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Archaeological Watching Brief
of a Water Pipeline at Manor
Farm, Friskney, Lincolnshire.

April 1994

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ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER PIPELINE AT
MANOR FARM,
FRISKNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd.

April 1994

Heritage Lincolnshire
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Charity No: 1001463. Company No: 2554738 (England)

FAW 92

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water main reinforcement from Eastville to Friskney. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the pipe trench where it passed through the periphery of a medieval moated site comprising earthworks identified as fish ponds surrounded by an outer moat.

Construction of the water main affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval period. Three flint axes comprise the prehistoric artefacts, whilst Romano-British activity is represented by several salterns (salt processing sites). Abbey Hills, the site of a medieval moat enclosing buildings of considerable size, lies immediately south of the site. Medieval and post-medieval pottery has also been retrieved from Friskney.

A curvilinear feature, probably an infilled moat, was observed cutting into the natural silty clay. Three cut features, apparently used as refuse pits and a demolished wall was also observed. Most of these features are of medieval date. A coin of 13th/14th century date and a token of the 16th or 17th century were also recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 16th and 19th November 1992, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water main reinforcement from Eastville to Friskney, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the pipe trench through Manor Farm, from TF 4481 5564 to TF 4511 5555, where it passed through a set of earthworks identified as the site of an old manor house with associated fish ponds and an outer moat (SMR41791) (NGR TF 4495 5550). Manor Farm is located in the civil parish of Friskney, East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd, and was carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Manor Farm is situated approximately 1km west of Friskney, 12km southeast of Spilsby and 17km northwest of Boston (Fig. 2). Local soils are Wallasea 2 association pelo-alluvial gley soils on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). Local topography is relatively flat and about 2.5m above sea level.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Manor Farm is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by three flint axes located *c.* 1km north of the site (SMR41782).

Romano-British activity is represented by a possible saltern located *c.* 1.75km southwest of the site (SMR41175), and three positively identified salterns grouped together *c.* 1.5km southwest of the site (SMR41172, 41173, 41174).

A medieval Toynton jug was found *c.* 150m east of the site (SMR41777), and a scatter of medieval pottery has been retrieved from immediately east of Friskney village (SMR41837). Sherds of medieval pottery comprising Bolingbroke and Toynton types, produced from the 13th century onwards, have been recovered from Friskney village. Manor Farm itself is located on the site of an old manor house associated with fish ponds that, although infilled, survive as earthworks, surrounded by an outer moat (SMR41791). Situated 125m east of the survey area is Mill Mound, probably marking the position of a windmill (SMR41778) and now surviving as an earthwork. Located approximately 700m south of the site is Abbey Hills, a scheduled ancient monument, comprising part of a moat that enclosed buildings of considerable size (SMR00246). Approximately 750m to the west of the site is an area called The Grange, which offers place-name evidence for the existence of a medieval grange (SMR41792). Immediately west of the village, post-medieval pottery has been retrieved (SMR41838).

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to record any archaeological deposits exposed following clearance of the easement and excavation of the pipe trench.

4. METHODS

A 10m wide easement along the northern boundary was stripped of topsoil. A mechanical excavator was used for the construction of the pipe trench, that measured *c.* 1m wide and varied between 1.3m to 2.5m deep. See Fig. 3 for a plan of the trench and the location of the recorded sections.

Subsequent to the easement being stripped of topsoil, the exposed surface was examined to identify any archaeological features in plan, prior to the excavation of the pipe trench. Once the pipe trench had been excavated the sides of the trench, where possible, were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Additionally, sections of the pipe line easement were scanned with a metal detector to assist finds recovery.

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 was identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Medieval deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of blue grey clay (26) sealed by 0.2 metres of peat (25), which in turn was sealed by approximately 1.2 metres of a light brown silty clay (24), represented natural deposits throughout the survey area (Fig. 4 Sections 3 and 8). Emerging from the peat, three surviving tree trunks (21,22,23), were observed (Fig. 5 Section 12). These represent natural fenland environment woodlands and have survived due to waterlogged conditions.

