)

Part of a copper alloy brooch <1> was received for examination following X-ray by the Lincoln City and County Museum Laboratory. It has been sketched and recorded on a standard finds card to basic archive level.

The brooch <1> is corroded with a slightly bent, round-sectioned bow; the pin is missing and the (solid) catchplate is broken and torn. Although X-rayed, details of its construction are unclear but it appears to have been manufactured in one piece, having a four-coil bilateral spring with internal chord. It is almost certainly of late La Tène/Nauheim Derivative type, dating to the mid/late 1st century AD.

jem 07/11/00



Actual size

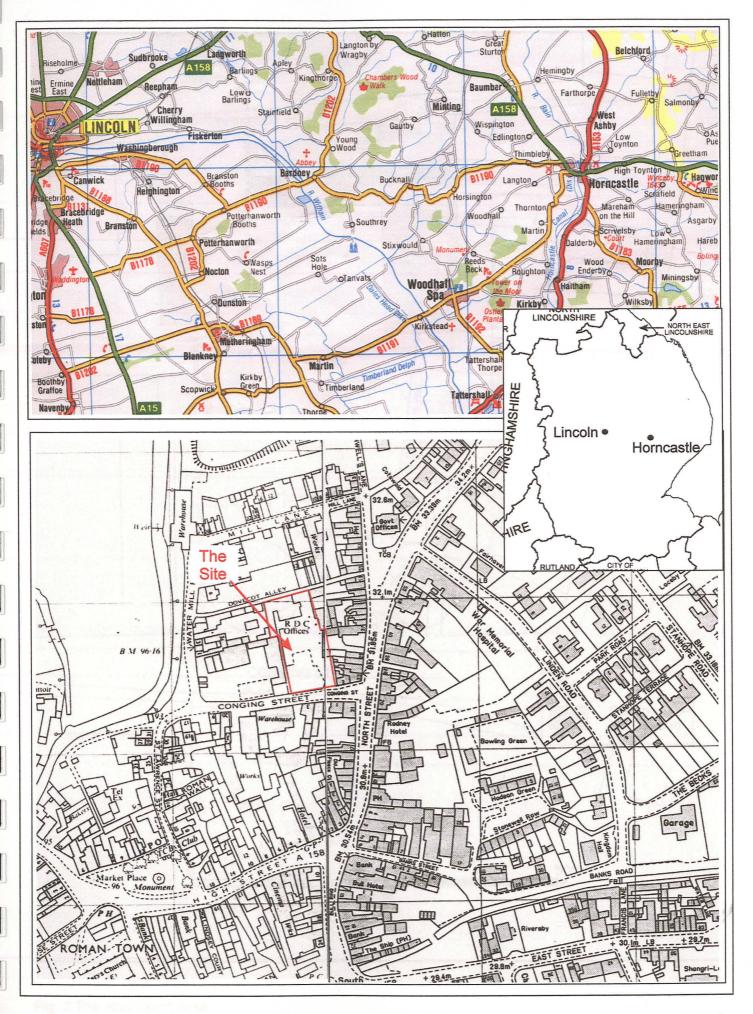


Fig. 1 Location of site, reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS Map. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS License number AL 50424A.

