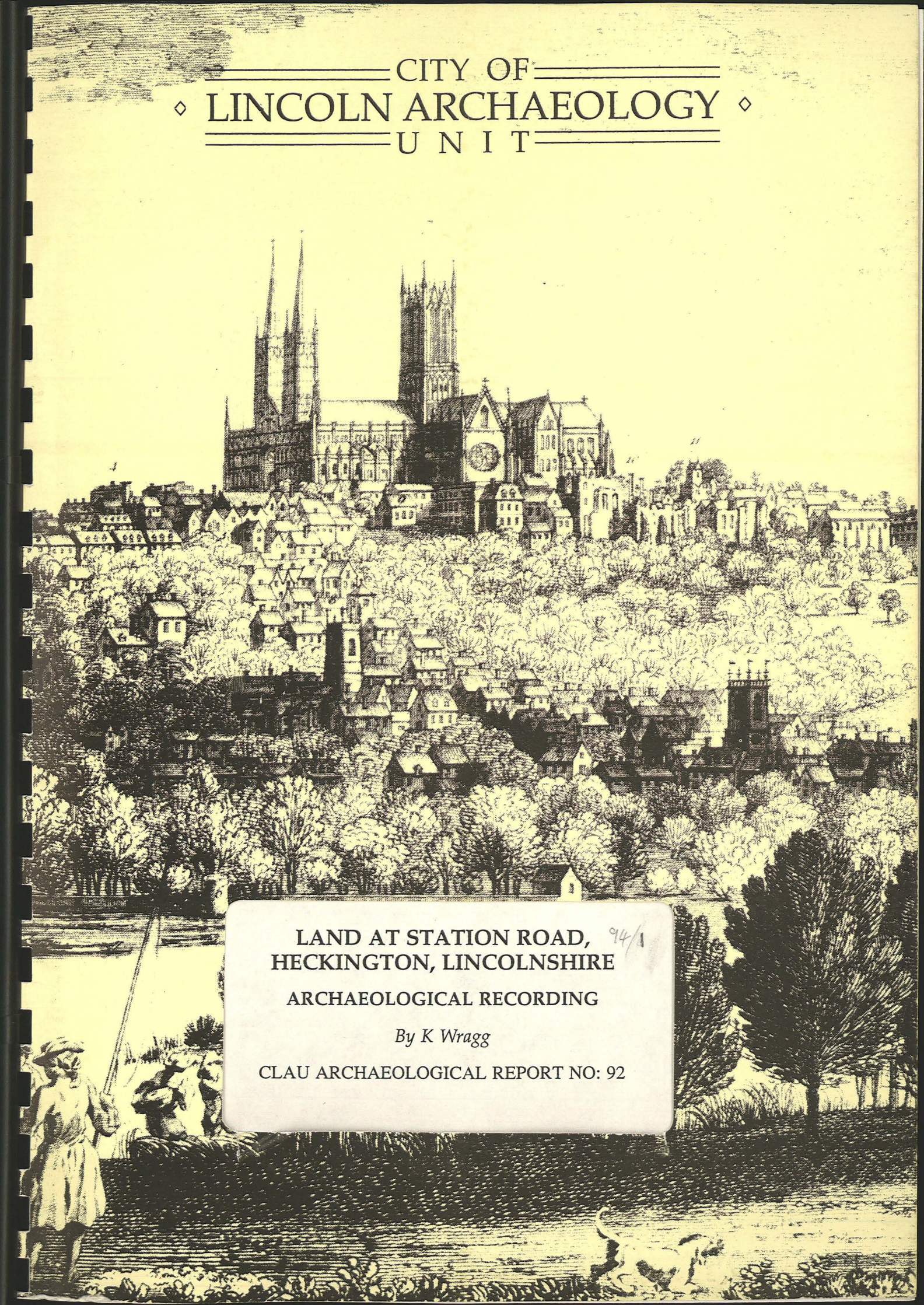


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



LAND AT STATION ROAD, 94/1
HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 92

Events LJ6104
LI6105

A

Report to
Warrington Builders & Developers

March 1994

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LAND AT STATION ROAD, ^{94/1}
HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE
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STATION ROAD, HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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LAND AT STATION ROAD, HECKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

Introduction

During January 1994, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Clive Wicks Associates (consultant architects), on behalf of Warrington Builders and Developers, to provide an archaeological evaluation in response to a Planning Condition.