Phase 2 Medieval Archaeological Deposits

A cut (6) northwest of Manor Farm (Fig. 5 Section 12), aligned north to south appears to have been made for a wall, remnants of which survive as (5). At an undetermined date, the wall was demolished, the debris (3) from which sealed the construction cut.

Located directly north of the farm a semi-circular cut feature (14) *c.* 1 - 1.5m diameter filled with crushed ceramic building material (13) was recorded. This feature has been interpreted as a refuse pit. A curvilinear feature (15) *c.* 3m wide (Fig. 5 Section 13), curving from a roughly northwest to southeast was observed to the northeast of the farm. This contained a clay with flint fill (11) and occasional mollusc fragments. By association with the present earthworks, this feature has been interpreted as an infilled moat, forming the northern corner of the moat complex.

To the northwest of (15) a sub-square cut (8), *c.* 0.8 by 0.9m was recorded in plan. This contained a yellow brown silty clay (7) with inclusions of medieval ceramic material. This feature is interpreted as a pit though of indeterminate function. At the eastern end of the investigation area was a linear feature (10) at least 3m long and 0.5m wide, filled by a dark grey silt/clay (9) with moderate quantities of crushed brick and occasional fragments of shell and sub-angular flint pebbles. This feature has been interpreted as a gully or small ditch.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Sealing the natural deposits and archaeological features throughout the survey area was a layer of light brown clay (2) containing occasional fragments of building material. This layer is interpreted as a disturbed subsoil, possibly caused by recent ploughing.

The present ground surface was covered by a grey-brown topsoil that was generally 0.4m thick. Adjacent to the entrance track to Manor Farm, the topsoil had been sealed by a deposit of brown clay with flint (12) containing occasional shell fragments. This deposit has been

interpreted as a layer designed to embank the entrance to the field.

Metal detecting on the pipeline easement resulted in the recovery of a silver long cross penny, probably of Edward I (1272-1307), and a copper alloy token. This token, apparently a French jetton, probably dates to the 16th or 17th century.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers illustrate an initial marine deposition of grey blue clay. Later marine regression allowed the development of a fen environment typified by the presence of the peat. A subsequent marine transgression sealed this peat deposit with a silty clay alluvium.

The construction cut (006) (phase 2) is probably associated with the medieval fish ponds, and may have served as a small boundary wall of uncertain extent. This wall was demolished at an undetermined date.

Features identified as pits (8) and (14) and as a ditch (10), represent medieval activity probably associated with the moat complex. However, due to these pits being located on the periphery of the complex, information concerning their relationship to activities undertaken on the moated platform is unavailable.

Feature (15) (phase 2) represents a change in the layout of the medieval moat enclosing the fish ponds. The dyke, presently surviving as an earthwork, runs parallel with the infilled fish ponds. Cut (15) is located just beyond the present northern terminus of the dyke and represents an infilled corner of the moat. Cut (15) therefore provides a connecting feature that linked the dyke, which constitutes the eastern arm of the moat, with the east - west linear earthwork, that provides the northern arm of the moat, immediately to the west. This illustrates that the moat was originally a continuous feature. A clay and flint soil was used to fill this corner of the dyke, perhaps to provide a causeway.

Agricultural activity appears to have been responsible for the formation of the disturbed subsoil. A further indication of this agricultural exploitation is represented by a deposit of clay with flint, laid at the entrance to the site to provide a firm base for farm traffic. Topsoil constitutes the modern ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at Manor Farm, Friskney, established that natural deposits consisting of silty clay above peat occur within 0.4m of the present ground surface. Two medieval pits were observed, one of which contained building refuse. A single gully/small ditch of indeterminate date and function was also observed. A wall, now demolished, probably constituted a small internal boundary. An infilled dyke represents a change in the layout of the moat enclosing the fish ponds. Relatively recent agricultural usage of the site is represented by a disturbed subsoil and a deposit of clay with flint.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Mark Bennet of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record. The relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire were consulted.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes

Site Assistant: Dave Brown

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation Analysts: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with SMR are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

