ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT

# PERRINS COTTAGES, FISKERTON

# LINCOLNSHIRE

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

# PERRINS COTTAGES, FISKERTON

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT

FOR

## D. Perkins & Associates Limited
## (on behalf of the Five Mile Hotel Partnership)

BY

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June, 1994

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# 1.0 Non-Technical Summary

D. Perkins & Associates Ltd., on behalf of the Five Mile Hotel Partnership, propose to develop an area of land on the south side of Fiskerton, immediately south of the High Street/Lincoln Road (Fig. 1). The area, measuring approximately 4276m$^2$ , is bound on its north side by the High Street, on its west and south sides by fields and on its east side by a private green lane track. Outline planning permission has been sought to construct four detached dwellings, with associated access and services (Fig. 2).

An eight day, 'blind', intrusive field evaluation has demonstrated that the archaeological and archaeo-environmental potential of this site is high. An early course of the River Witham (or part of a more complex river system) lies on the south side of the site which is met by a Romano-British rubble 'hard'. Earlier traces of activity were found within an old 'land' surface, in the form of native-style (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age) pottery and worked flints. Residual materials used in the construction of the Roman surface could imply the proximity of a contemporary tile kiln..

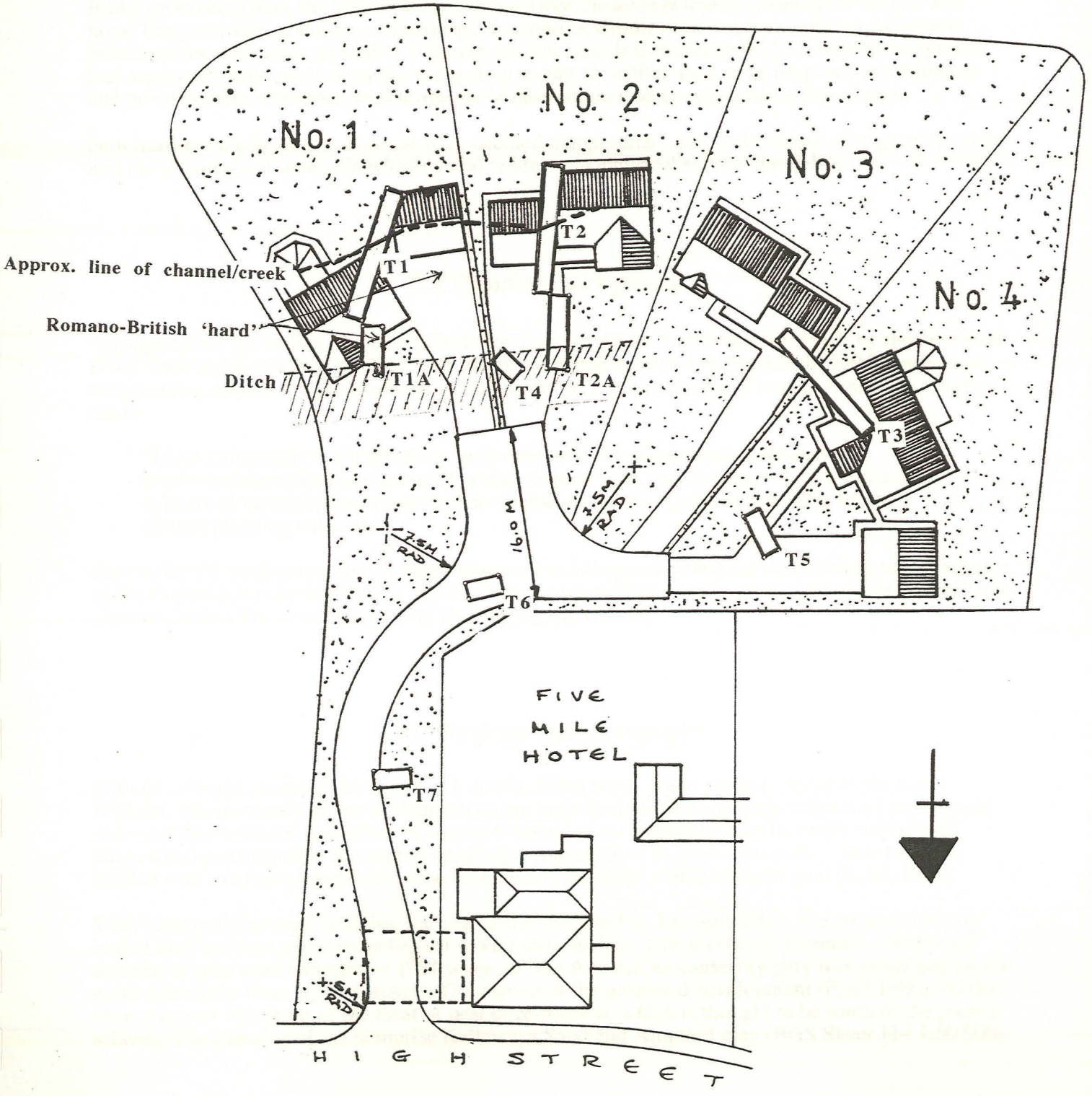
On balance, the evidence derived during field evaluation is of considerable regional significance. Not only does it add to an already rich archive of data, but it demonstrates, for the first time, that settlement around Fiskerton during the Roman period may have been more extensive than has been hitherto demonstrated. Furthermore, deposits on the site will contain data which could lead to a better understanding of sea level fluctuations, the effects these had on the river and the viability or non-viability of the river as a means of direct transportation from the coast to Lincoln during the later prehistoric and Roman periods.

In its present form, aspects of the proposed development would cause impacts to archaeological resources during construction procedures.

The central National Grid Reference is TF 0485 7191

# Fig. 1 Site Location

## Fig. 2 Site/Trench Location

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## 2.0 Introduction

An intrusive phase of archaeological field evaluation took place between Monday, May 3rd and Thursday, June 2nd, 1994, on the site of a proposed housing development (Fig. 2). These works were commissioned by the Client and followed a desk-based review of information contained within the Sites & Monuments Record and other sources (Palmer-Brown 1994).

Based on existing data, the latter report concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was high. The proximity of known archaeological resources within what was a complex and dynamic prehistoric environment, as well as architectural and historical evidence for later periods, suggested that aspects of early land use and/or occupation would lie within the area of proposed development and be vulnerable, therefore, to disturbance or destruction during construction procedures.

Non-intrusive methods of evaluation were deemed inappropriate due to the nature of vegetation cover and the proximity of materials which would render a geophysical survey unreliable.

## 3.0 Planning background

An application for outline planning permission was sought on November 3rd, 1993, by the Five Mile Hotel Partnership to construct four, two storey, detached houses. On April 29th, 1994, permission was granted, subject to nine conditions issued by West Lindsey District Council. Condition number 5 reads:

> "No development shall take place on the site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the district planning authority."

Prior to field investigation, a desk-based review of existing archaeological data relating to this scheme of development was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology; copies of which were lodged with the Commissioning Client and the County Archaeological Officer.

## 4.0 Geology and topography

The site lies approximately 8km east of Lincoln, 350m north of the present course of the River Witham. The proximity of the Witham (in its pre-canalised form) has greatly influenced post-glacial sediment development, and older geological formations are frequently overlain with widespread alluvial and peat deposits, sometimes masking archaeological features. The valley floor has been infilled with extensive brackish/marine sedimentary deposits, which underlie peat (Lane, 1992).

With improved drainage facilities, the peat of the Witham Fen has contracted, sometimes exposing buried land surfaces and archaeological monuments such as barrows (burial mounds). Substantial deposits of peat were recorded in 1981 when an Iron Age timber causeway/jetty was excavated on the north side of the river, approximately 270m south of the proposed development (Field 1986). At that time, a record was made of the limit of peat development, which is thought to be south of the present scheme. The parent geology comprise Kellaways Sand and Ampthill clay (BGS Sheet 114 1:50 000).

# 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical significance attached to the proposed scheme, within a local and regional framework, was established in a preceding desk top review, though additional information has been derived, both during, and subsequent to, the coarse of fieldwork.

Fiskerton is named *Fiscartone* in the Domesday Book of 1086. Three fisheries are described in the survey and the place-name translates 'farmstead or village of the fishermen' (Mills, 1993).

Prehistoric remains have been recorded in the parish; most notably an early Iron Age causeway/jetty which lies approximately 270m south-east of the proposed development site (Field, 1986). A double row of vertical timbers lay preserved in peats of the Witham Fen, these being set almost perpendicular to the modern course of the river. Preserved amongst the timbers were swords, metal axes, hammers and files, providing the first useful archaeological context for Iron Age prestige objects from the Witham fen. Two, almost complete, ceramic jars were found crushed, *in situ*, beneath horizontal timbers, the only complete examples of such early regional pottery to date (Elsdon 1993).

