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Archaeological Watching Brief
at Church Lane, Scotter,
Lincolnshire.

May 1994 CCM Acc No 62.94



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
CHURCH LANE,
SCOTTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
MR D.G. WRIGHT

Report Compiled By
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May 1994

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building to the rear of 22A The Green, Scotter, Lincolnshire.

The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Artefacts dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods are recorded, including a dugout boat, stone tools and a Roman coin. Additionally, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located nearby. The site of the development was church property from the Norman conquest and, as it is located adjacent to the site of the village church, it is likely that the land remains to a large extent undisturbed, especially by any urban development which may have occurred during the Middle Ages. The potential for in situ survival of further human skeletal remains is high.

Two undated pits were observed cutting into natural gravel. A layer of red-brown silt overlying the gravel has been interpreted as a soil accumulation against a retaining wall for the bowling green that once occupied the site. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered during the watching brief.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 15th February 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building at 22A The Green, Scotter (NGR SE 8872 0082). Scotter is located in the civil parish of Scotter, West Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Mr. D.G. Wright and

carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the County Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The village of Scotter is situated approximately 13km northeast of Gainsborough and 5.5km northwest of Kirton in Lindsey, Humberside (Fig. 2). Scotter is located on the River Eau, on the edge of the floodplain for the River Trent, and lies about 13m above sea level. Local soils are of the Crannymoor association, very acid well drained sandy podzols over gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 151).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Scotter village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by a polished stone axe found c. 500m south of the site (SMR50061); a flint knife recovered c. 600m to the north (SMR50062); and a dugout boat from c. 90m to the north-west (SMR50045).

A Roman coin, a gold solidus, minted during the reign of Jovian (A.D.363-4) has been recovered from an unknown location within the village, and constitutes the only evidence for activity during the Roman period (SMR50076).

An Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery is situated approximately 250m south of the site (SMR50050), and at least one of the burials was accompanied with a knife. Human skeletal remains and animal bones were also found during the excavation of a sewer trench beneath The Green and the corner of South Street, c. 110m north west of the site (SMR50054). A second reference to human skeletal remains and animal bones exposed in a sewer trench is

noted in SMR50065.

St Peter's Church lies approximately 30m east of the site. Built during the Norman period this building also exhibits Early English and perpendicular decoration, and is on the site of the supposed Chapel of St. Helen (SMR50063). The site occupies a part of the area called Brand's Croft (SMR50073), named after Brand, Abbot of Peterborough 1066-1069, supposedly of Scotter. Brand's Croft is thought to be the area contained within The Green to the north, High Street to the west, Church Lane to the south, the churchyard itself and the un-named lane leading from St. Peter's Church to The Green. Peterborough Abbey received from the Brand family large areas of land that became known as the Liberty of Scotter and which were centred on the village (Hodgett. 1975). Located *c.* 150m north west of the site is the recorded position of a medieval market place (SMR50071). Scotter was granted market status in 1180 and as such lasted until the 18th century. Situated on the west bank of the River Eau at approximately SE 8888 0074 (SMR50051) was a medieval watermill, demolished *c.* 1606.

A medieval Lincoln ware jug has been found 290m north of the site (SMR50077). A jet crucifix, also of medieval date and now lost, was found at 6 Riverside, *c.* 240m to the north west (SMR50075) and 220m south east of the site is the position of the town well, as yet undated (SMR50072).

Situated 100m north west of the site is "Tudor Cottage", a stone cottage built during the 16th century (SMR50069) and *c.* 250m to the south west is the supposed site of an Elizabethan post-mill (SMR50070) demolished *c.* 1916.

The present rectory (SMR50066) built in

1840 *c.* 50m to the south, lies on the site of a medieval or later precursor mentioned in a terrier of 1606, and is possibly referred to in the 14th century. Located *c.* 130m north of the site was a manor house, demolished during the 18th century (SMR50068). The foundations of this building, observed during the 1800's, were said to be quadrangular, surrounding a courtyard, with a fortified gateway at the north north west angle.

A reference to "ancient and possibly other relics found" in Scotter (SMR50064) presumably refers collectively to some of the details mentioned above (White. 1856)

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to identify surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the excavation of the foundation trenches, which were 0.75m wide and averaged 1.20m deep. See figs. 3 and 4 for a plan of the trenches and location of the recorded sections.