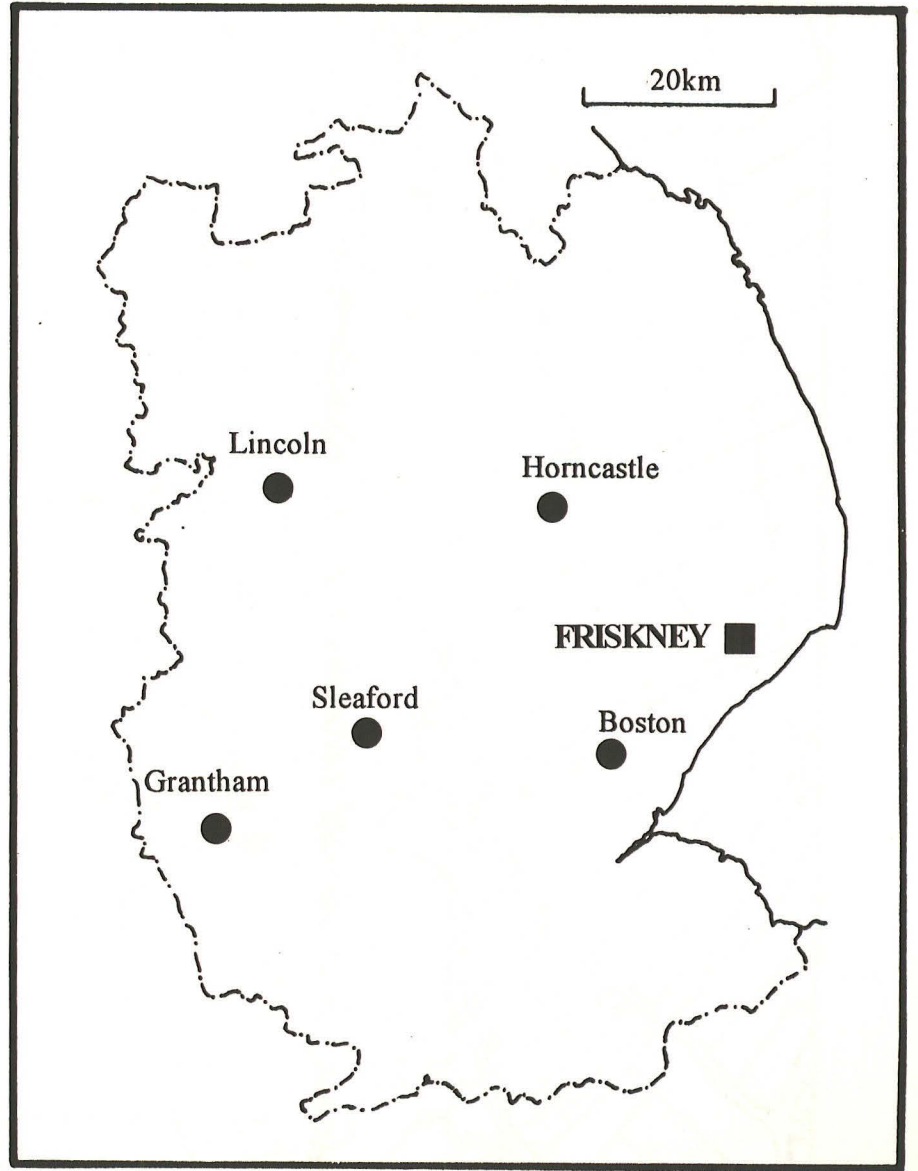