It is not clear whether the causeway/jetty was constructed merely to serve local needs, giving access to the river in what would have been a difficult and marshy environment, or if it connected with a more widely-used north-south trackway. However, the fact that it was directed towards the modern village (east of the present development) suggests that early Iron Age settlement remains could lie within/amongst the modern settlement itself; perhaps on higher ground, protected from the threat of seasonal flooding.

The above is but one feature set within a complex prehistoric landscape. Only 45m south of the proposed development, a buried hoard of Bronze Age axes was discovered in 1890 and, less than 30m south-west of the site, there are two barrows (burial mounds) of the same period (further barrows are known south of the river in Washingborough Parish). Not far from the 1981 excavations, a Bronze Age dagger was dredged from the river in 1890 and, during the coarse of the present evaluation, Mr David Perkins produced three Bronze Age axe heads, belonging to his mother, and apparently found quite close to the present site (front cover photograph).

Finds of Neolithic date have also been recorded, some relatively close to the proposed development area.

Roman finds are also represented, though no trace of a formal settlement has been previously identified - the present evaluation, complemented with follow-on research, suggests that settlement at Fiskerton during the Roman period was more than just transient.

Medieval objects, usually pottery sherds and scatters,have been recorded at various places around the village. In 1954, a Viking sword was dredged from the Witham, though it was then lost and, approximately 650m west of the point where that discovery was made, three silver-gilt, disc-headed ornamental Anglo-Saxon pins were also dredged from the river.

Other significant, and often unique, finds include a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age dug-out canoe, which was found east of the village in peat at Short Ferry. A total of nineteen dug-out boats (not all prehistoric) have been recorded in the peats of the Witham and its tributaries (White, 1979). However, the figure could be extremely conservative: a member of the Five Mile Partnership recalls discoveries made during the 1940's, when the government issued an incentive to farmers of the Witham Fen to bring into cultivation land which had formerly been used as pasture. During initial ploughing, dug-out boats were apparently brought to the surface on a regular basis. Their peat-like structures were considered to be an ideal source of fuel and, sadly, this appears to be how most met their fate.

## 6.0 Aims

The principal aims of the field evaluation at Fiskerton were to establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods; to assess their significance at local, regional and national level, and to assess potential impacts to archaeological resources which may take place during development. A project Specification, based around these objectives, was jointly agreed between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the County Archaeological Officer and the Client.

## 7.0 Methodology

### 7.1 Evaluation Trenches

As proposed in the initial specification, three trenches, each measuring approximately 13.0m x 1.5m, were sited within the areas of intended housing, as defined in a 1:500 plan provided by the Client (Fig. 2). Four smaller trenches were located at sensible intervals, as a means of assessing impacts likely to be caused during construction of the access road. Following the discovery of a buried palaeochannel (old water coarse) and an adjacent, extensive, Romano-British stone surface, it was agreed that Trenches 1 and 2 should be extended, with a view to defining the limit and orientation of the major features (Trenches 1A and 2A).

A team of three experienced field archaeologists, aided by an intermittent fourth member, excavated and recorded features and deposits revealed within the evaluation trenches. All deposits were recorded on standard pro-forma context sheets and contexts were drawn and, where necessary, photographed. All finds were washed and processed and were presented to specialists for individual appraisal (Appendices 12.5 - 12.7).

A mechanical excavator, fitted with a straight ditching bucket, was used to strip regular, level spits no deeper than 200mm. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizons were exposed. In each of the major areas, the machine was used to excavate a localised, deeper, cutting as a means of clarifying the depth of parent geology, though, in each case, steps were taken not to remove sensitive archaeological remains unnecessarily . All further excavation in these areas was by hand, though the four small trenches were entirely machine-excavated as no significant archaeological features were identified.

During the course of the evaluation, deposits were sampled as a means of assessing environmental potential (report by D. J. Rackham, Appendix 12.4).

## 8.0 Results

### 8.1 Trench 1 and 1A (Fig 3)

A trench, measuring approximately 12.5m x 1.5m was positioned on the south-east side of the proposed development site, within an area where the house and garage associated with Plot No. 1 would be built (Fig. 2). A second, smaller cutting, was opened approximately 0.5m further north, with a view to clarifying the extent and function of archaeological features revealed in the larger trench.

Mechanical stripping was restricted to the topsoil, modern pits and natural-looking sandy deposits which sealed the top of a dense stone scatter, [101]. When these stones were exposed at the north end of the trench, mechanical excavation ceased but, on the south side, thick peat-like deposits were

sectioned as a means of clarifying their depths, should they not be determined during stratigraphical excavation by hand.

The earliest archaeological deposit, which rested over a natural, undulating, surface of compact silty sand, was c. 18cm of very dark, sandy organic mud, [121]. It contained fragments of wood and other vegetation, as well as occasional chunks of stone and pieces of tile, which may have been derived from an overlying rubble surface (below). It also contained two struck flints, probably dating to within the Bronze Age. This layer was the remnants of an ancient (boggy) land surface which lay adjacent to a palaeochannel or creek. The occurrence of prehistoric, as well as Romano-British, artefacts could reflect a long period of progressive development, as well as mixing caused by the soft nature of the muds, though it may be that the flints relate to a drier phase. It is possible that the wood component within [121] is the remains of a brushwood surface, thrown down as a consolidation raft, prior to construction of the rubble surface which lay directly above it (Appendix 12.4).

The rubble surface comprised limestone chunks, mixed with large fragments of tile, sherds of pottery and animal bone, [101]. It extended over much of the trench, sloping from north to south, and terminating at its junction with the east-west creek or channel, [115], which was filled with soft, silty, peat-like material. The tile assemblage is of particular interest as it contains fragments of combed/box flue, associated with a Roman hypocaust (heating system). Superficially, this might imply the proximity of high-status Roman buildings (eg villa complex), though, in this case, the entire assemblage appears to be made up of 'wasters' or rejects ( Appendix 12.5).

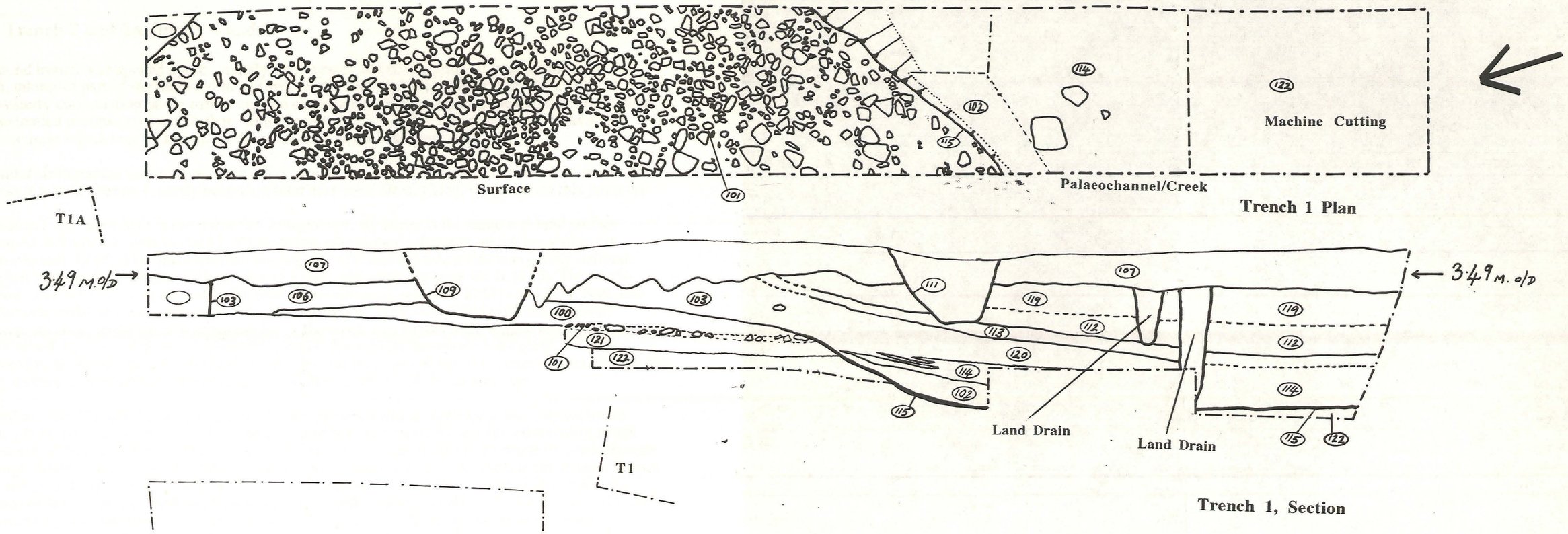
A second, smaller, cutting was opened, approximately 0.5m north of the main area, Trench 1A . The same surface continued northwards, lying almost immediately beneath the topsoil, where the natural sandy land surface rose noticeably. No limit to the stone spread was recorded and, on the north side of the trench, it was cut through by the south side of a large east-west drainage ditch, [130], (the same ditch was examined in Trench 2). Traces of the same organic sandy mud, which lay beneath the stones in the main area, were present, though it almost disappeared at the point where it was cut through by the ditch.