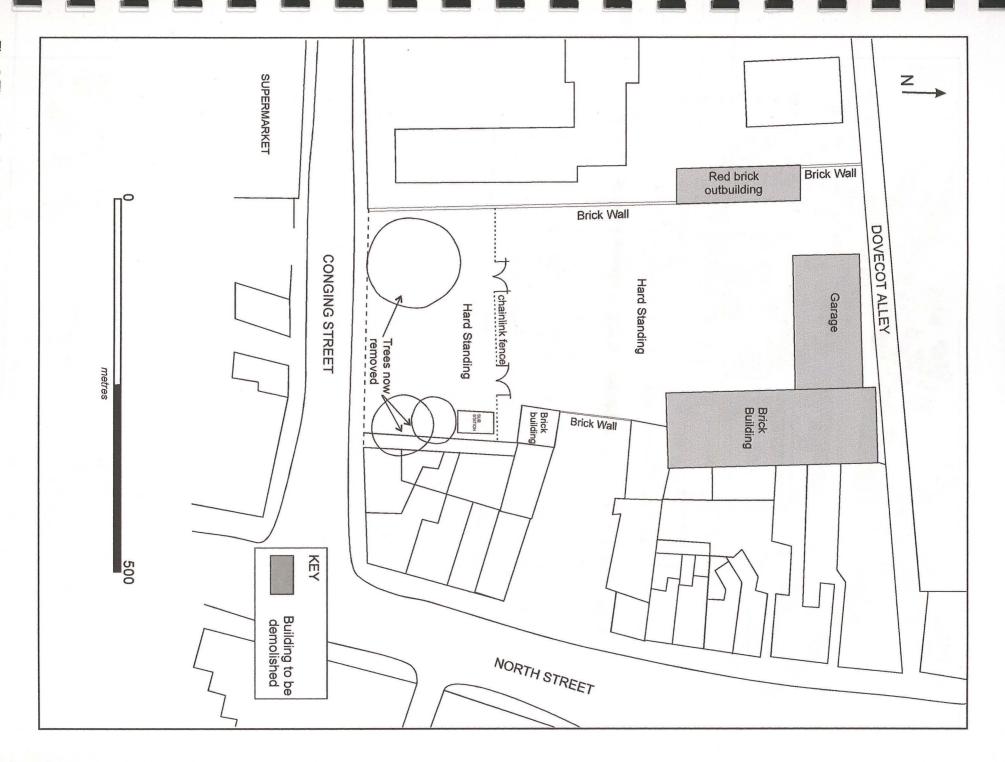


Fig. 2 The application area.

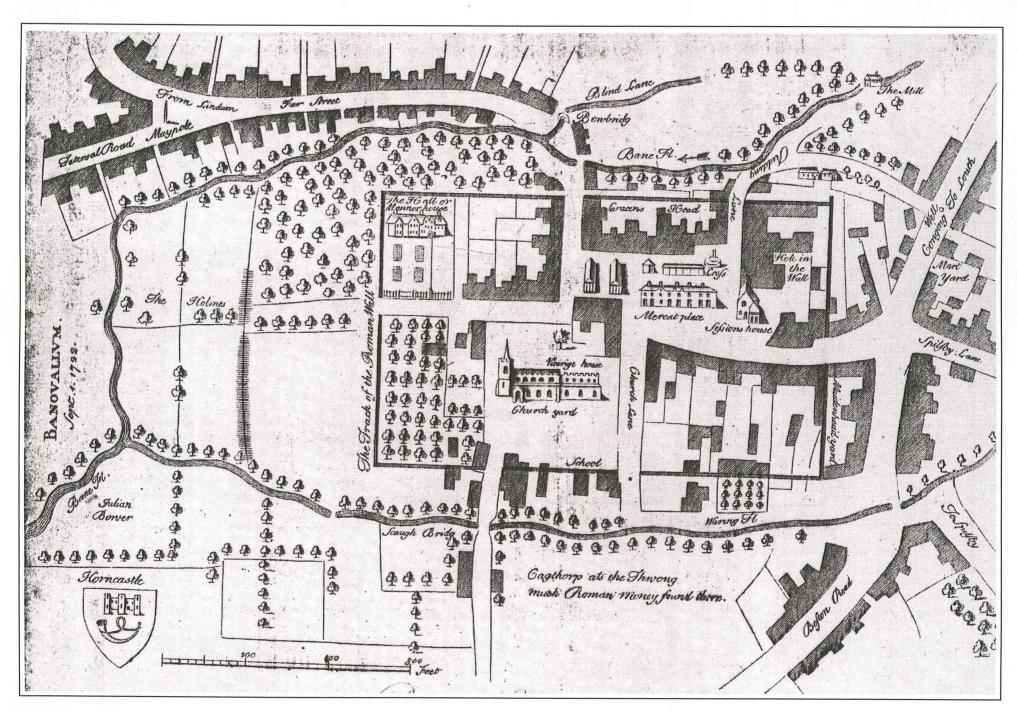


Fig.3 Detail of W.Stukely's 1722 map of Horncastle.