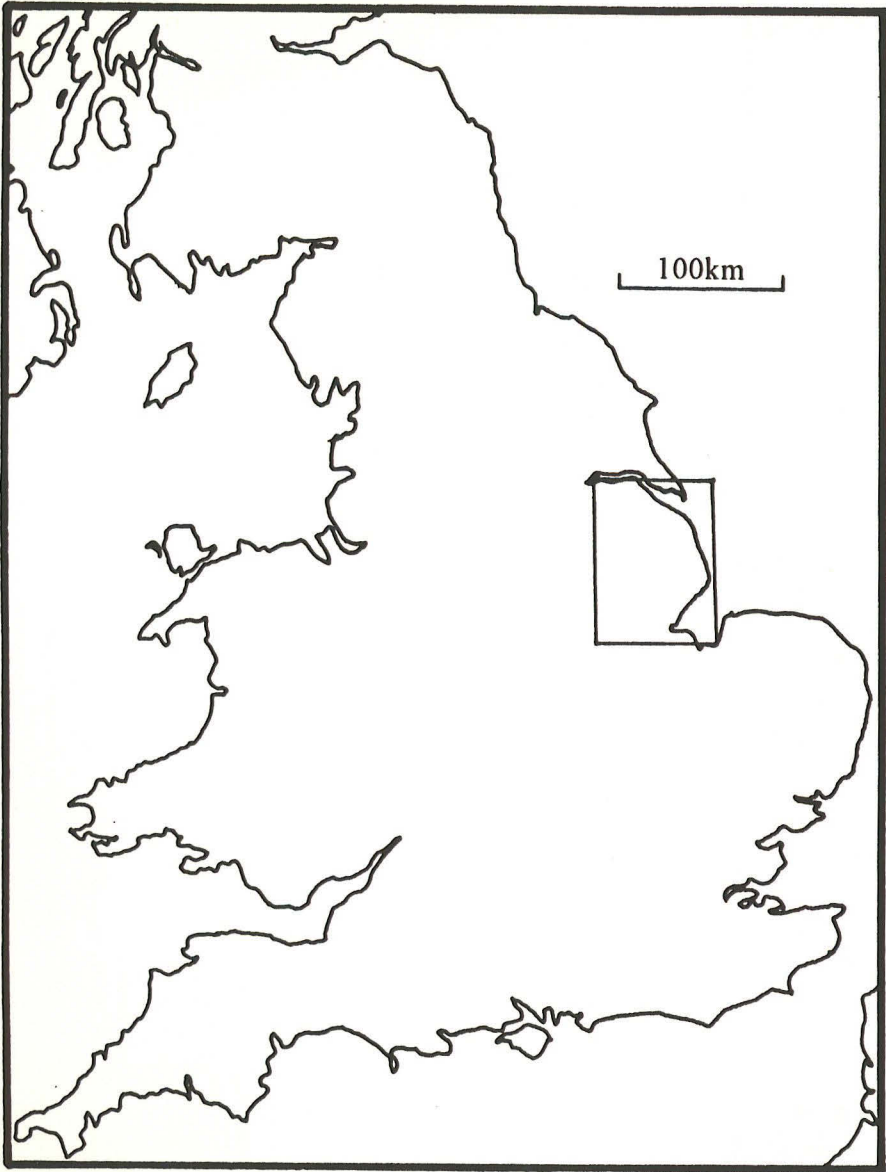