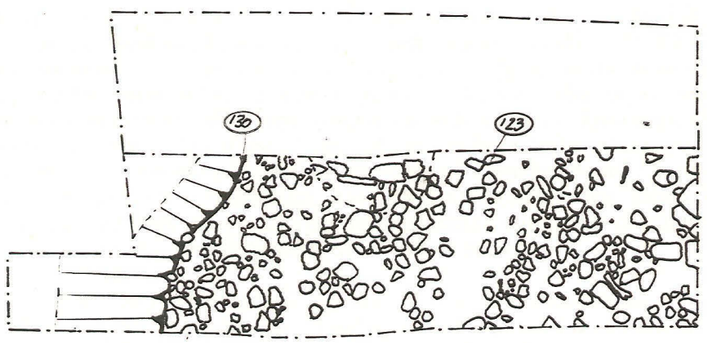
There was a quantity of datable Romano-British pottery within and below the rubble spread. Most of this has been dated to the later Roman period (Appendix 12.6).

The width of the well-defined creek which adjoined the south edge of the rubble surface was not determined. Its lower fill, [102], comprised c. 20cm of grey, mottled, sandy silt containing few inclusions; possibly, this was deposited as a result of slumpage/collapse of the channel edge. It was sealed beneath a thick accumulation of silty peat-like material, [114], containing fragments of wood, other vegetation and a quantity of shell . At the edge of the channel, this deposit had an interleaving relationship with an extensive layer of soft silty sand, [103]/[120], indicating that the formation of both deposits was (at least partially) contemporary (the peaty sediment accumulating within the very wet conditions in the channel, the more widespread sandy deposit being the result of erosion and soil-creep from higher ground, perhaps encouraged by ploughing further north).

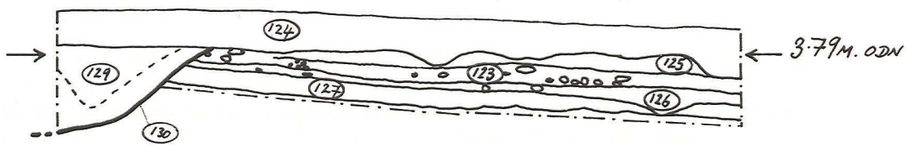
The stone surface was directly sealed beneath an extensive layer of soft silty sand, [100], which, like [103] above it, probably accumulated as a result of erosion and soil creep, perhaps induced or encouraged by the ploughing of sandy material further north. A series of deposits filling the upper channel void probably also developed as a result of similar processes.

# Fig. 3 Trenches 1 and 1A




Trench 1A Plan




Trench 1A, Section

Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

## 8.2 Trench 2 and 2A (Fig.'s 4 and 5)

A second trench was opened approximately 13m west of the first cutting. It was orientated north-south, taking-in part of the intended house and garage area associated with Plot No. 2 (Fig. 2). When the westerly continuation of the rubble surface examined in Trench 1 was exposed, this trench also was extended northwards for a further 7.0m (Trench 2A), though it was dog-legged to avoid a modern drain which was picked up on the north-east side of the main area.

A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded, though the creek/rubble surface interface was not as clear as it was in Trench 1, partly because a later east-west ditch, [215], was sited on this junction.

The natural silty sand, which pre-dated the archaeology, lay beneath the same wet land surface examined in Trench 1 (here coded [214]), or below silty organic deposits which lay within the palaeochannel, [222]. The interface between organic silts and organic muds was poorly defined, though it appeared to coincide with the line of a later east-west drainage ditch, [215]. Two, well-defined, post holes were examined at the base of the silt/mud interface, [223] and [224]. Both had regular cuts with flat bases, approximately 20cm in depth. They were filled with silty organic material, identical to the more widespread fill of the creek and, in this waterlogged environment where wood survives well, one assumes the posts to have been removed in antiquity. As they appeared to lie at the edge of a channel, it could be that their function was to anchor boats, though this interpretation is inevitably reserved, restricted by the smallness of the sample area.

In contrast with Trench 1, two successive phases of stone surface were recorded. The earlier of these, [213], was the same as [201] in Trench 1 and was descriptively similar, comprising rough limestone rubble, river-type cobbles and quantities of tile. It too sloped from north to south, though the angle was less pronounced, reflecting local topographical variation. In the extended area (Trench 2A), the size of the rubble decreased and it became sparse, close to the point at which it was cut through by the same east-west ditch examined in Trench 1 (here coded [218]). The excavators, whilst on site, thought it possible that the rubble surface was part of a north-south access, perhaps originating from a settlement on higher and drier ground to the north (the larger stones would only be required close to the water course where the ground was soft and wet). However, as a track, the feature would be remarkably wide - at least 20m wide, assuming it to be orientated broadly north-south and, in any case, no evidence of a surface was seen in Trenches 6 and 7 further north. It would seem more likely, therefore, that it was a point at which flanking access was gained to the channel which, possibly, connected with other such channels associated with a pre-canalised Witham, very different in character to the engineered and tamed version of today.

At some time during the later Roman period, the stone surface was completely sealed (quite rapidly, judging from the undamaged nature of bone and other fragile material) beneath a thick layer of clean, coarse, gritty, silty sand, [211]. This layer was probably deposited as a result of flooding, which caused surface run-off from higher ground, transporting large particles in the process. No exact parallel was identified in Trench 1, though the surface had similarly been sealed beneath a protective layer of a more dirty, softer silty sand.

A second surface was recorded in this trench, built over the top of the clean sandy deposit described above. It was quite different from its predecessor, being made up of much smaller stones, tile fragments, cobbles and pebbles (a much more flimsy affair, which may have been temporary). In Trench 2A, this later surface was not examined in plan for lack of time, and because the chief objective was to determine the extent of the principal structure.

At present, there is no direct evidence from which to date the initiation of organic silt build-up within the extinct water coarse, though the stratigraphy in Trench 1 suggests that, by the time that the stone surface was abandoned, the accumulation may have already attained some considerable thickness.

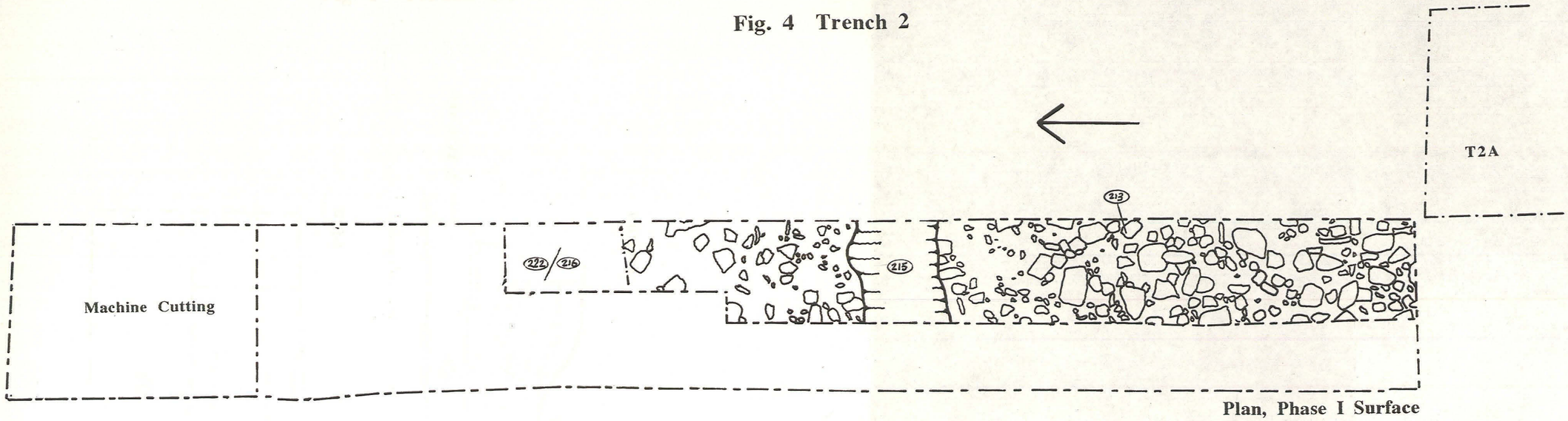
As in Trench 1, deposits which post-dated the stone surface comprised a series of interleaving, often thick, silty sand accumulations containing varying quantities of coarse inclusion ([201], [227], [226], [225], [209], [207]). One of these, [207], lay north of the creek, though its southern limit was

removed by a later ditch, [215]. It was not possible to establish whether this thick accumulation of silty sand developed rapidly, or if it was the product of cumulative seasonal events (eg flooding/relocation of unstable material derived from higher ground). Its initial deposition did, however, signal the abandonment of the later, more fragile, surface.