The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the foundation trenches was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A total of three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of natural coarse sand (4 and 8) were encountered in each trench examined. These deposits, which tend to dip from south to north, are probably alluvial in origin. In section 1, (Fig.5) a layer of yellow sand (3), overlying (4), appears to be a variation of these alluvial deposits.

Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

A partially exposed cut (9), with a sandy silt fill, was observed cutting into the natural sand (Fig. 5 Section 2). This cut had been truncated from the west by a cut (10) containing a fill (7) similar to the topsoil. Both of these features have been interpreted as pits.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Sealing the natural sand was a layer (2) comprising brown silty sand frequently containing small stones. This layer was deposited as part of the backfill behind a retaining wall for a bowling green.

The present ground surface was covered by a topsoil (1) comprising dark brown sandy silt containing medium and large fragments of stone.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of coarse sand (phase 1), probably alluvial in origin, were observed across the area.

Two undated pits (phase 2) recorded in section 1, represent one of the magnetic anomalies identified during a previous archaeological evaluation undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Field. 1992).

Deposit (2) (phase 3) was laid down as part of the construction process for the bowling green adjacent to the site. Topsoil constitutes the modern ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at the rear of 22A The Green, Scotter, established that natural deposits of sand occur within 0.30m of the ground surface. Interpretation of the two pits, recorded in section 2, is difficult without associated archaeological evidence. Modern activity is represented by the construction of a bowling green adjacent to the site, whereof a fill behind a retaining wall was recorded. Fragments of pottery, bone and glass were retrieved from the topsoil, including a sherd of Potterhanworth Shelly Ware of 14th century date.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr. D.G. Wright for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Hilary Healey commented on the ceramic finds.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Fiona Walker
Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-
Faulkner and Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Field, N., 1992 *Archaeological evaluation, The Green, Scotter*. Lindsey Archaeological Services.

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. (Harpenden).

Hodgett, G.A.J., 1975 *Tudor Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire VI. (Lincoln).

White, W., 1856 *Directory of Lincolnshire* (2nd edition).

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with SMR are the primary reference numbers used by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, Sites and Monuments Record.