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



Area of Investigation

Fig. 3 SITE PLAN

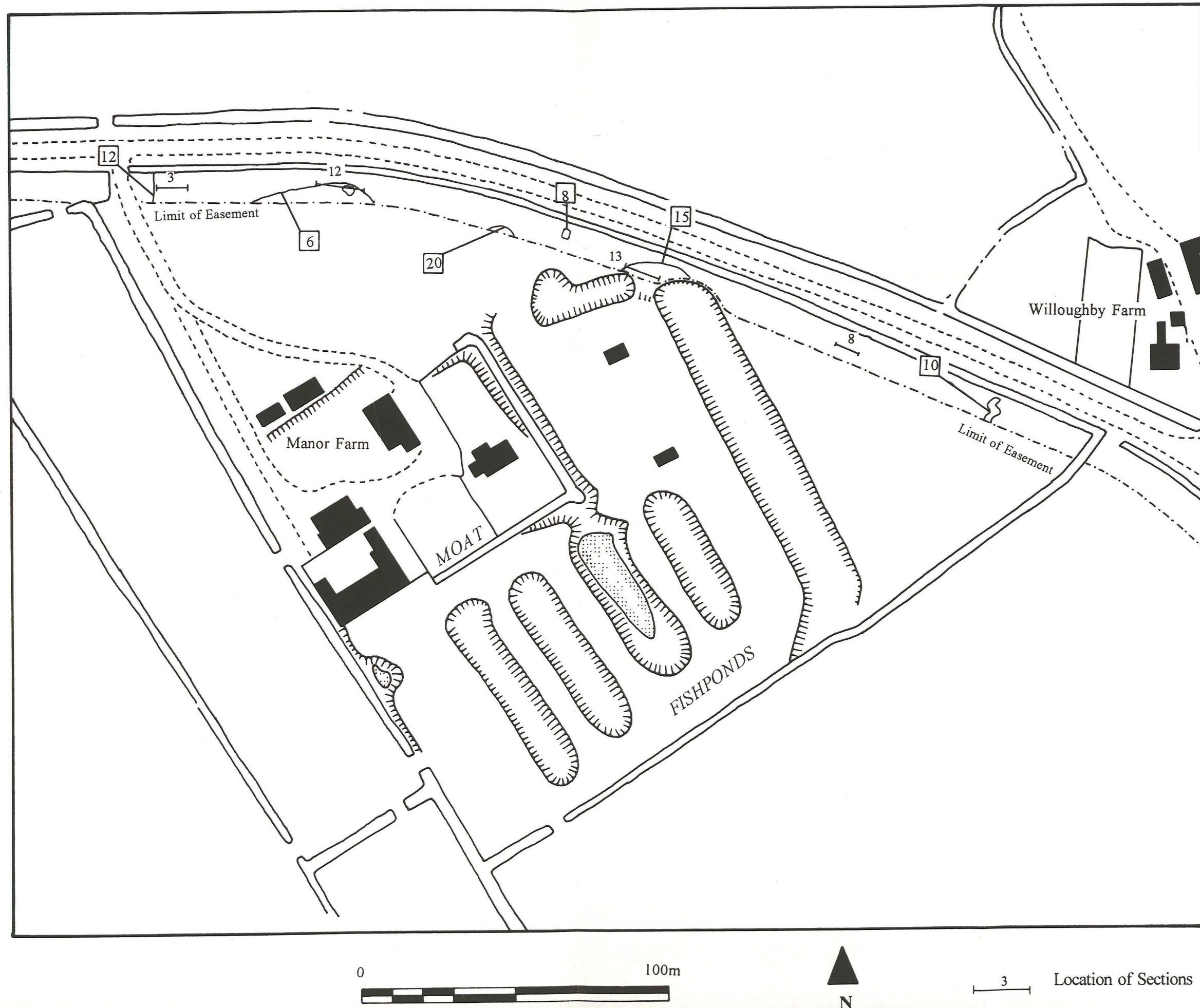
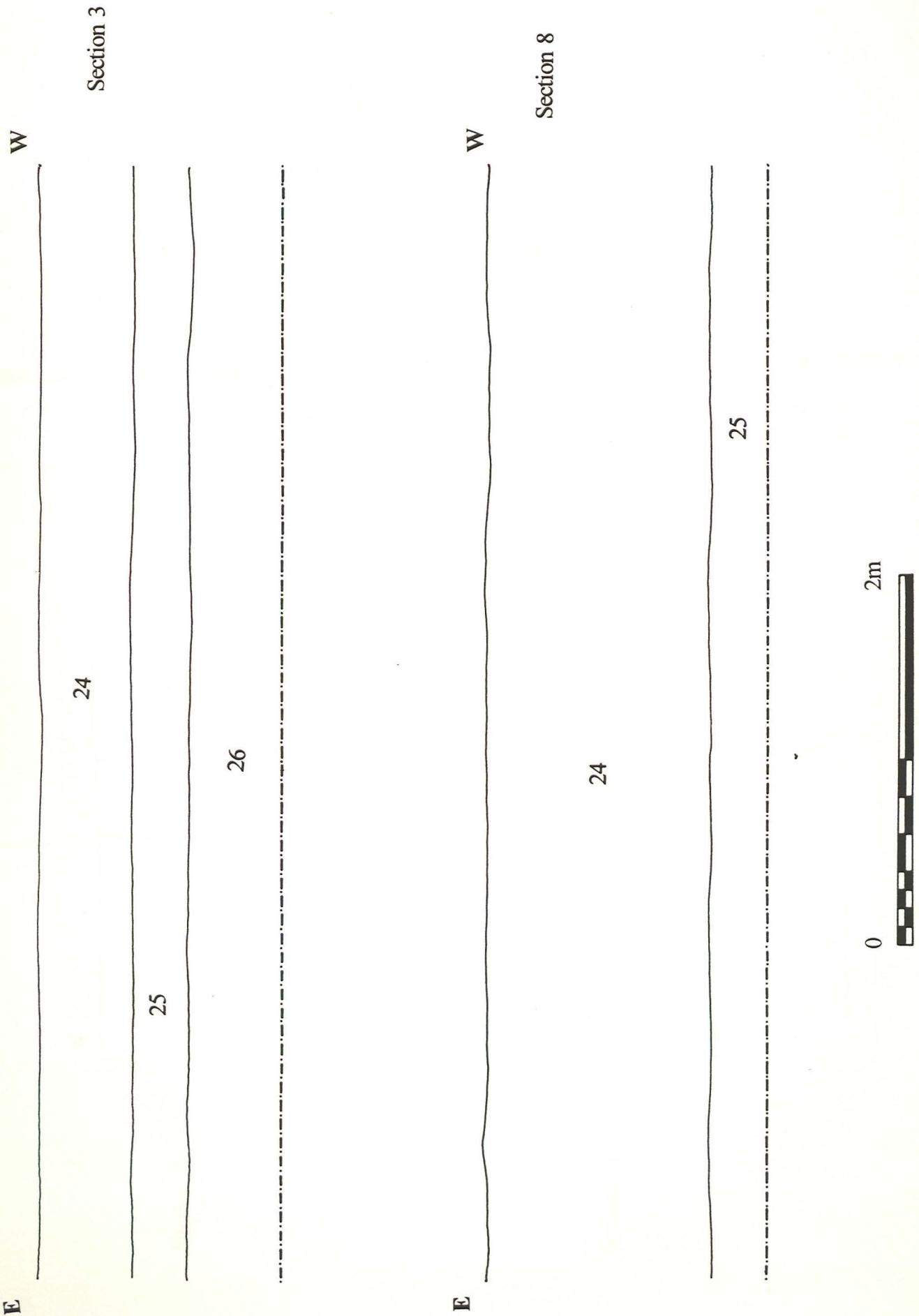
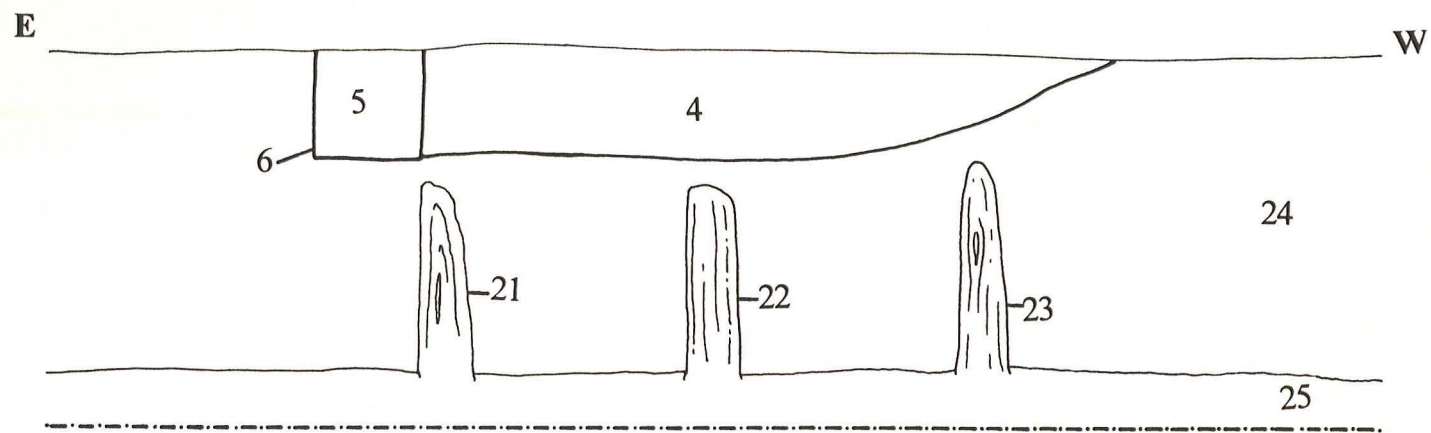