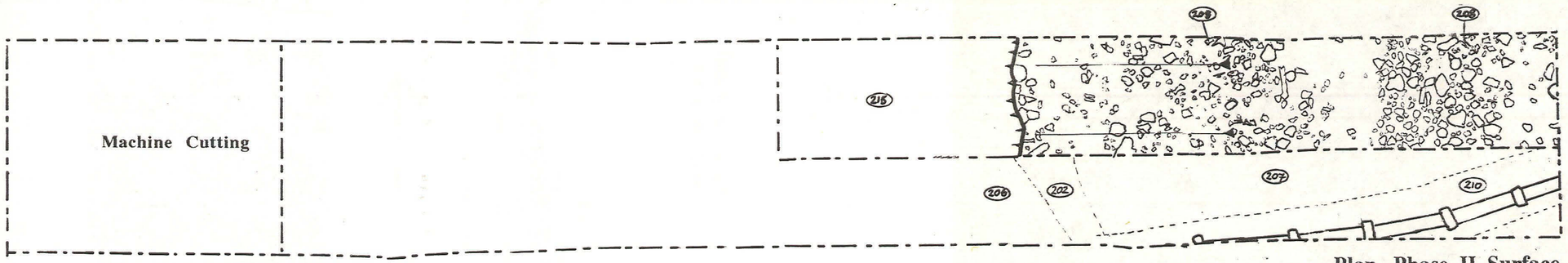
An east-west ditch, [215], which lay in the area of the palaeochannel/stone surface interface, was sectioned in Trench 2, though no corresponding feature was recorded in Trench 1. In its final form, the ditch was stratigrapically late, though it had been recut on at least four occasions, the earliest cutting apparently taking place during silt deposition within the (?extinct) creek. As, prior to canalisation, the Witham was much more prone to flooding than it is today, one assumes the ditch to have taken on something of a protective role (flood defence). In its later form, it may have been contemporary with a much more substantial east-west ditch, [218], approximately 7.5m further north in Trench 2A. However, this larger ditch, located on higher ground, did not appear to have been recut and may have been later. Its full width was not determined, though it may have exceeded 5.0m. It was recorded in Trenches 1A, 2A, and in the small test trench, 4. As its siting corresponded with the rear property boundary associated with cottages immediately east of the Five Mile Hotel, it is reasonable to suppose that the two may be related. One assumes the primary role of the ditch to have been drainage/flood defence. Its lower fills were indicative of standing, possibly stagnant, water.

As the above ditch was stratigraphically late, there was a possibility it would feature on early maps of the area. Both the 1906 2nd Edition OS, and the 1850 tithe appointment maps were examined at the Lincolnshire Archives Office. The former map (Appendix 12.3) indicates that the rears of two buildings terminated a short distance north of the areas where the ditch was sectioned, suggesting that it may indeed have been a property boundary associated with these structures. On the earlier map of 1850, the ranges are absent. However, in 1906, they adjoined the structure now known as the Five Mile Hotel and associated buildings to the west.

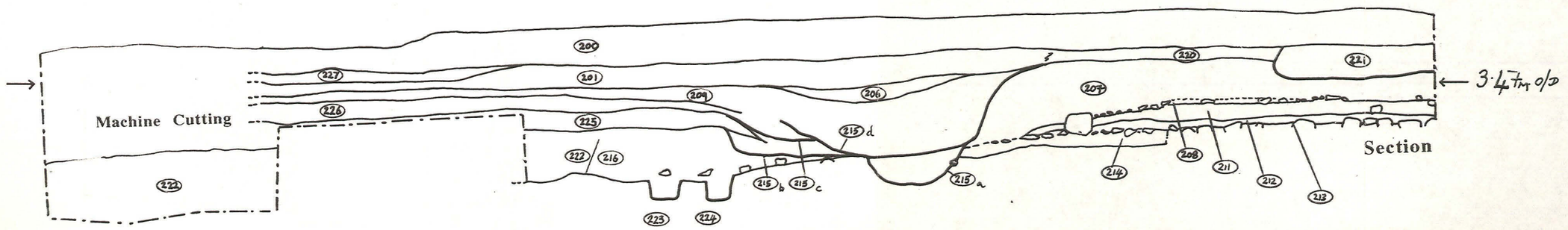
# Fig. 4 Trench 2




Plan, Phase I Surface




Plan, Phase II Surface




Section

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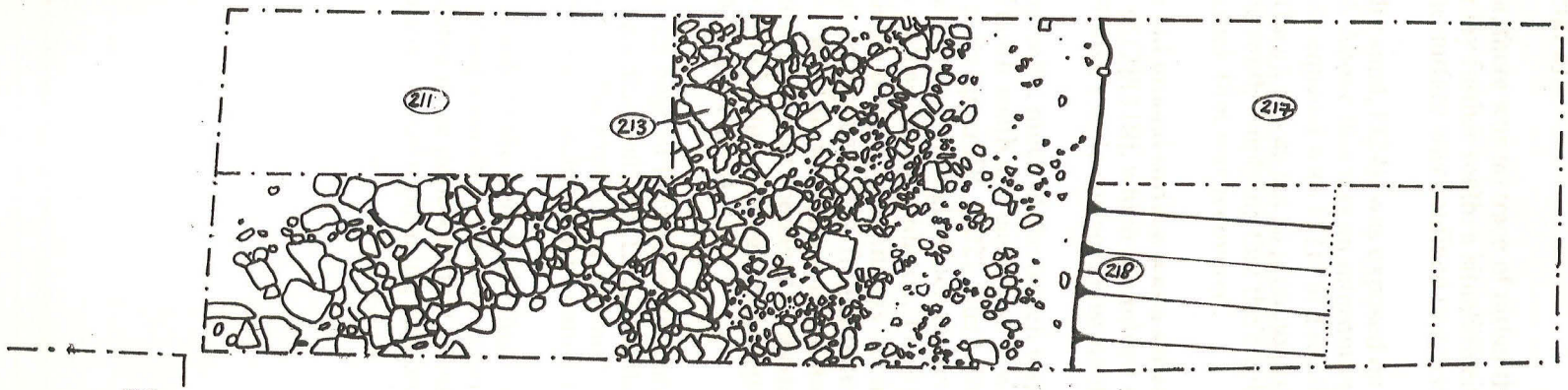
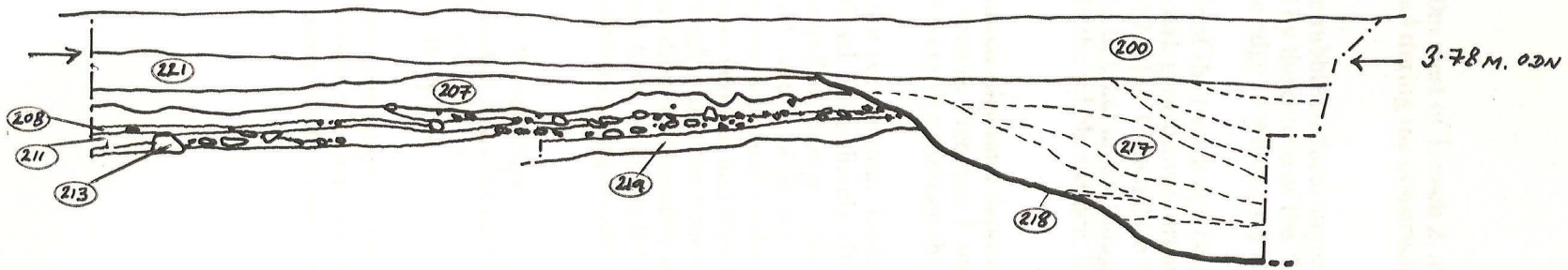
(2.5cm = 1.0m)




Plan




Section

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(2.5cm = 1.0m)

Fig. 5 Trench 2A

## 8.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 6)

The third excavation trench was sited approximately 20m west of Trench 2, and was orientated north-west to south-east to sample areas that would be affected during the construction of dwellings in Plots 3 and 4 (Fig. 2).

In this area, there was no trace of either the creek or the rubble surface, suggesting that the course of the former lay further south: a situation either mirrored by the course of the 'hard, or reflecting the fact that the surface was confined to a discreet zone, the edge of which may lie further east.