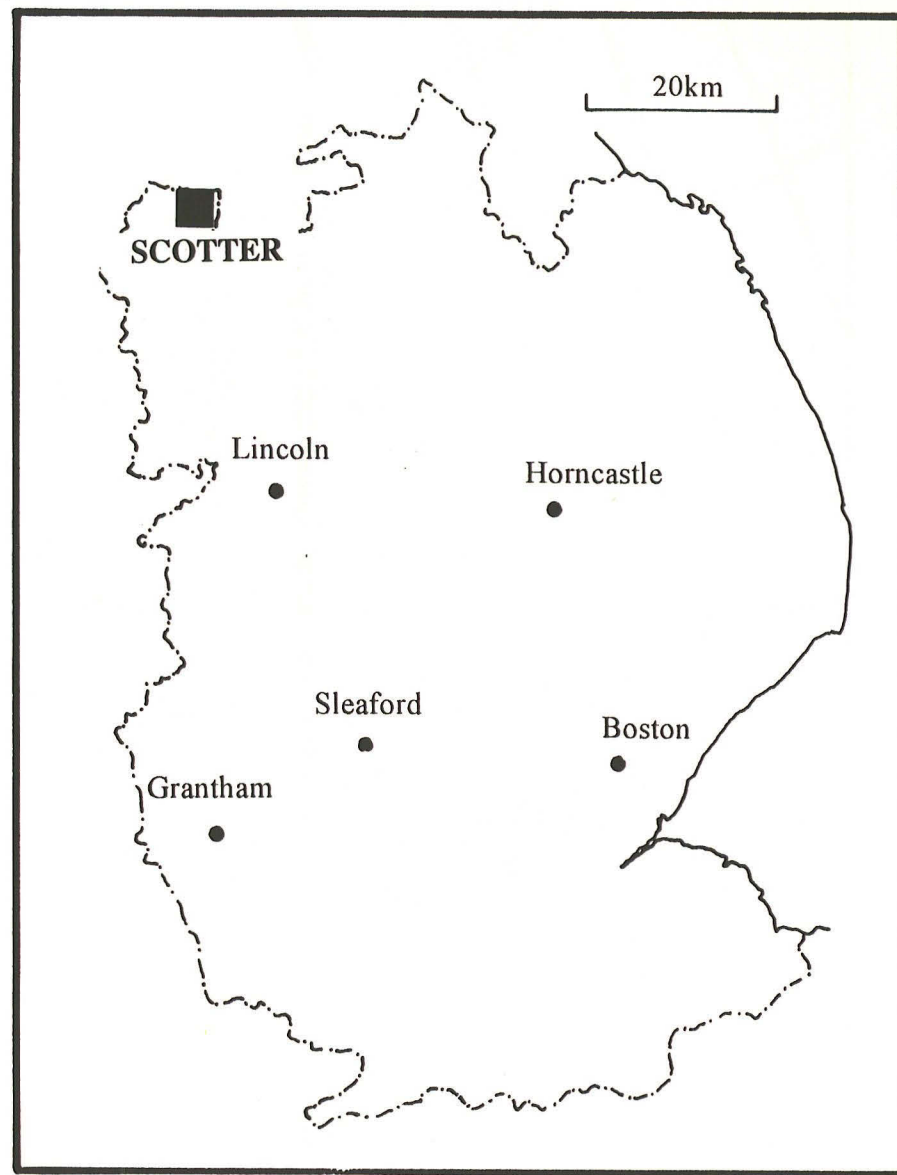
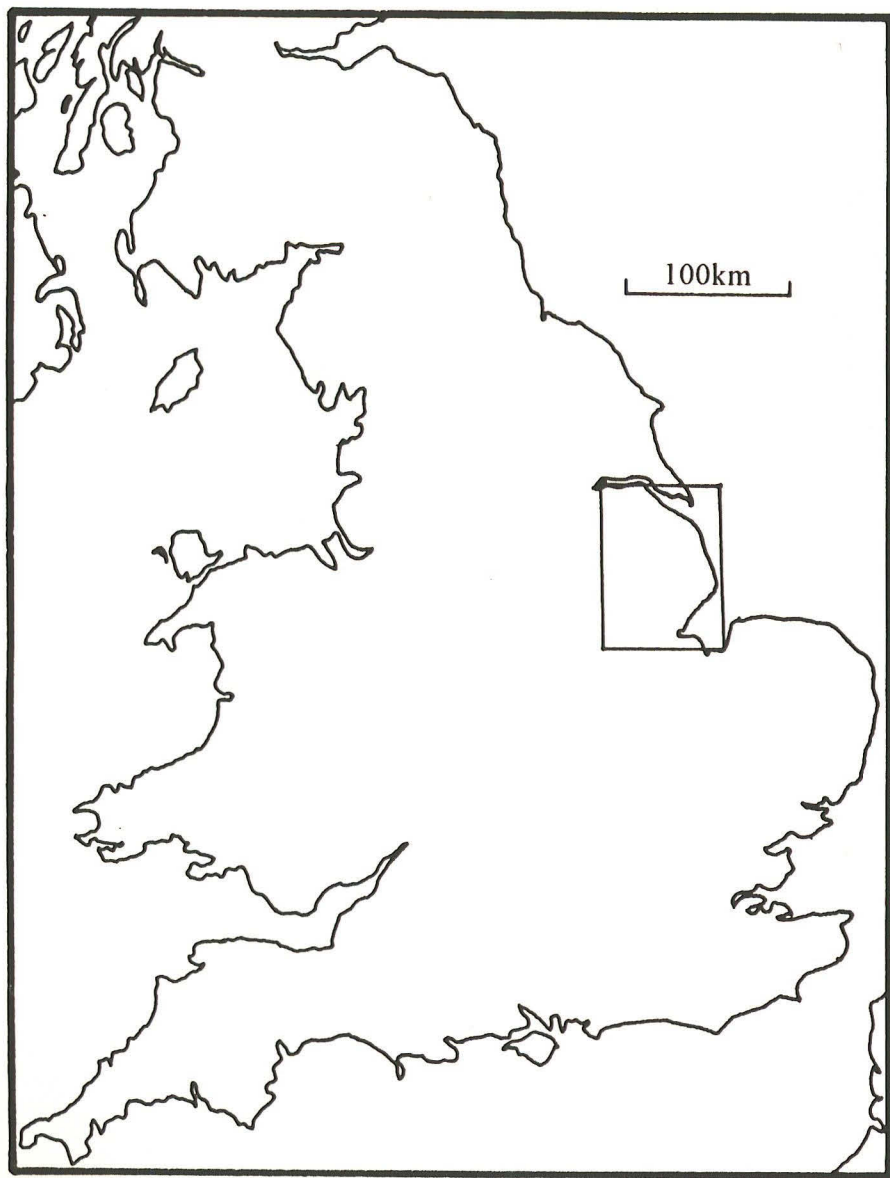