The project was centered on a proposed residential development comprising twenty-four detached and semi-detached dwellings on land to the east of Station Road in the village of Heckington (see Fig.1). The land itself was under a mixture of rough grass, overgrown briars and Hawthorn bushes, and covered a total surface area of approximately 7500 sq.m.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

Background

The site lies in an area of considerable historical and archaeological interest with finds dating from the Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods recorded in and around the village of Heckington. These discoveries are detailed within the Desk-top Assessment document (C.L.A.U. Report no. 83) commissioned as the first element of the archaeological evaluation of this site.

Finds in the immediate vicinity of the evaluation site include pottery and chance discoveries of coins dating from the Roman period, together with signs of Medieval ridge and furrow to the south and east.

Methodology

In accordance with an archaeological specification agreed with the North Kesteven District Archaeological Officer, Ms N.Nuttall, a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out on this site during February 1994.

The first element of the evaluation comprised a programme of geo-physical investigation (using a magnetometer) carried out across the whole site in an attempt to identify any underlying archaeological features. It was the original intention to utilise data from this survey to locate the optimum positions for the series of five trial trenches also planned as part of the evaluation. Unfortunately, owing to the overgrown nature of much of the site, together with obstruction caused by several surface concentrations of scrap metal and other dumped material, only a very small proportion of the site could be surveyed, producing inconclusive results (see Appendix B).

It was therefore decided that the trial trenches would be evenly spaced across the development area, in locations mutually beneficial to both Developer and Archaeologist (see Fig.2). Each trench was machine excavated, measuring approximately 10.0m by 2.0m, and ultimately, owing to the lack of archaeological horizons, finished depth was approximately 1.0-1.2m

Results

Very little variation in the ground make-up was seen across this whole site, with only five individual deposits recorded. The earliest of these deposits was a layer of moderate-well compacted mixed sands and gravels [102], ranging in colour from mid (dull) red-brown to orange-brown. This layer was approximately 250mm thick to the Limit Of Excavation (L.O.E.) and was seen in each of the five trial trenches.

[102] was overlain by two different layers, [101] in trial trenches 1-4, and [104] in trial trench 5. Layer [101] was a moderate-well compacted mid orange-brown very slightly sandy (c.10%) clay, containing small pieces of flint, limestone, rounded pebbles and pea-grit/ gravel, while [104] was an orange coarse grained sand, containing pebbles/ gravel and occasional small pieces of limestone and flint (with inclusions making up approximately 50% of the deposit). Layer

[104], was itself then sealed by [103], a moderately compacted mid-light brown sandy earth containing no obvious inclusions.

Both [103] and the previously mentioned layer [101] were then overlain by the layer of topsoil and extant vegetation present across the entire site, [100]. This layer comprised a moderate-well compacted mid grey-brown clayey earth (50:50), containing foliage, moss and grass roots towards the upper part of the deposit, together with moderate amounts of small-medium sized rounded pebbles, and very occasional small pieces of degraded brick/tile.

Conclusions

From the information gained from this evaluation it appears that, certainly in the areas investigated, little or no evidence of archaeological activity remains on this site. Whether this is because of an actual lack of occupation in the area of the site, or as result of any existing remains being removed by more recent activity, including agriculture, is not known.

In addition, virtually no dating evidence was seen on the site, with the exception of one small piece of brick/tile recovered from the topsoil layer [100] in Trial Trench 1 which proved to date from the modern period.

It therefore seems likely that the area of land covered by the proposed development site has remained largely undisturbed, with the possibility that, as in more recent times, the fields have been used as pasture and grazing land for some considerable time.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
5	Context records
4	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 33.94, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this project.

Landscape Research Centre Ltd

Magnetometer Survey

Heckington, Lincolnshire

The site is divided in the centre by a hedge, and to the west of the hedge it proved impossible to carry out the survey due to the presence of dried scrub and bracken, in places shoulder high. It was decided to survey the east side of the site, which would involve two 30 metre grids. This side of the site, although also overgrown in places, was at least for the most part passable. However, a number of recent metal objects were seen lying around the site, and while the survey team did their best to remove these (including a number of tin cans, a wooden pallet with iron nails and two mini coach seats), it is very likely that many metallic objects remained hidden either in the longer grass or just beneath the surface. This level of recent metal debris has a detrimental effect on the results obtained by magnetometer survey, in effect masking the signals of any underlying archaeology, if such exists. The survey area was thus thirty metres wide (east/west), bounded by the hedge on the west and a building to the east. Having completed the first grid, we proceeded to lay out the second (which incidentally had a caravan sitting in the east side of the grid which would have had an extreme effect for a radius of five metres around it). While setting out this grid, one of the team members unfortunately found a further wooden pallet by standing on one of the nails protruding through the wood. This meant that the grid could not be completed due to injury and the results that could have been expected would have been of dubious value due to the debris and the caravan, as evidenced by the images obtained from the data in the first grid.