Natural silty sand, [324], was exposed on the south side of the trench at a height approximately 3.37m OD. Above this was an intermittent horizon of dark grey/brown, organic silty sand, [313]. This may be equated with [121] in Trench 1 and [214]/[216] in Trench 2 (ie the buried, muddy, ground surface). It was not as pronounced as it had been in other areas, though it appeared to thicken towards the south, implying that the creek, and possibly the rubble surface, lies further to the south. A single struck flint was recovered.

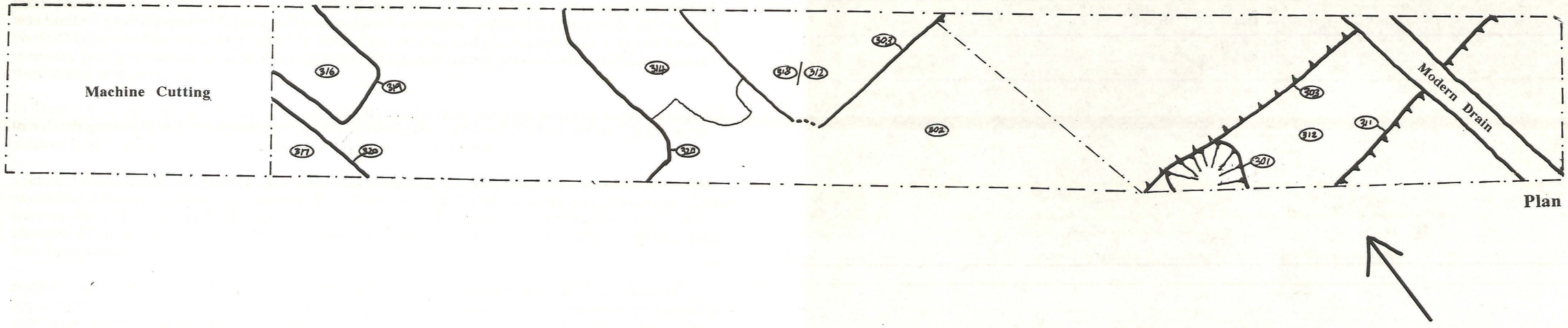
Above the old ground surface was a series of light-coloured silty sand deposits, almost 50cm in thickness, [312]/[318], which resembled similar layers seen in Trenches 1 and 2 over the top of the Romano-British rubble surface. Post-medieval features were dug through the top of these.

Archaeologically, much of the trench was dominated by a very regular, L-shaped trench, [303], orientated north-south and east-west. It was clearly-defined, immediately after the topsoil, [300], was removed, as its upper fill, [302], was a distinctive, clean yellow/orange gritty clay which contrasted against the material through which the feature was dug. A section of fill was removed to provide a profile, as well as dating evidence. The exposed profile was wide and shallow, the maximum recorded depth being approximately 40cm. The sides were vertical, and they broke sharply to a level, though undulating, base. The fragile nature of soils through which the trench was dug leaves no doubt that it was filled-in almost immediately after excavation. It is possible the trench was a bedding or foundation for a post-medieval or modern path: pottery from within its fill is securely datable to within the 19th century, though there appears to be no corresponding feature recorded in cartographic sources (Appendix 12.3).

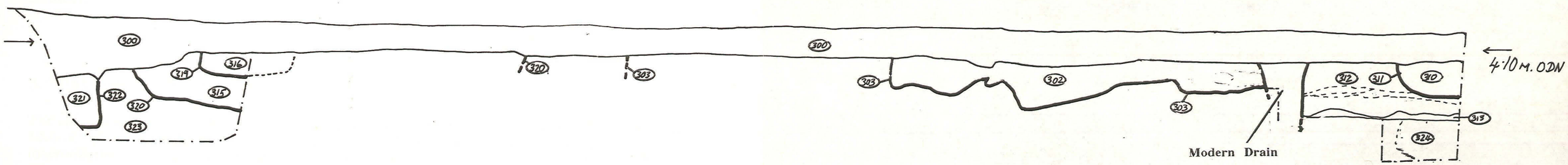
The south-east edge of the above was parallel with the north-west edge of a similar linear cut, [311], which lay approximately 1m further to the south-east. Most of it lay beyond the excavation, though, where sampled, the exposed profile and depth was similar to that of its neighbour. Its fill, [309]/[310], also contained 19th century pottery and it is likely the two were directly related.

On the west side of the trench, the ?path base, [303], was cut through by a further large feature, [320]. This (and a smaller earth-cut anomaly, which was later still) was not investigated in detail, as it was considered more important that efforts be fixed on areas which would provide the most useful and informative data for planning purposes.

**Fig. 6 Trench 3**




Plan




Section

**Scale = 1:40**
**(2.5cm = 1.0m)**

## 8.4 Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Four small, machine-dug, trenches were sited within or close to where the access road associated with the proposed development would be located. Detailed recording in these areas was not undertaken because, after consultation with the County Archaeologist and the Client, it was jointly agreed that the effort would centre on examining and understanding the archaeology within the main three (extended) areas,which are more vulnerable to the threat of development. After machining had taken place in each of these trenches, a superficial inspection suggested that archaeological potential was limited, as compared with the quality of archaeological data exposed further south. The revised (verbal) brief was that recording would be limited to cleaning and photography. In only one trench were any purely archaeological features exposed, though significant palaeoenvironmental deposits were noted in some areas.

In Trench 4, a short distance east of Trench 2A, the fill of a substantial earth-cut feature was exposed to a depth greater than 1.0m below the topsoil. This was the east-west ditch examined on the north sides of both Trenches 1A and 2A. It occupied the entire trench area.

Trench 5 was sited approximately 12m north-east of Trench 3. It was machine-excavated to a depth exceeding 1.0m and one section face was cleaned and inspected. Only modern archaeological features were exposed, though a peat-like deposit lay in the base of the trench, possibly the fill of a small channel. As these deposits lay beneath the anticipated impact depths, recording beyond photography was suspended.

Approximately 18m north of Trench 4 lay Trench 6. This was machine-excavated to a depth of approximately 1.5m. In the north and west section faces, approximately 75cm beneath the topsoil, a narrow, truncated, channel was exposed, orientated north-east to south-west. It was not determined whether or not this was contemporary with the more substantial channel examined on the south sides of Trenches 1 and 2.

Trench 7 was sited approximately 16m north-north-east of Trench 6. It was excavated to c. 1.0m. No archaeological features were exposed in this area, which was quickly abandoned due to a rapid inflow of water.

## 8.5 Environmental potential/assessment (summary)

The environmental potential of the site is demonstrably high (see report by D. J. Rackham, Appendix 12.4). Organic silts and muds, both within and outside of the channel, contain well-preserved macrofossils (wood fragments, plant remains, insect remains etc.), and it is reliably assumed that microfossils (eg. pollen) will be equally well-represented. Scope exists therefore for an advancement in the understanding of the immediate, as well as the surrounding, catchment during the later prehistoric and Roman periods, as well as a more specific assessment of the natural channel, which may have implications for furthering the understanding of the functional and economic role played by the Witham in the late prehistoric and early historical periods (below).

# 9.0 Conclusions

The evaluation at Fiskerton has demonstrated that there are well-preserved archaeological deposits on the site of proposed development, and that these deposits are of considerable regional significance for furthering the understanding of the role played by the Witham during late prehistoric and early historical times. It has also shown that the Fiskerton area may have been more important in the Roman period than has hitherto been suspected. However, in common with many field evaluations, the exercise has raised many more questions than it has answered, presenting a range of possibilities regarding the role played by the extensive rubble surface or 'hard', its relationship with the creek, and the integration of these features within a wider landscape setting.

It has been justifiably suggested that the rubble surface examined functioned as a point of access to the Witham, or an associated creek. The idea that an estuarine-creek system existed before the river was canalised in the post-medieval period has been demonstrated, largely through the interpretative use of aerial photography, which suggests that a relict course of the Witham lies in the central and western fens, the head of which is a short distance east of Fiskerton (Wilkinson, 1987). Analyses of sediments from waterfront excavations in Lincoln have shown that, in the Roman period, the Witham was tidal, though the wider economic problem of whether it was navigable between Lincoln and the sea has not been determined (*ibid*). The discovery of two (?prehistoric) boats at Lincoln has been cited as evidence that the Witham was indeed navigable as far as Lincoln (May, 1988), though, in the absence of physical evidence (eg the depth of the principal channel between Lincoln and Fiskerton), this interpretation is, at best, questionable. It is not known, therefore, whether exotic goods destined for the markets at Lincoln (both in the Roman and pre-Roman periods) were transported in a one-stage journey, or if they were off-loaded onto smaller vessels or land-based transport at a point where the river became too shallow to support larger craft. Seen in this context, the recent discovery may hold possibilities for furthering this line of investigation, given its location, a short distance east of the relict estuarine head described by Wilkinson.