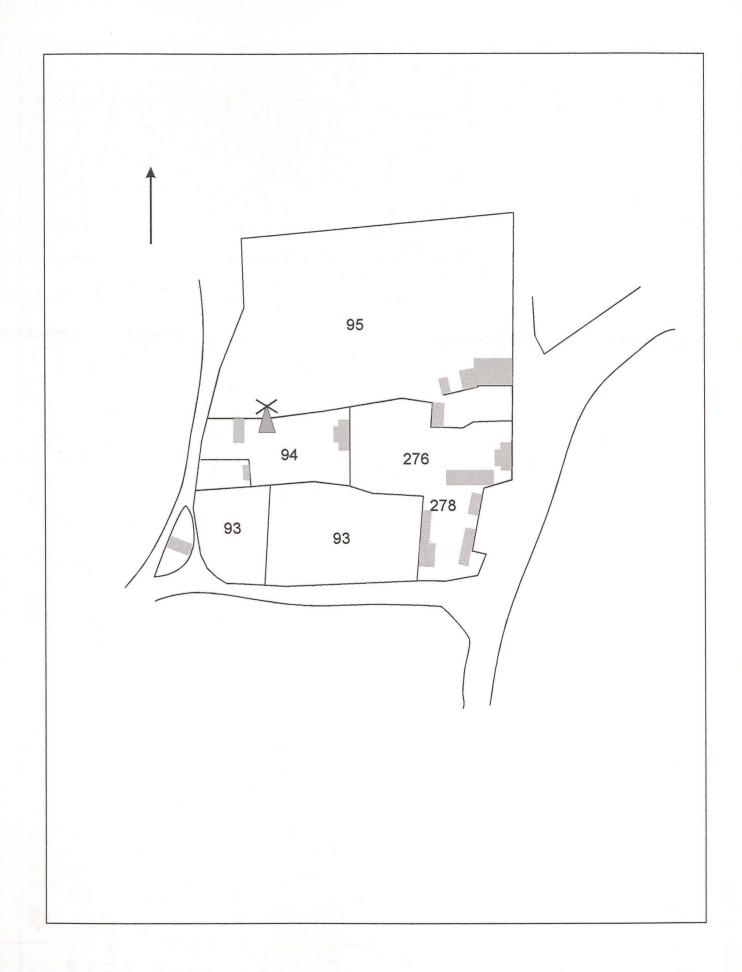


Fig. 4 Sketch map of the 1880 Tithe Award showing open ground

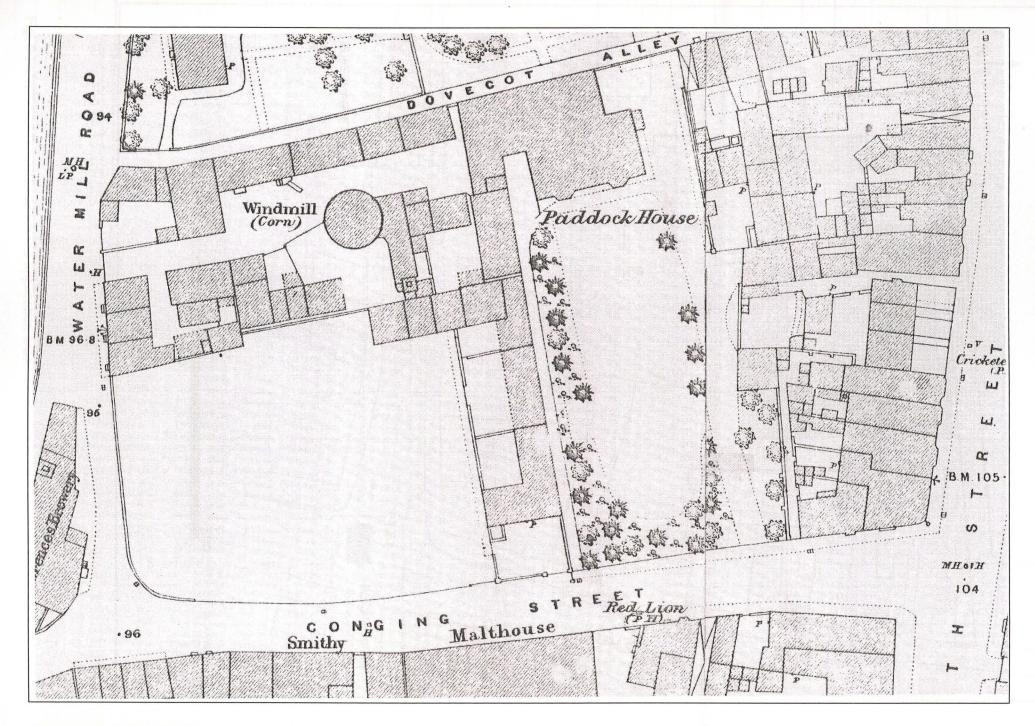