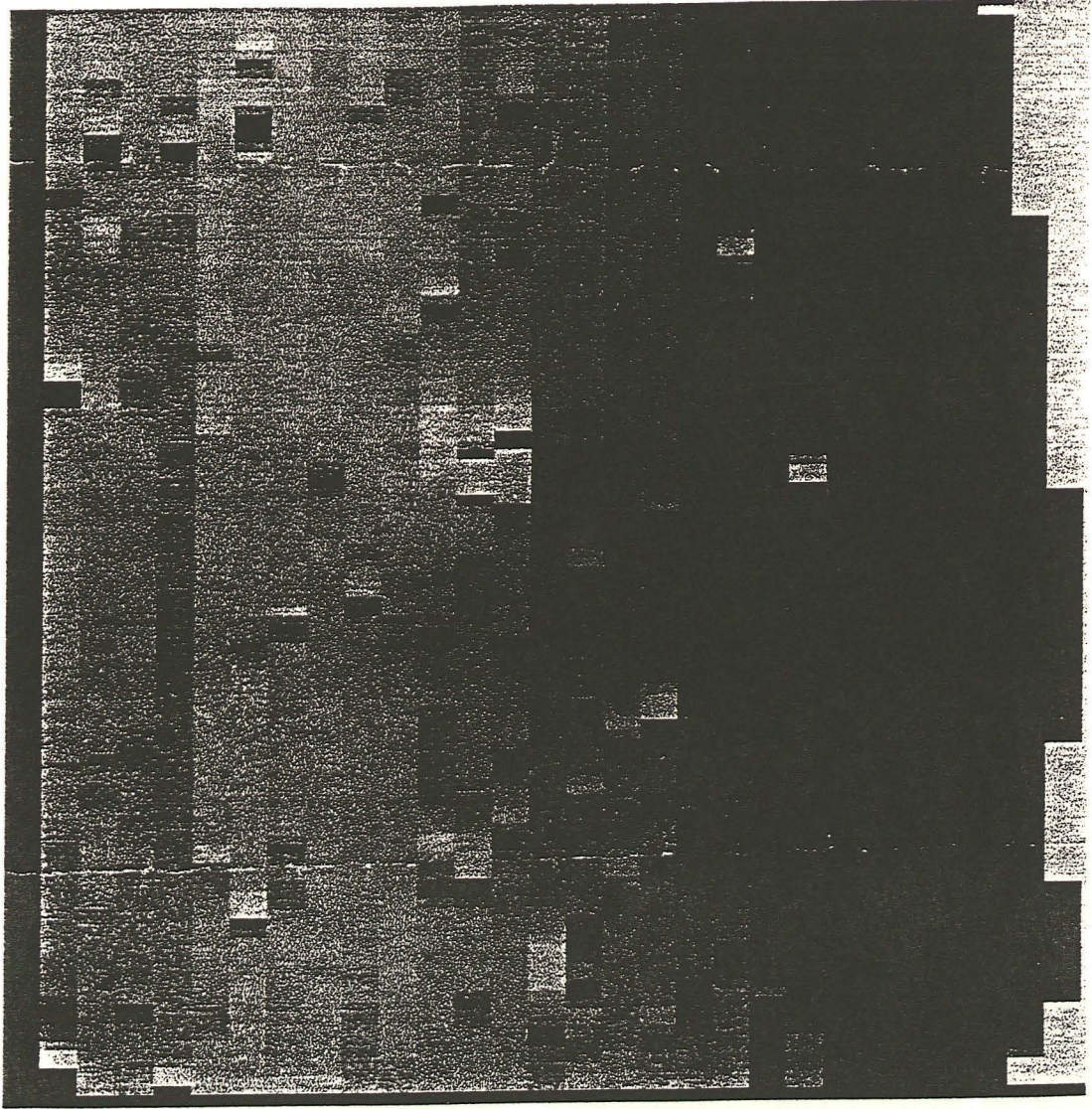
I have included three forms of the image and these are detailed below. The extreme white (or black) in the east of the image is caused by the proximity of the building to the east, effectively acting as a large magnet.

Plan one - This is a contrast enhanced and smoothed image. Note the dark areas caused by metallic debris. No obvious features.

Plan two - This is a grey scale image using 250 greys. Anomalies are usually areas of lighter or darker grey, with high magnetic signals as black or white. The effect of the proximity of the building is seen by an area of white to the east.