It is quite possible that the Roman 'hard' examined at Fiskerton was primarily of local importance; a point of access for fishermen or traders. Like the early Iron Age jetty/causeway excavated by Field in 1981 some 270m south-east of the present site (Field 1986), its principal role may have been as a crossing point, linking settlements on either side of the river and fen. However, it must be born in mind that both sites, whilst being of two totally different cultural periods, are situated close to the head of the relict creek system discussed by Wilkinson, and there is a real possibility, therefore, that, for larger vessels, the Witham was not navigable as far as Lincoln and that, at points close to the estuarine head, suitable landing stations may have existed as off-loading points for large vessels whose goods were destined for the Roman settlement of Lincoln (the status of Lincoln in the pre-Roman period is proving elusive, though later Iron Age settlement material has been recorded on the edge of the Brayford Pool (Darling & Jones, 1988)).

Until recently, the importance of Fiskerton (as a centre of population) during the Roman period has not been assessed. Sporadic finds are noted in the Sites & Monuments Record, though a context for this material has not been determined. The Romano-British 'hard' on the site of proposed development demonstrates, in itself, that some form of settlement and (perhaps) commercial activity was taking place in the area, though the large quantities of tile recovered during excavation may point more towards a local production centre than a high-status building(s) within the immediate environment (Appendix 12.5). However, since excavations ceased, circumstantial evidence has indicated that there probably was a settlement (of some considerable size) close to the present site. A member of the Five Mile Hotel Partnership commented that, in one field, centred on national grid reference TF 04407212, quantities of stone had been dragged-up during ploughing, as if reflecting the presence of buried walls.Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the field in question supported dense crops. However, as it is traversed by an east-west footpath, limited inspection was possible, and it would appear that the eastern side of the field is littered with stone and large quantities of tile, with traces of mortar adhering to its surfaces. A small sample was retained, and confirmation was received from staff at the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit that the tile is Roman, as indeed is a single sherd of pottery (3rd century Mortaria). It would be beneficial if, at some future date, this field were systematically field walked as a basis for up-dating the Sites & Monuments Record.

In its present form, the proposed housing scheme may incur impacts to archaeological resources, principally during the construction of houses 1 and 2, with lesser impacts coming from houses 3 and 4 . These could occur during the excavation of foundation trenches if traditional strip footings are used. However, the Client has indicated that a flexible approach will be adopted, involving the use of mini-piled foundations in sensitive areas. Further impacts may occur during the digging of service trenches, details of which have not yet been provided.

Should a follow-on phase of work be deemed necessary by the planning authority, it may be considered appropriate that sensitive areas vulnerable to disturbance or destruction be further investigated and, effectively, preserved 'by record': unless, that is, methods can be devised whereby the archaeology can be preserved *in situ.* D. J. Rackham, in his assessment (Appendix 12.4), has listed a series of priorities worthy of consideration, should follow-on investigations prove to be the only viable option. Namely:

> auguring, as a means of establishing the extent, size and depth of the channel, with a view to determining its status and its viability as a transport channel for boats in the Roman period (auguring might also reveal the extent and orientation of the 'hard').
>
> sampling of organic-based deposits as a means of assessing tidal fluctuation, marine/brackish water influence and current flow, with a view to determining whether or not the channel was merely a tributary or creek, or indeed, if it was a main channel within a tidal zone.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of Pre-Construct Archaeology, sincere thanks are expressed to the Commissioning Client, D. Perkins & Associates (on behalf of The Five Mile Hotel Partnership). Thanks go also to Steve Catney, the County Archaeologist, and to the Assistant County Archaeologist, Ian George, for providing guidance throughout this evaluation. Most of the fieldwork was undertaken by Wayne Livesey, Jim Rylatt and Rob Schofield, and sincere thanks are expressed also to them. Thanks are due to the staff of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit for finds assessment and to James Rackham for environmental assessment. Finally, sincere thanks are expressed to Naomi Field for unpublished information on the Iron Age timber causeway, which was excavated in 1981.

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# 12.0 Appendices

12.1 List of contexts

12.2 Colour photographs

12.3 Historical maps

12.4 Environmental report (D. J. Rackham)

12.5 Assessment report on ceramic building material (R. Kemp)

12.6 Pottery assessment report (M. Darling and J. Young)

12.7 Flint Assessment

12.8 Site archive

## 12.1 List of contexts (classification only)

### Trench 1

| Context | Classification |
|---|---|
| [100] | Extensive layer of soft silty sand sealing top of stone surface [101]. Represents material washed from higher ground to N. of excavation (natural erosion, possibly encouraged by cultivation/ploughing). |
| [101] | Extensive surface of limestone and tile (Roman). Slopes from N - S, stopping at junction of old river course/palaeochannel. Much pottery/bone etc. Seals mud/peat layer [121]. |
| [102] | Fill in palaeochannel immediately south of surface/hard [101]: basal lining of channel 'cut' [115]. Comprises soft sandy silt (minimal oxidation). Interleaving relationship with [103] reflects gradual accumulation in palaeochannel, induced/encouraged by hill wash from higher ground. |
| [103] | Thick deposit of soft silty sand which seals [100] and dips into silted palaeochannel void. Post-dates surface [101]. Interleaves with [120] within palaeochannel void (ie peat formation/silt deposition = contemporary formation processes). |
| [104] | Fill of late disturbance in N/E corner of Trench 1 |
| [105] | Cut of the above |
| [106] | Clean yellow gritty sandy clay below topsoil at N. end of trench. Disturbed by rotivator and truncated by later disturbance on both sides. Identical to fill of linear feature [302]/[303] in Trench 3. Possibly associated with 19th century gardening (? path base) |
| [107] | Topsoil/cultivation layer |
| [108] | Modern pit fill, N. side of trench. |
| [109] | Cut of the above |
| [110] | Modern pit fill, south/central area. |

[111] Cut of the above

[112] Layer of light fawn/grey silty sand, S. side of trench, overlying filled-in depression of palaeochannel. Virtually stone-free. Same deposit as [119] (above) but colour variation induced by leaching.

[113] Below [112]. Layer/fill of dark brown humic silty soil (peat-like material + silt). ?reflects period of stagnation between episodes of seasonal wash erosion/deposition.

[114] Below [113]/[120], above [102] in palaeochannel. Up to 0.4m of peat; containing wood fragments and reflecting very damp conditions. At edge of channel, [114] interleaves with [103], reflecting contemporary formation processes inside and outside of palaeochannel.

[115] Base or 'cut' of palaeochannel. North edge well-defined in Trench 1; proving more elusive in Trench 2. North edge of natural watercourse.

[116] Fill of modern pit seen in west section.

[117] Cut of the above.

[118] Cut for [106]

[119] Thick deposit of mixed/mottled silty sand filling upper void created by palaeochannel/watercourse. Hill wash caused by seasonal flooding/cultivation of higher land to N.

[120] In palaeochannel void. Mottled grey sandy silt, merging with [103]. The latter = more oxidised, though the two represent the same formation process. [120], being in the channel, has remained waterlogged.

[121] Compact layer of dark grey/black silty sand: muddy peat-like material immediately below stone surface [101], with stones and finds compressed within. Reflects very wet, boggy conditions - the layer on which Roman surface founded. Accumulation may reflect wide timescale, as reflected by finds of different periods (modified by trampling/working).

[122] Below [121]. Natural mottled silty sand; ?glacial origin/Kellaways Sand.

[123] Trench 1A. Continuation of surface in small area to N. of Trench 1. Here, on higher ground, much closer to surface (truncated by ploughing).

[124] Trench 1A. Topsoil.

[125] Trench 1A. Same as [106] in Trench 1 (very disturbed by animals/ploughing). Post-med.

[126] Trench 1A. Below [123]: Organic mud, into which stones associated with surface [123] pressed.

[127] Trench 1A. Mottled grey silty sand below [126].

[128] Trench 1A. Natural silty sand (?Kellaways).

[129] Trench 1A. Fill of substantial east-west ditch, extreme N. side of trench and same ditch as [218] in Trench 2. ?Post-med. property boundary/flood defence for properties fronting High Street.

[130] Trench 1A. Cut of the above.

[131] Trench 1A. Fill of post-med/modern pit dug through Roman surface.

[132] Trench 1A. Cut of the above.