Fig. 5 Detail of 1888 Ordnance Survey map.

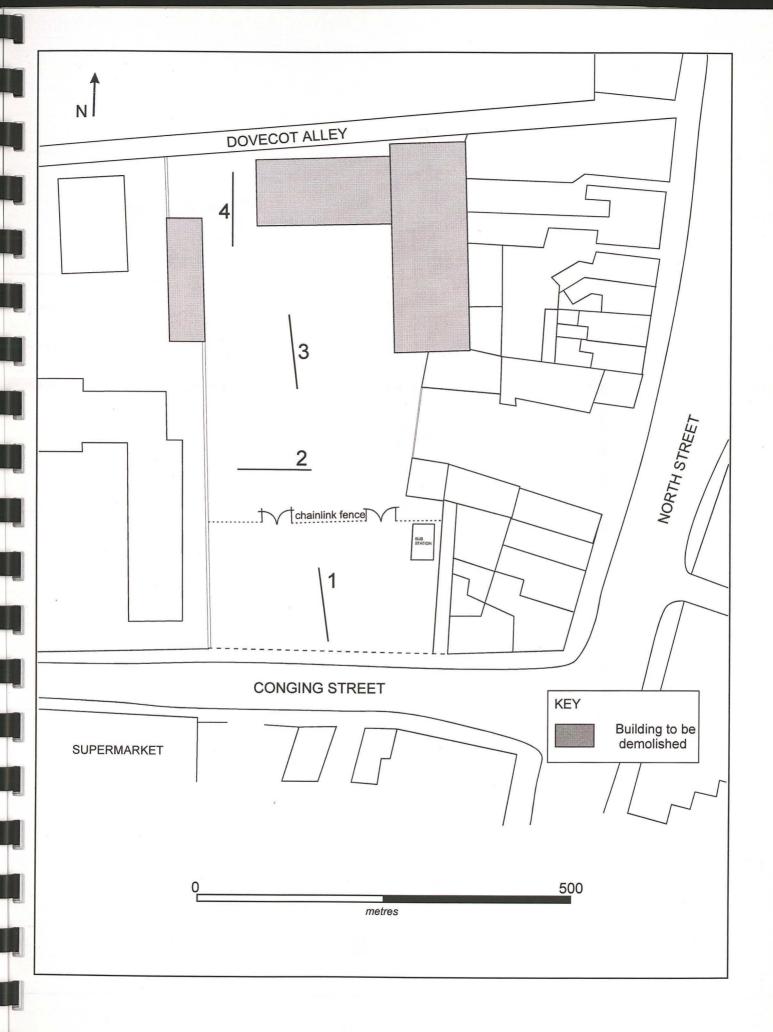
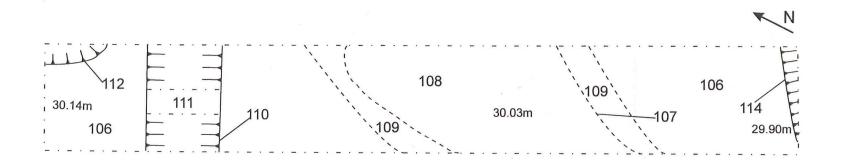


Fig. 6 Location of Trenches within the application area.