Fig. 4 SECTIONS 3 AND 8



Section 12



Section 13

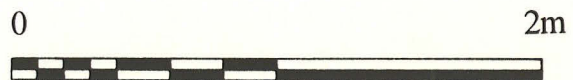
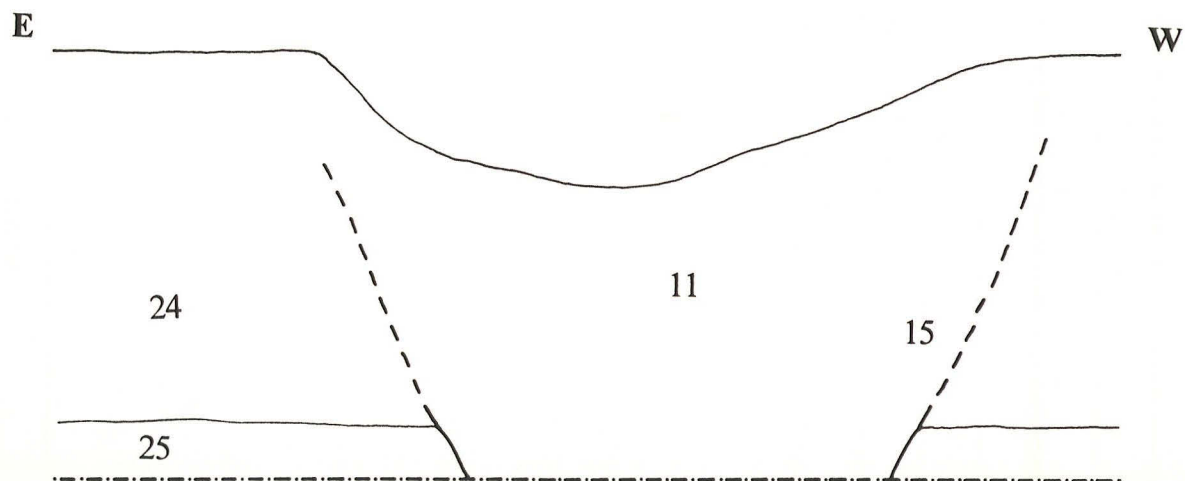


Fig. 5 SECTIONS 12 AND 13

APPENDIX 1
Context Summary.

1	Grey brown silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
2	Brown clay	Subsoil
3	Silty clay deposit	Layer
4	Light brown silty clay, 0.4m thick	Fill of foundation cut.
5	Brick and boulder fill	Demolished wall
6	Linear cut	Foundation cut for wall
7	Light brown clayey silt fill	Fill of 8
8	Square cut 0.8 x 0.9m	Possible cut for pit
9	Dark grey silty clay deposit	Fill of 10
10	Linear cut	Possible cut for ditch
11	Brown clay with flint deposit	Fill of 15
12	Brown clay with flint deposit	Modern deposit
13	Crushed brick deposit	Fill of 14
14	Semi-circular cut, 1.5m diameter	Cut of unknown use
15	Curving cut	Continuation of outer moat
16	Upright post	Fencepost
17	Cut for 16	Posthole
18, 19	Silty clay deposits	Fills of 20
20	Semi-circular cut	Possible cut for large pit
21, 22, 23	Upright timbers	Natural tree
24	Brown silty clay layer	Natural deposit
25	Peat layer, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
26	Blue clay	Natural deposit

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

26	Context records
1	Photographic record
16	Scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 73:94