## Trench 2

| Context | Classification |
|---|---|
| [200] | Topsoil/ploughsoil |
| [201] | Fill of large natural depression below topsoil, east side of trench: mid-brown, mottled soft silty sand. Silting/inwash |
| [202] | Alternating lenses of silty sand/sandy silt filling ditch(es) [215]. Stratigraphically, the ditch is late, and fills were removed rapidly. East-west drainage/flood defence ditch: possibly contemporary with ditch [218] in Trench 2. The well-defined fill lenses would appear to reflect seasonal flooding. |
| [203] | 'Cut' of [202]: possibly a pond for livestock, even if of natural origin. |
| [204] | Fill of 19th/20th century pit below/within topsoil. Contained bones of large herbivore (?bovine) |
| [205] | Cut of the above. |
| [206] | Fawn/grey-brown lenses of fine silty sand filling upper void of E/W ditch [215]. |
| [207] | Thick deposit(s) of mottled silty sand on N. side of ditch [215]. Contains high % of tile. Much leaching/Fe-pan formation. Directly overlies surface [208]. ?Flood wash/ seasonal silting via higher ground to N. |
| [208] | Surface of cobbles, stone and tile on N. side of ditch [215]. Successor to surface [213], though less substantial - reinstatement following deposition of major wash/flood deposit [211]. |
| [209] | Thin, level spread of very mottled silty sharp sand on S. side of ditch 215. The north edge of the layer tips into ditch [215]c (contemporary process). ?Wash from higher ground. |
| [210] | Fill of modern N/S pipe trench, seen on N/E side of trench. |
| [211] | Clean-looking white/brown coarse sandy layer on N. side of ditch [215], sealing silts surrounding stone surface [213]. ?Deposited as a result of erosion/surface run-off of material derived from higher ground to north. Major 'event'. |
| [212] | Dark brown humic sandy silt occurring around the stones associated with surface [213]. Contains small fragments of wood, bone, tile etc. ?Mixture of occupation debris (trample) + surface run-off from higher ground. |
| [213] | Surface comprising mixed limestone chunks, tile + bone, Romano-British pottery etc. Lies between palaeochannel and point where traversed by later east-west ditch ([218] in Trench 2A). Same surface as [101] in Trench 1A. |

[214] Compact layer of sandy peaty mud, directly beneath surface [213] on S. side of ditch [215]. Effectively, the old (boggy) land surface upon which surface [213] was constructed. Contained R-B pottery/tile + ?Bronze Age flints: accumulation over considerable period of time rather than residuality?

[215] At least four phases of east-west ditch cutting (a, b, c, d on drawing). Latest phase dug through [207], though earliest cut could be contemporary with peat formation in palaeochannel. The ditch occurs at junction of palaeochannel/stone surface. Drainage ditch/flood defence at edge of old watercourse.

[216] Continuation of [214] on N. side of ditch(es) [215]. Deposit merges, within broad interface with peat deposits associated with palaeochannel. Contains R-B + ?Iron Age pottery + worked flints.

[217] Fill(s) of wide E-W ditch on N. side of Trench 2A. Stratigraphically late and could be property boundary/flood defence associated with buildings fronting the High Street. Same ditch examined in Trench 1A.

[218} Cut of the above.

[219] Compact natural horizon comprising mottled grey, virtually stone-free, silty sand. Underlies/is cut by all archaeology. ?Kellaways sand.

[220] Whitish-grey silty sand below topsoil, immediately N. of latest cut of ditch [215]. ?Upcast from ditch digging/recutting.

[221] ?Post-medieval feature seen in W. section, N. side of trench. Interpretation uncertain.

[222] Thick deposit(s) of peat mixed with silty sand within palaeochannel. Gradually merges with peat/mud layer, [216], on which stone surface founded. Contains complete bi-valve (fresh water mussel) shells + large and small wood fragments.

[223] Well-defined post hole seen in base of peat [222]. Occurs immediately south of stone surface [213] and peaty mud/peat interface. The post had clearly been removed deliberately as, in this environment, it would certainly not have decayed *in situ*.

[224] Similar to, and adjacent to, the above. Both post holes possibly associated with riverside structure.

[225] Layer of mixed fawn/white (mottled) silty sand, similar to [202]. Dips into S. edge of ditch [215]b.

[226] Similar to (and overlying) the above. Dips into S. side of ditch [215]c.

[227] Layer of yellow/white (mottled) silty sand on S. side of trench only. Underlies the topsoil, [200], and overlies layer/fill [201].

## Trench 3

| **Context** | **Classification** |
|---|---|
| [300] | Modern plough/top soil horizon |
| [301] | Steep-sided small pit-like feature, S/E side of trench. Post-med |

[302] Upper fill of large L-shaped feature: clean yellow/orange gritty/clayey silt. Post-med.

[303] Vertically-sided cut of shallow L-shaped feature. ?Post-med. path trench.

[304] Fill within feature [303], east side.

[305] Lower fill of post-med feature, [303].

[306] Fill of pit/post hole [301].

[307] Fill, modern land drain trench

[308] Cut, modern land drain trench

[309] Fill of vertically-sided feature, S. side of trench; broadly parallel with (?and contemporary with) feature [303]. Cut = [311].

[310] Same as [309]

[311] Cut for shallow, vertically-sided feature parallel (?and contemporary) with feature [303]. Contains [309] and [310].

[312] Mottled, soft silty sand, possibly = [100] in Trench 1.

[313] Layer of dark grey/brown organic mud-like material. Same as [121], Trench 1 and[214]/[216] in Trench 2

[314] Unexcavated fill of feature [303]

[315] Compact orange/grey silty clay filling feature [320]

[316] Compact yellow/orange fill within feature [319].

[317] Soft brown silty sand at N/W end of trench. Not excavated/unclear.

[318] Soft light grey/white silty sand below [300]. Very similar to [312].

[319] Shallow feature recorded in plan + N/E and S/E sections of machine box trench at N/W end of area. Small rectangular pit or N-S linear feature. Late.

[320] Cut, large ?rectangular feature, N/W end of area. Recorded only in plan + sections in machine box trench.

[321] Orange/mid-grey, compact clay filling feature [322]. Examined in machine box trench, N/W end of Trench 3. Contained by [322].

[322] Similar to/same as feature [320]. ?Large rectangular pit.

[323] Natural silt with fine sand, N/W end of trench. Visible in sections of machine box trench.

[324] Lenses of natural silty sand, S/E end of area in base of trench

## 12.2 Colour photographs

**Photo.1** Trench 1. Part-excavated palaeochannel/creek (foreground), Romano-British 'hard' in background, looking north-east.

**Photo. 2** Trench 1. Romano-British 'hard', looking south-west towards creek/palaeochannel

**Photo. 3** Trench 2. Secondary Romano-British 'hard', [208], cut by east-west ditch, [215] (section), looking north-west

**Photo. 4** The same view, with earlier, more robust, surface, [213], and fully-excavated ditch

**Photo. 5** Trench 1A. Northerly continuation of Romano-British 'hard', cut through in background by east-west ditch, looking north-west

**Photo. 6** Trench 2A. Northerly continuation of Romano-British rubble 'hard', cut by east-west ditch (background). On the right hand side (background) the surface, and underlying sandy mud layer has been removed, exposing natural sands. In the foreground ( left hand side) can be seen the clean sandy (wash) deposit which completely sealed the surface

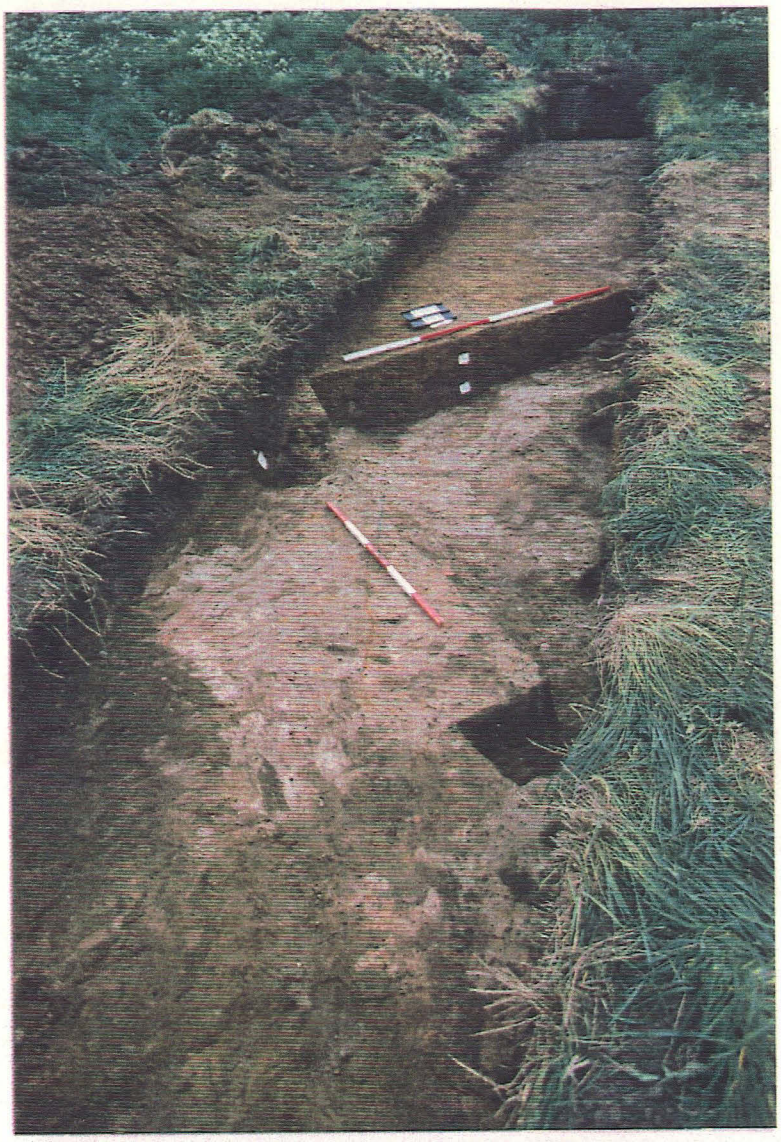


**Photo. 7** Trench 3. Large L-shaped feature, [303], (sectioned), with fill of similar feature, [311] in foreground, looking north-west