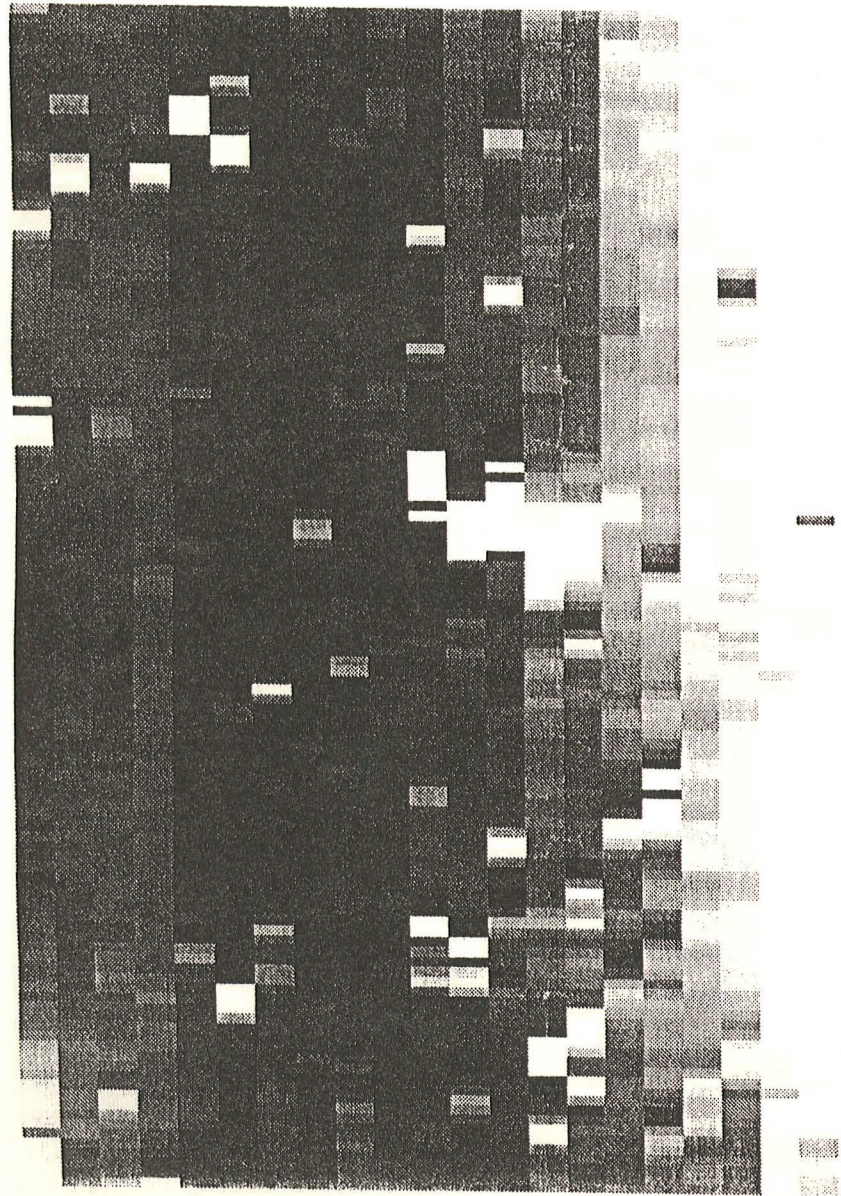
Plan three - This is the inverse image of plan two. Both plan two and plan three needed the data to be enhanced in order to obviate the strength of the signals caused by the proximity of the building.

In conclusion, after discussion with Lisa Donel, it was felt that further investigation with the magnetometer was not viable with the site in its present condition.