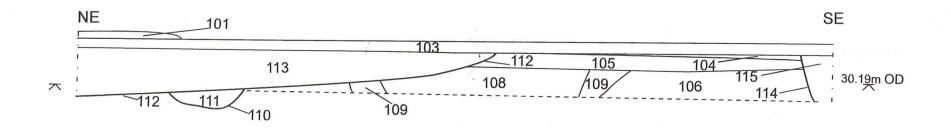




Fig. 7 Plan and Section of Trench 1.

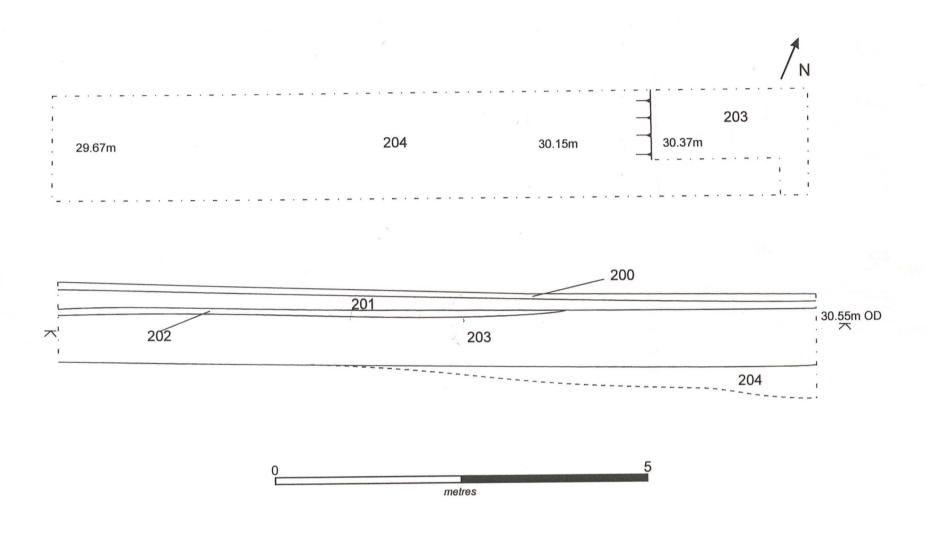


Fig. 8 Plan and Section of Trench 2.

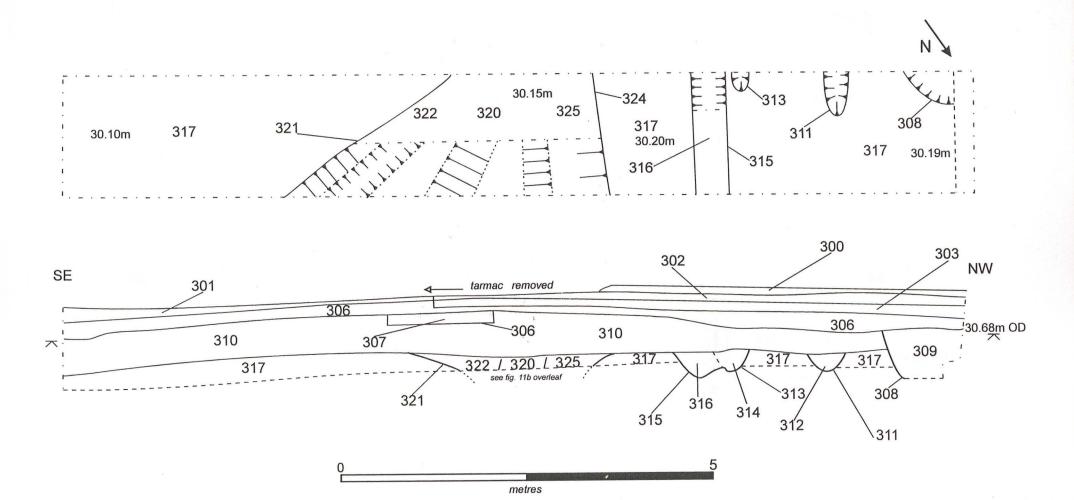
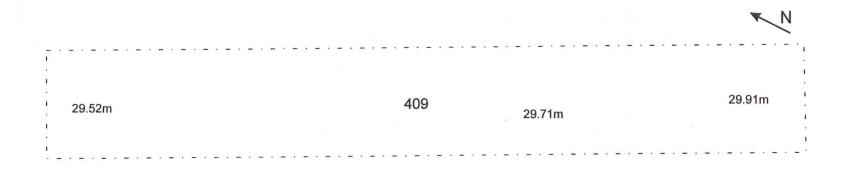


