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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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MAIN ROAD STICKFORD TF3560 6028
Watching Brief

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Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the above site on behalf of J.C. and W. Chatterton and R. Scarborough. This site has been allocated Accession Number 54/93 by the City and County Museum, Lincoln where the paper archive will be deposited.

Site Location

The building plot for a single dwelling with attached garage lies adjacent to the new by-pass and immediately south of Manor Farm, which is surrounded by earthworks indicating the presence of extensive former settlement remains.

Background

The desk-top study showed that the potential for medieval remains on the proposed development site was low. Geophysical survey across the site located a number of weak anomalies which might represent archaeological remains. Apart from presumed medieval plough furrows only one other anomaly was identified which would be affected by the housing development (Fig.1). It was also considered possible that prehistoric and/or Roman remains might be found. It was therefore proposed that no evaluation excavation was needed prior to development but that a watching brief during groundworks operations should be undertaken.

Method

An area 16m x 8.5m was stripped of turf, using a JCB, prior to excavation of the footings (Pl.1). No pottery or any other artefacts were seen in the exposed topsoil.

The foundations were excavated to a depth between 900m and 1m, using a standard 600m bucket (Pl. 2). The topsoil was a dark

brown clay loam, 600mm deep, and it overlay a sticky ochre-coloured clay, which contained occasional chalk flecks.

2m east from the south-west corner of the building was a shallow channel/gully containing grey clay which crossed the south wall trench. It was 1.60m wide and its base coincided with the bottom of the trench. It was only visible beneath the topsoil making it a minimum of 0.40m deep (Pl. 3). At first it was thought to be the curving feature recorded on the resistivity survey. However, when the internal partition trenches were excavated to the north it was observed again running slightly at an angle NNW-SSE (Fig. 2, Pl.4). At this point the gully was only 1.20m wide and when it was observed further north crossing the fireplace position it had narrowed even further (Pls 5 and 6).

There was no sign of any other features, either archaeological or natural in origin. Two pieces of tile were retrieved near to the gully in the south trench. A single piece of medieval shelly pottery was found in the fireplace area which may have come from the gully. Excavation of the east and north wall of the building was not observed.

Conclusion

The low level of activity which was predicted by the archaeological assessment was confirmed during the watching brief.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to Mr Thornley and the team on site for their co-operation. Dave Andrew Building Contractor kindly supplied a plan of the building trenches which forms the base of Fig. 2.