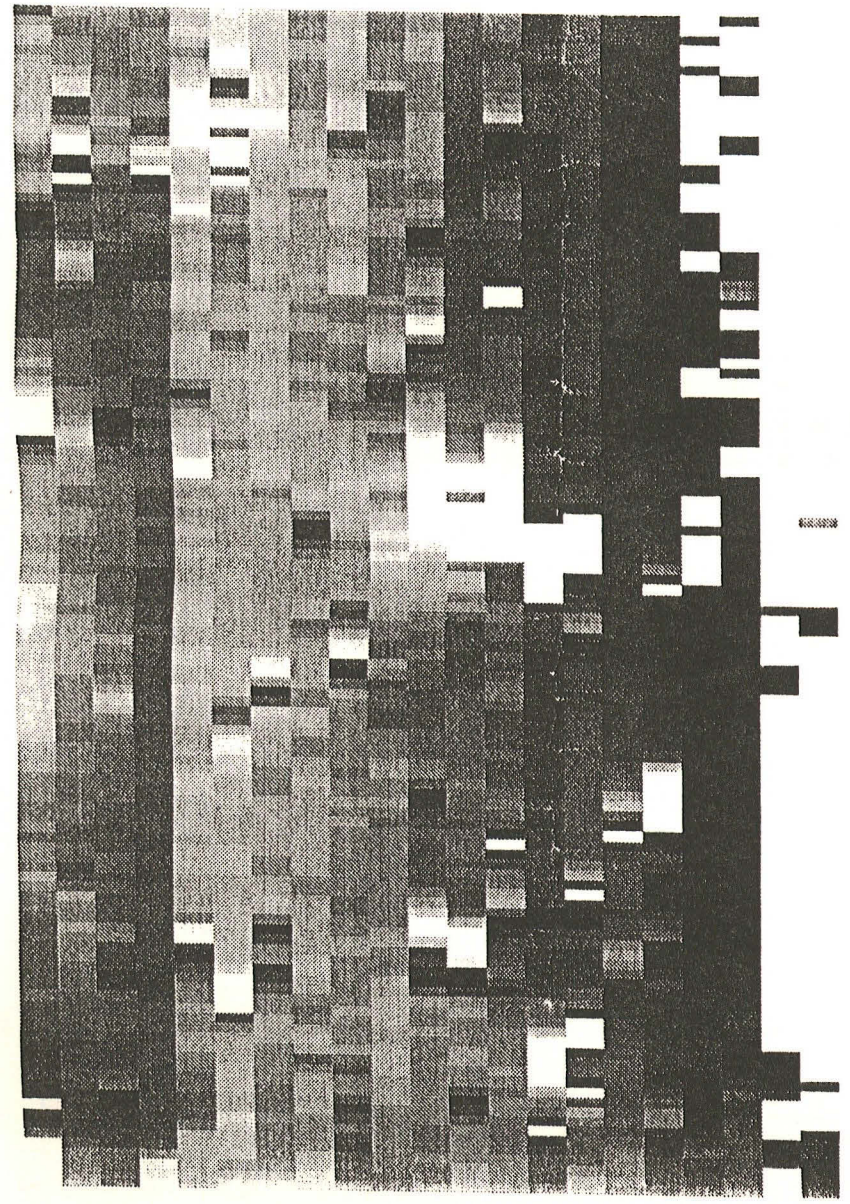
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Bwidth 200

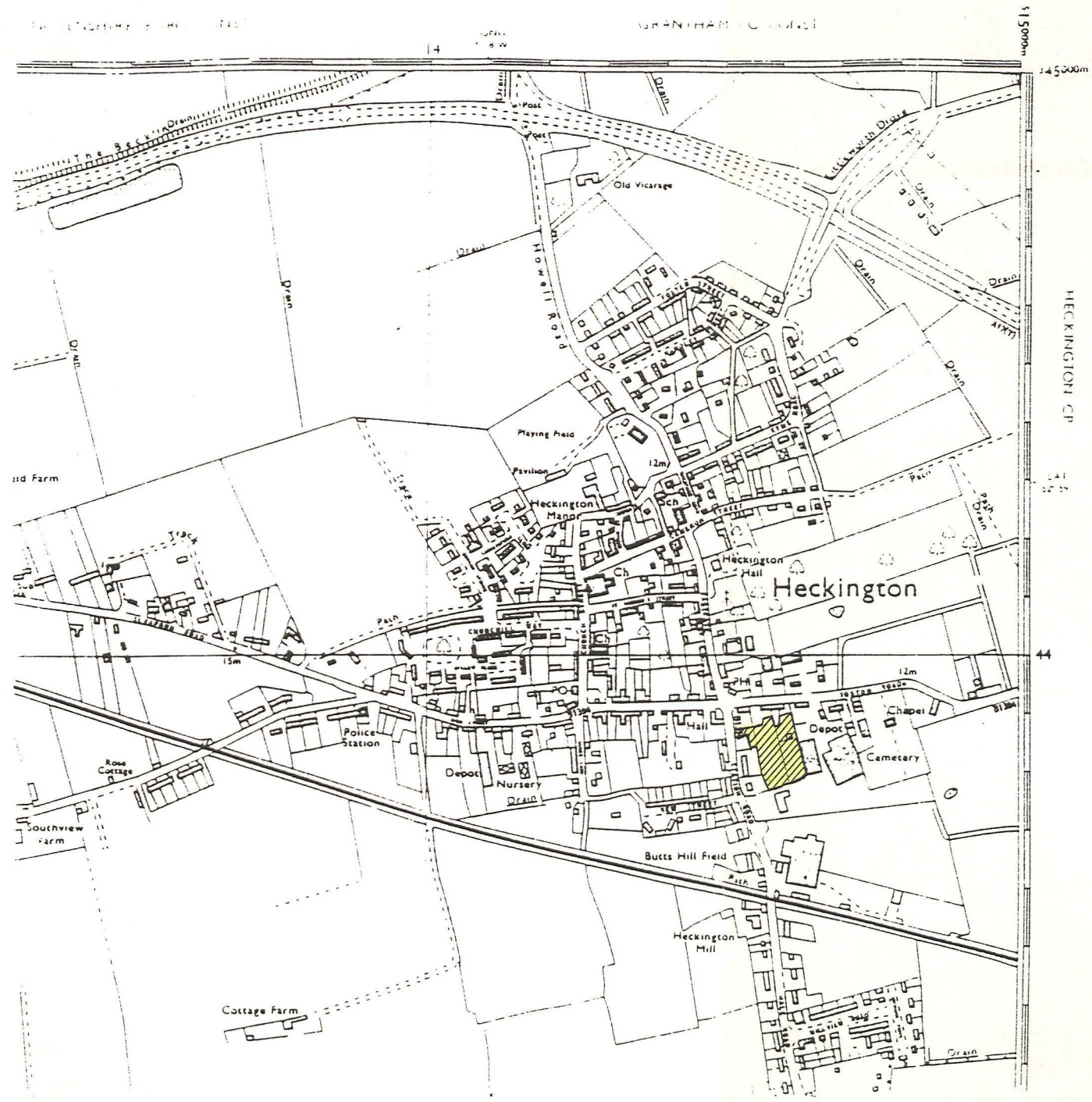
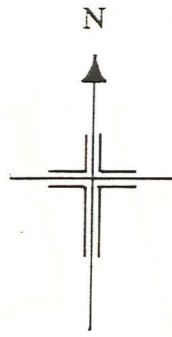
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hades 250
Bwidth 200