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



Area of Development

Fig. 3 PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

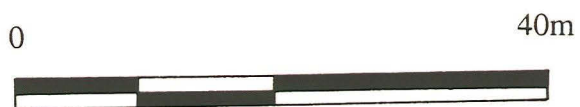
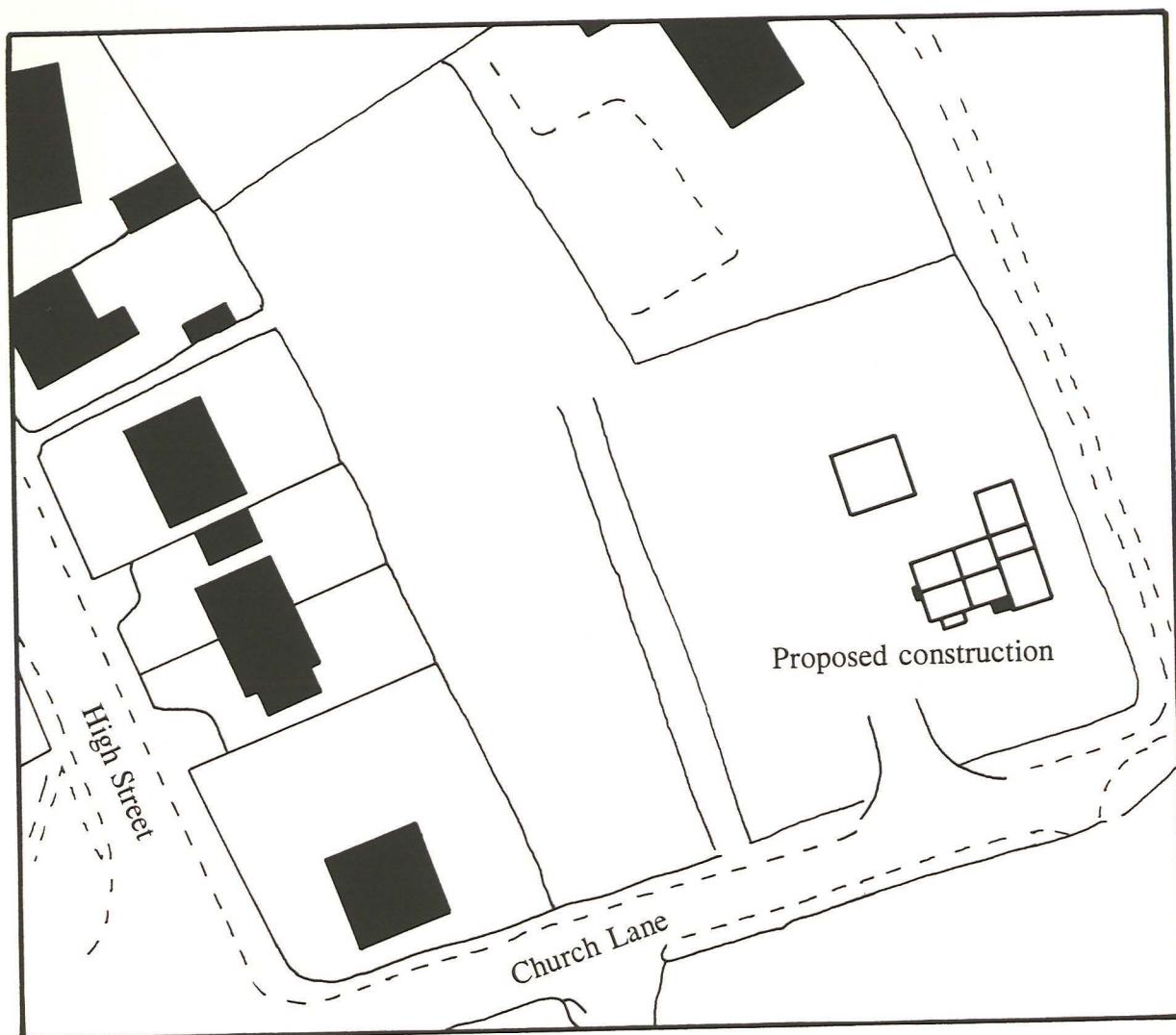