Fig. 9 Plan and Section of Trench 3.



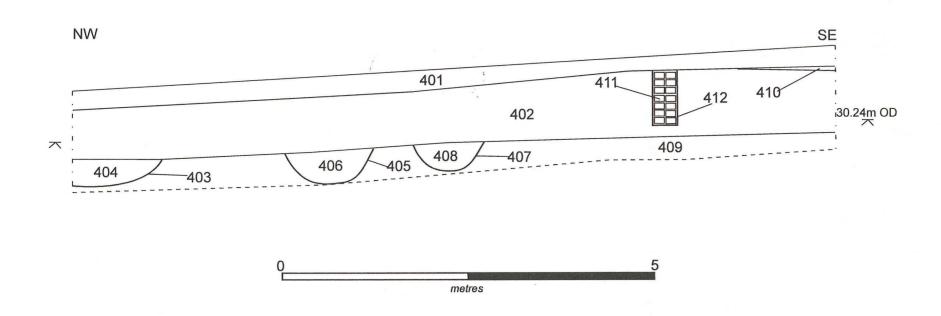


Fig. 10 Plan and Section of Trench 4.

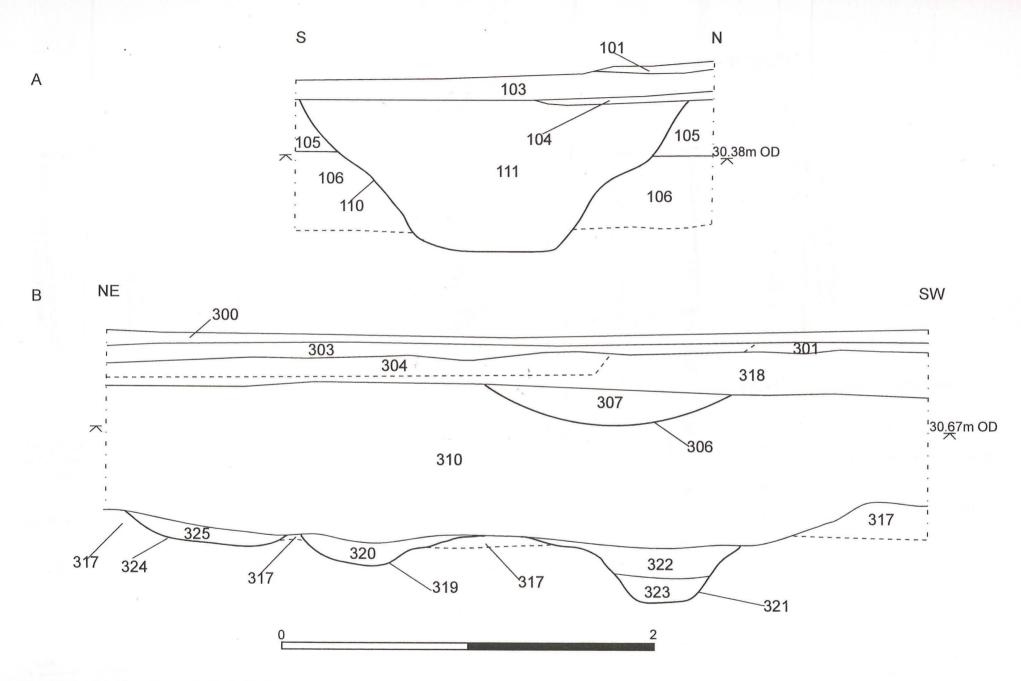
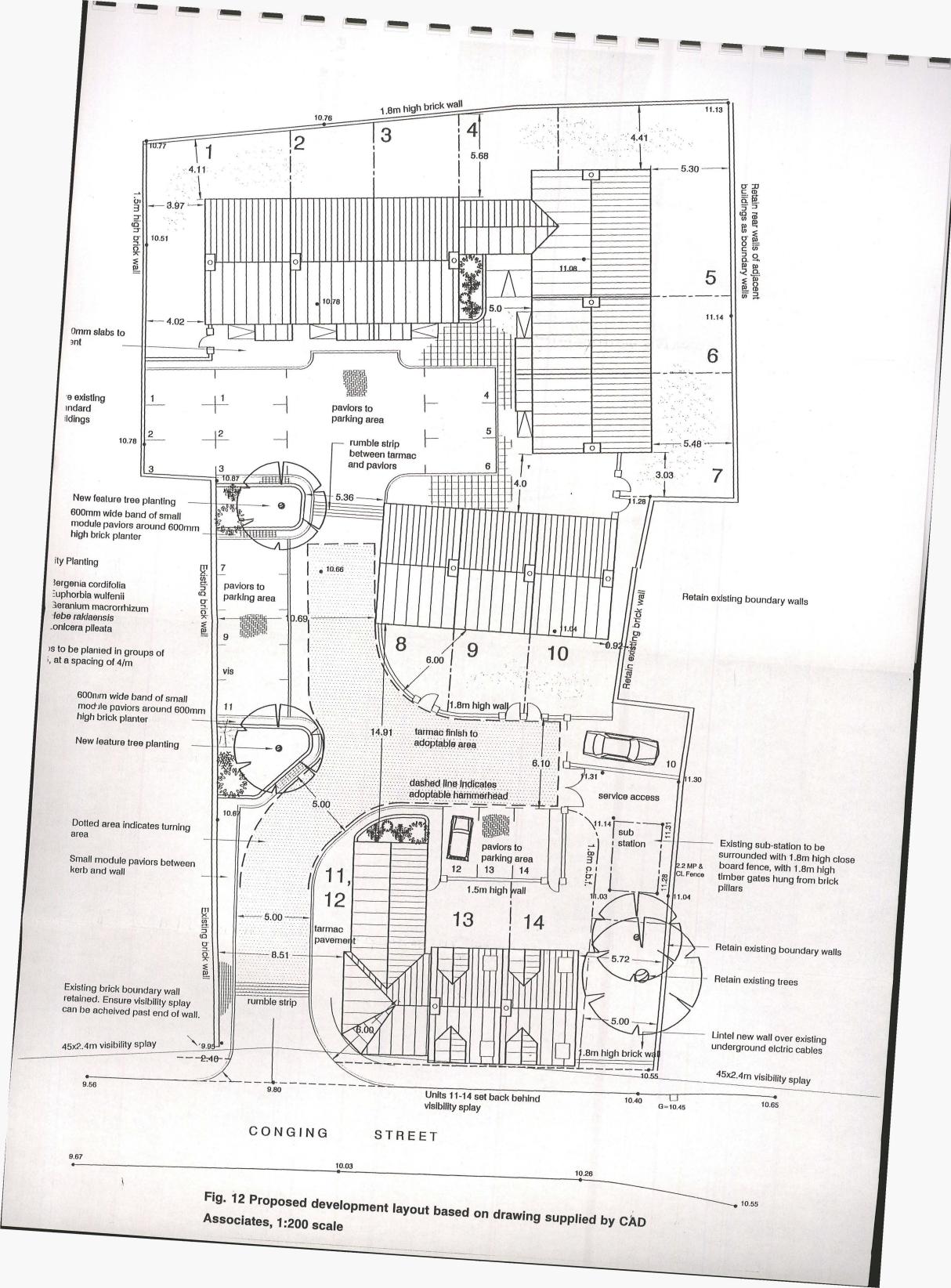