Site:heckingt Origin:100/100 Size:30x30m. Band: 40nT. Shades: 250





CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: HES94	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Warrington Builders and Developers		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:10 000	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/02/94
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 33.94		

KEY

 Site Location

Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: HES94 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Warrington Builders and Developers

DESCRIPTION: Plan showing location of Trial Trenches

SCALE: 1:1250 | ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: | CHECKED: | DATE: 16/02/94

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 33.94

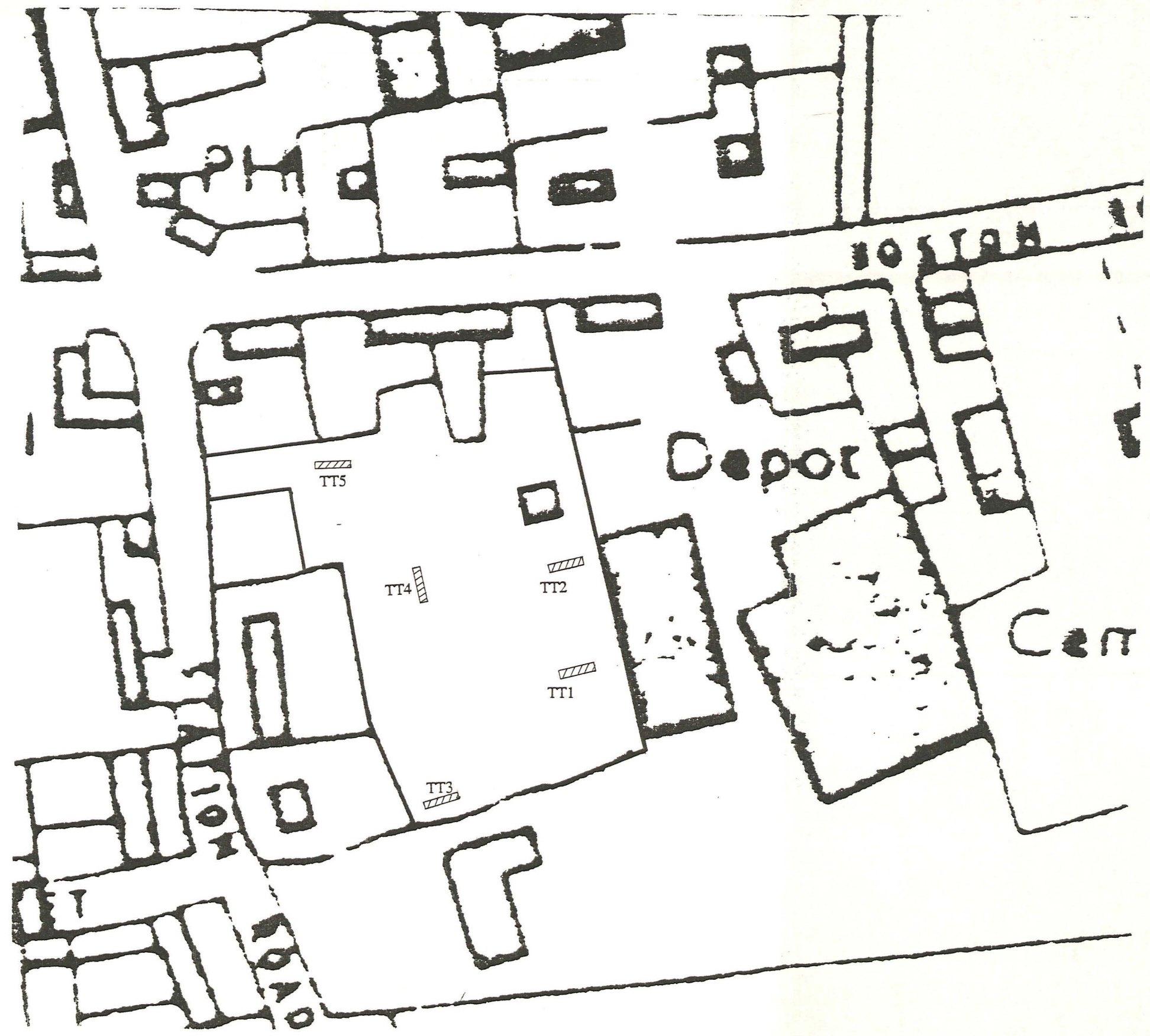


Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: HES94 | PLANE/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Warrington Builders and Developers

DESCRIPTION:
North Facing Section Trial Trench 1

SCALE: 1:10 | ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: KW | CHECKED: | DATE: 16/02/94

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 33.94

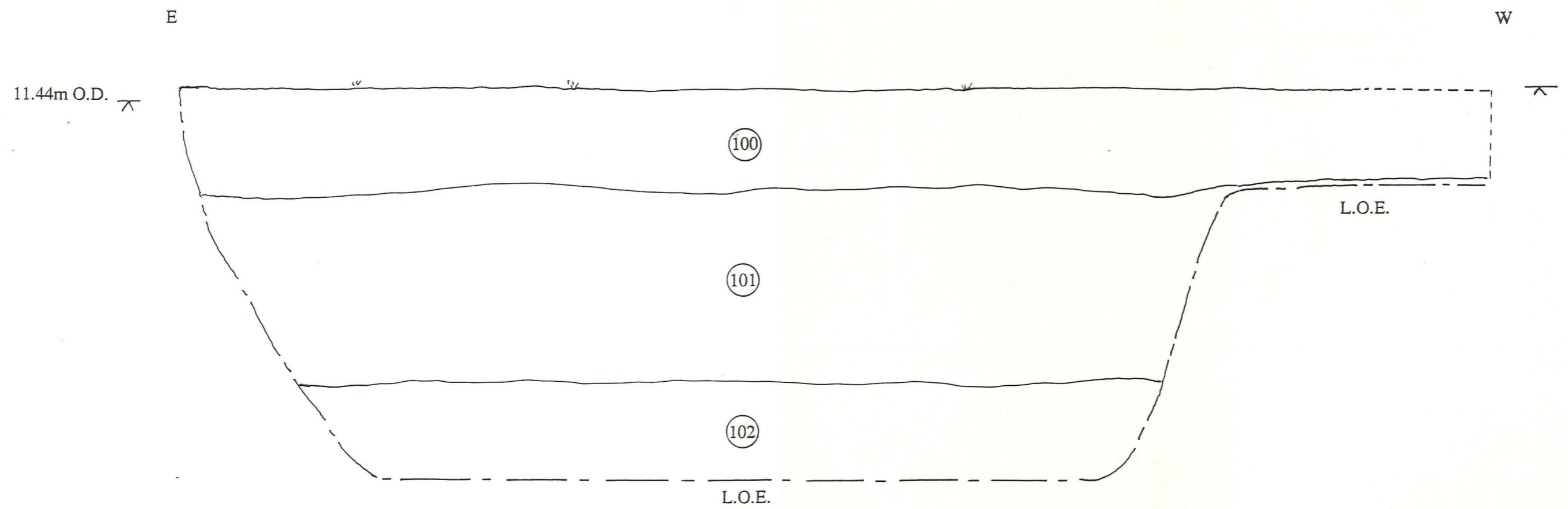


Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: HES94	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Warrington Builders and Developers		
DESCRIPTION: N.E. Facing Section Trial Trench 4		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/02/94
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 33.94		