Fig. 4 LOCATION OF RECORDED SECTIONS

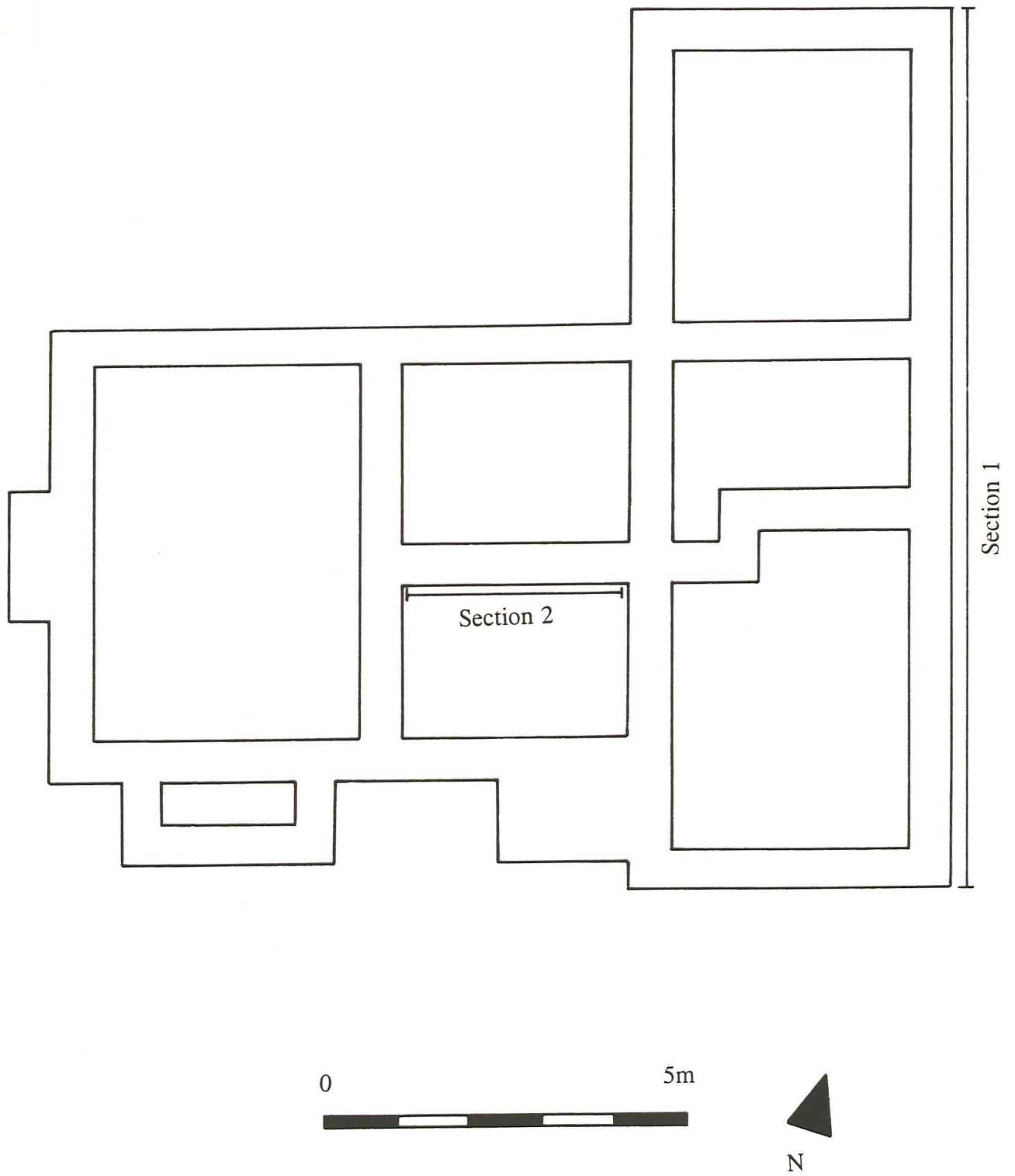
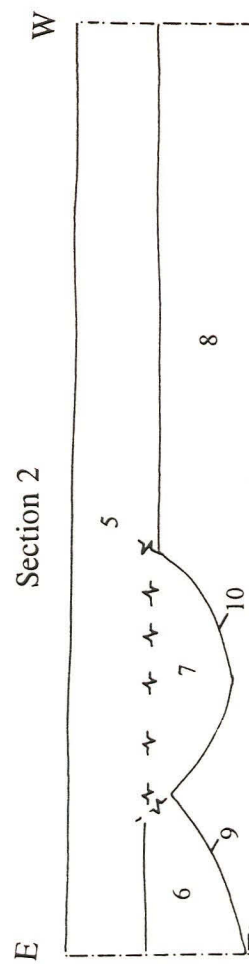
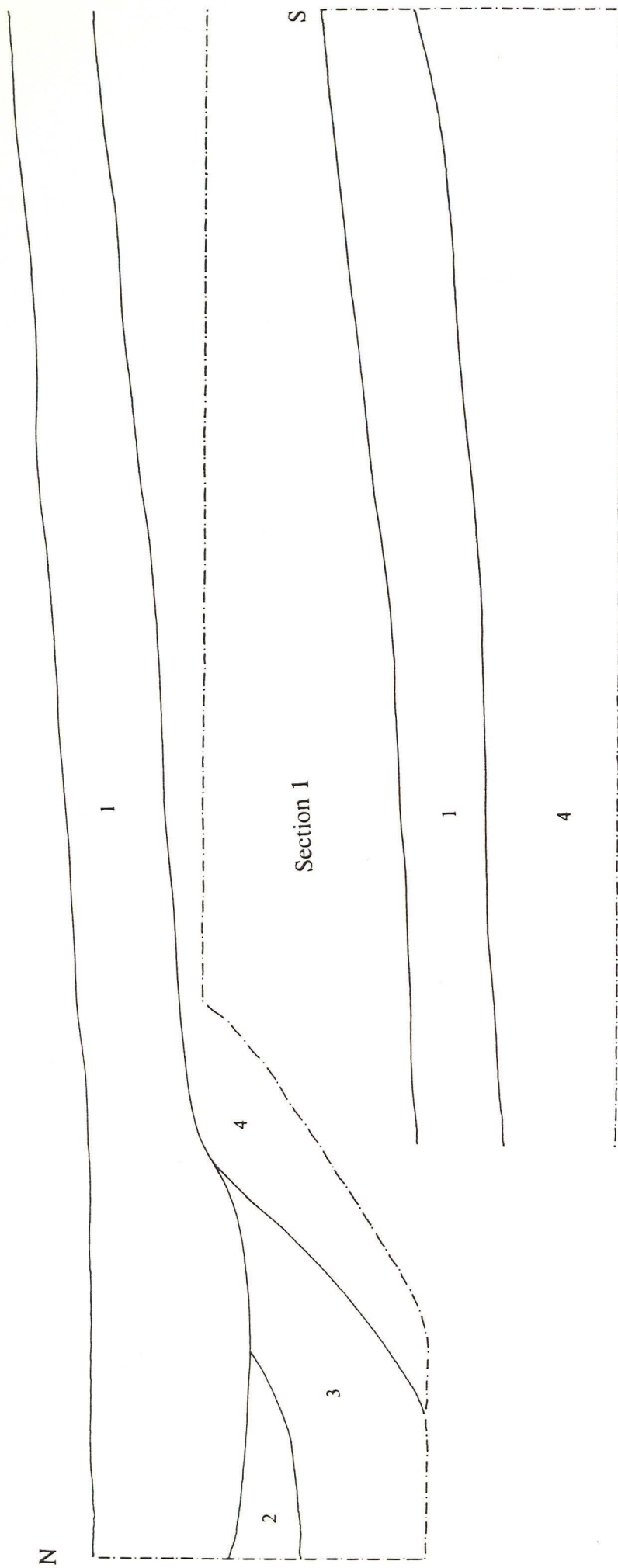


Fig. 5 SECTIONS 1 AND 2



PLATES

Plate 1. . . . General Site view

Plate 2. . . . View of Foundation Trenches showing Natural Sand





APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

1	Sandy silt, maximum thickness 1m.	Topsoil.
2	Red brown sand, 30cm depth.	Dump deposit.
3	Light yellow sand deposit, 0.6m thick.	Natural deposit.
4	Brown yellow sand with gravel.	Natural deposit.
5	Sandy silt.	Same as 1.
6	Sandy silt with small stones.	Fill of 9.
7	Sandy silt, similar to 5.	Fill of 10.
8	Yellow brown sand	Natural deposit.
9	Cut appearing in section only.	Possible pit or posthole.
10	Cut appearing in section only.	Possible pit or posthole.

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 10 Context records
- 1 Photographic record
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

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The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
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City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 62.94