Naomi Field
February 4th 1994

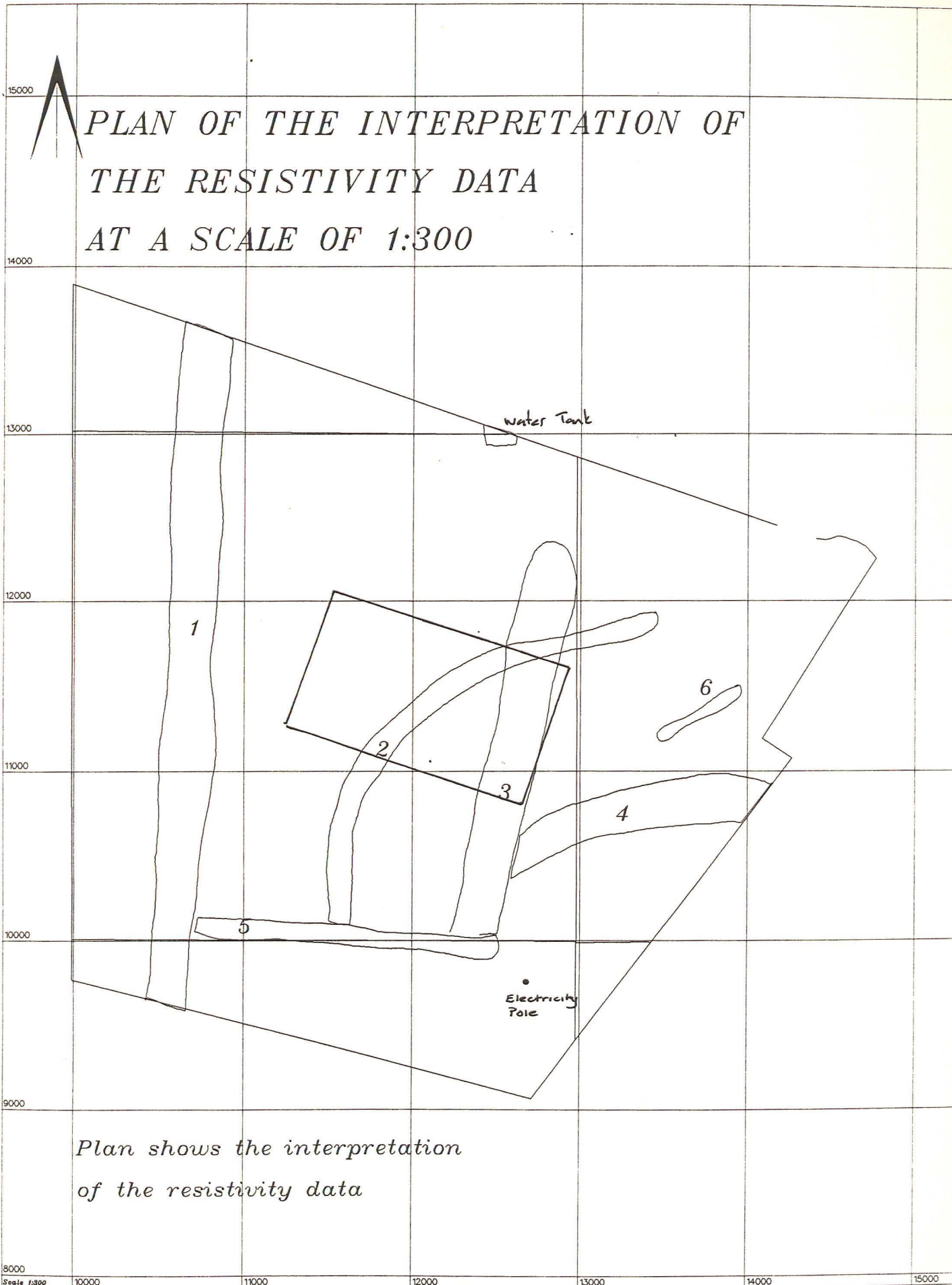


Fig.1 Interpretation of the resistivity results with position of the proposed house superimposed. (Scale 1:300)

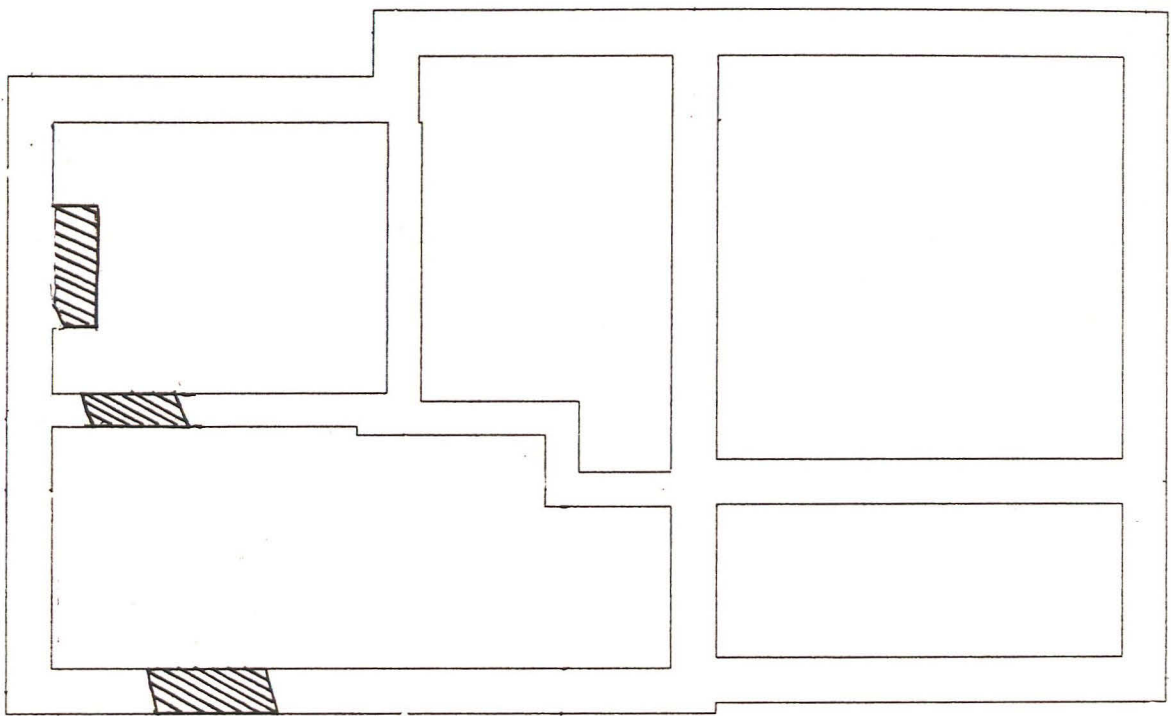


Fig. 2 Foundations layout showing position of gully. Scale 1:100. (Based on plan supplied by Mr D.Andrew).



Pl.1 Removal of turf, looking south west.

Pl.2 Excavation of foundations looking north east towards by-pass.





Pl.3 Gully in trench at south west corner of building.

Pl.4 Gully running towards north west corner of building. Scales mark position of gully in trenches (scales 1m and 50cm).





Pl.5 Base of gully revealed in fireplace position, looking north (scales 1m and 50cm).

Pl.6 Base of gully revealed in fireplace position, looking east (scales 1m and 50cm).