Fig. 11 A. Section through ditch 110

B. Detail of South West facing section of Trench 3

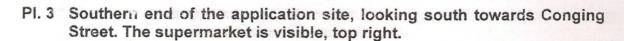




Pl. 1 Paddock House, former offices of Horncastle Rural District Council, at the rear of the application site. The photograph of the demolished building was supplied by P.Wheatley.



Pl. 2 Rear of the application site, showing existing buildings (looking north towards Dovecot Alley). The spoil heaps mark evaluation trenches 3 & 4.







Pl. 4 Surfaced area at the Conging Street frontage, with trees from garden of Paddock House (looking east).







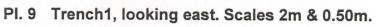
PI. 6 Storage sheds to the NE of the site. The hedge is beside Dovecot Alley (looking north).







Pl. 8 Trench 1, looking south-east. Scales 2m.

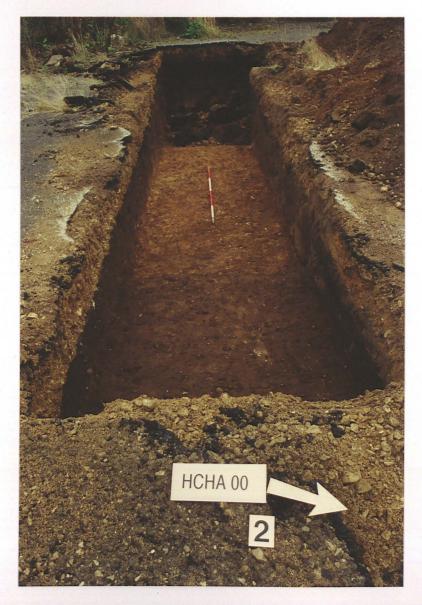






Pl. 10 Ditch 110, looking west. Scales 0.50m.

Pl. 11 Trench 2, looking west. Scales 2m.





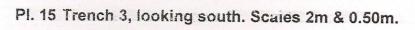
Pl. 12 Trench 2 section looking west. Scales 2m.

Pl. 13 Garden deposit 203, looking south. Scales 2m & 0.50m.





Pl. 14 Trench 3, looking south. Scales 2m & 0.50m.







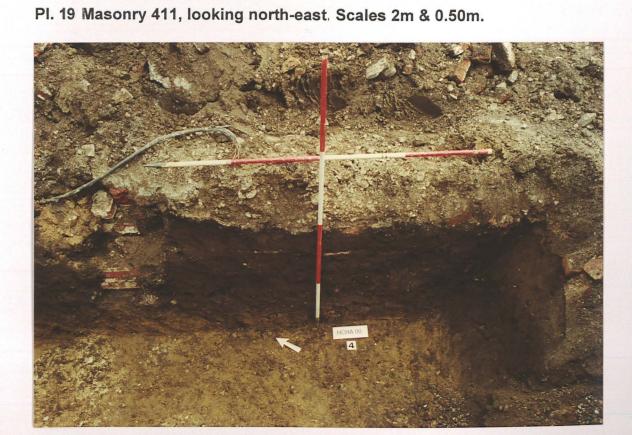
PI. 16 Ditches 319 & 321, looking north-east. Scales 2m.







Pl. 18 Trench 4, looking north-west. Scales 2m & 0.50m.





Pl. 20 Ditch 403, looking north-east. Scales 2m.

Pl. 21 Ditches 405 & 407, looking north-east. Scales 2m.