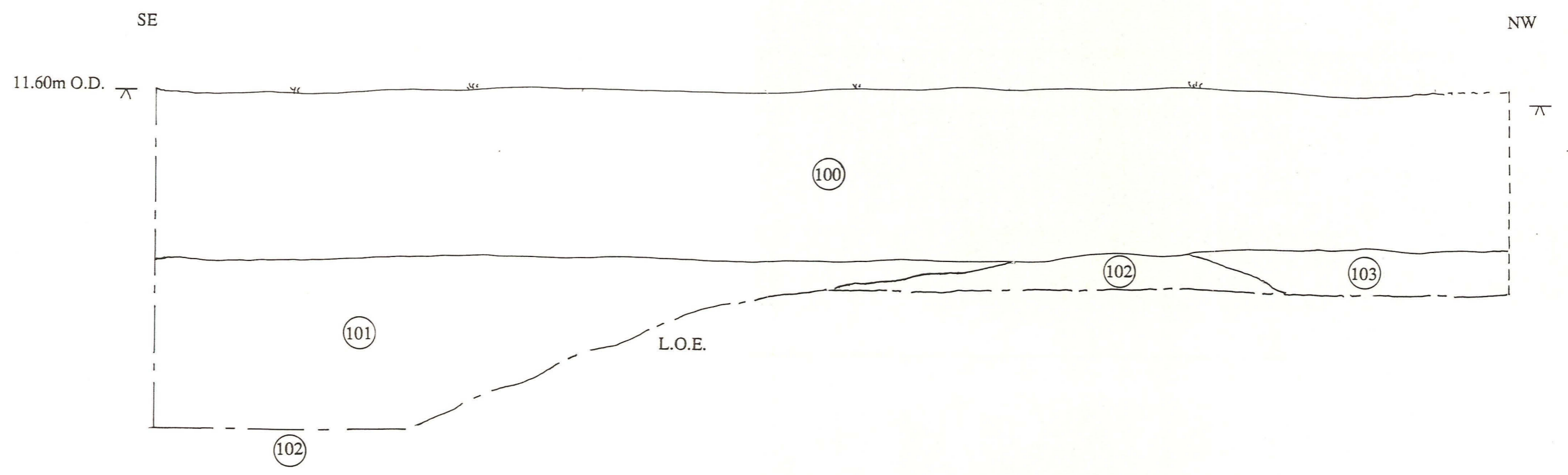
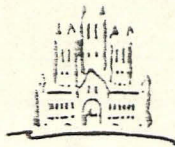
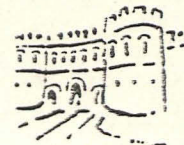


Fig.4

94/2



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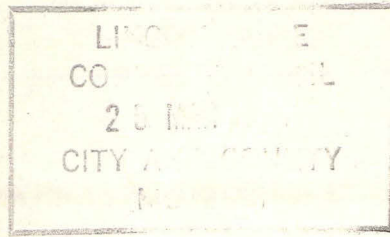
Director: Michael J. Jones MA.FSA.MIFA

Assistant Director: Alan G. Vince BA.PhD.FSA.MIFA

Administrator: John T. Wilford BA.FSA

24th March 1994

Mr C Warrington
Warrington Builders & Developers
7 Boston Road
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincs



Dear Sir,

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT STATION ROAD, HECKINGTON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION - HES94

Please find enclosed three copies of our report detailing the process and results of the archaeological evaluation carried out at the above site (one copy for your use in submissions to the planning department of North Kesteven District Council).

A further copy of the report is sent under cover of a copy of this letter to the District Archaeological Officer.

The project archive will be lodged with the City and County Museum, Lincoln under museum accession No.33.94, and a copy of the report forwarded to the County Sites and Monuments Record Office.

Our invoice for the final total cost of £2,883.00 is enclosed. The final cost, being less than our original estimate, reflects the largely negative result of the evaluation and economies achieved in joint production of the earlier Desk-Top Assessment.

We trust this meets with your approval and look forward prompt payment and the opportunity of working with you on future projects.

Yours faithfully,

John Hockley
Projects Officer

- c.c Ms Nicola Nuttall, District Archaeological Officer, North Kesteven DC.
- . Mr C Wicks, Clive Wicks Associates
- ✓ . Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record Office, Lincoln.