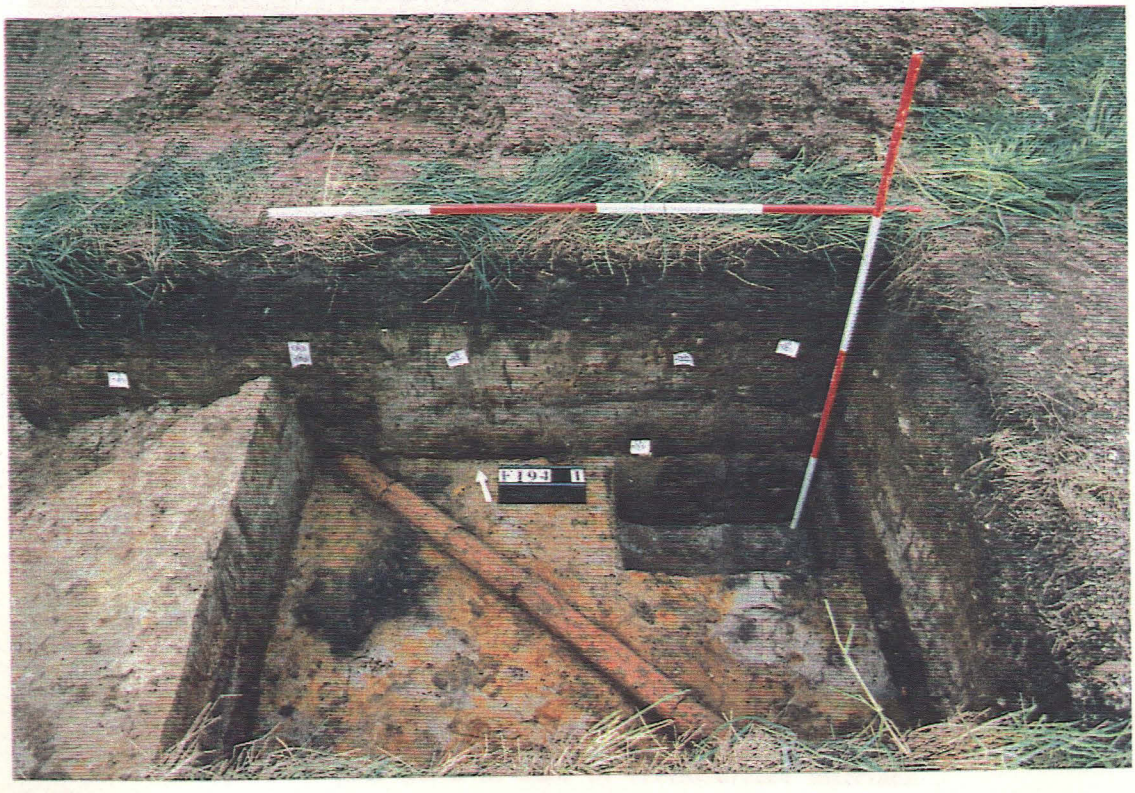


**Photo. 8** Trench 3. Natural sandy surface (below number board), overlain with organic mud horizon and natural wash deposits in section, looking north

**Photo. 9** Trench 2. Southern extent of rubble 'hard' (creek/surface interface), looking south-west

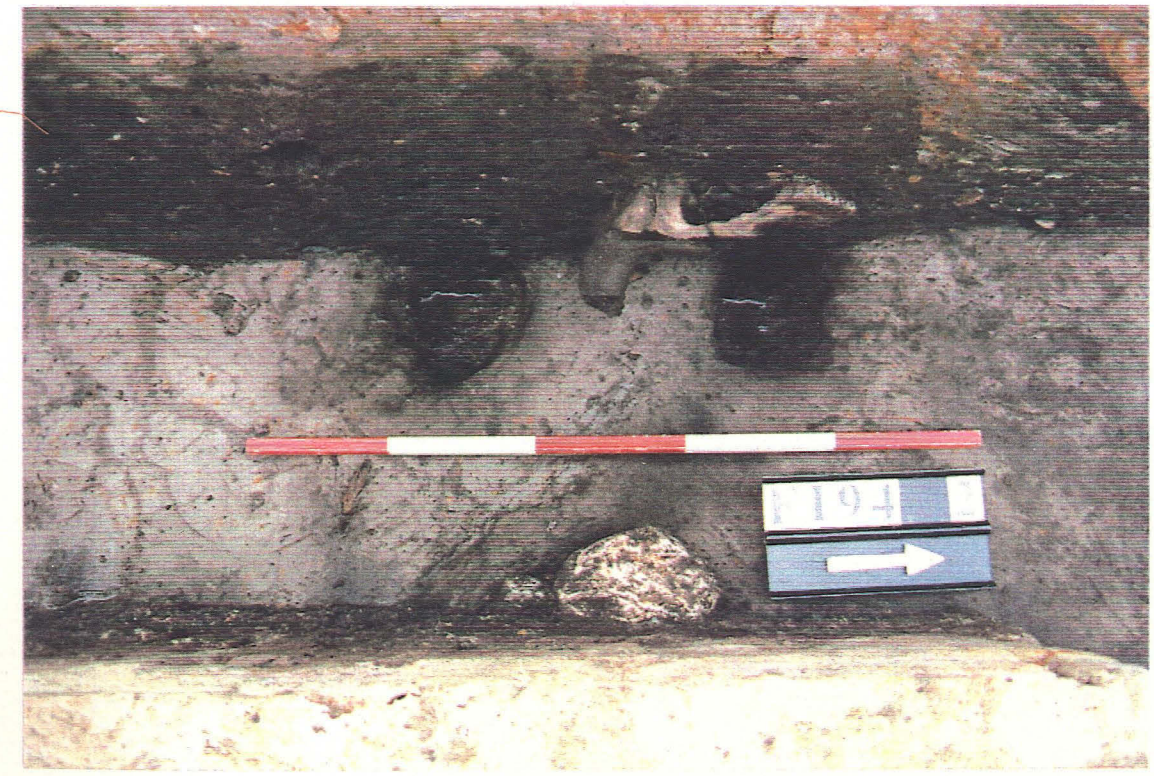
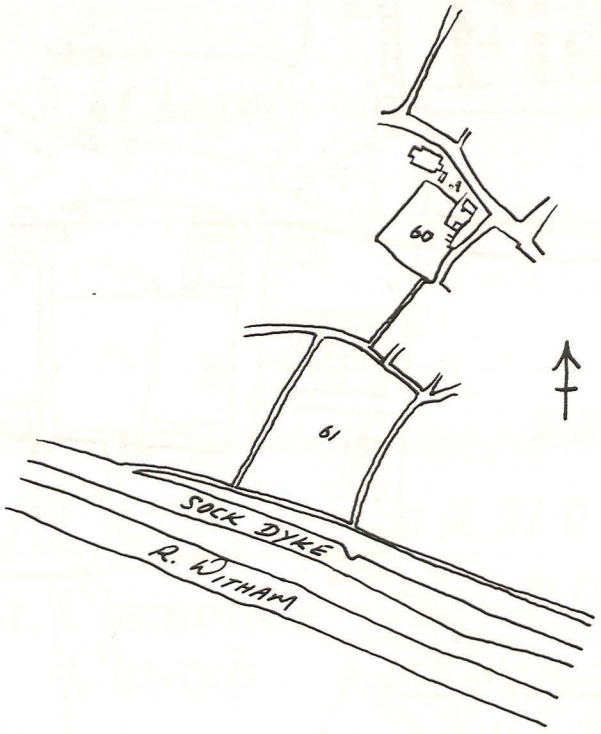


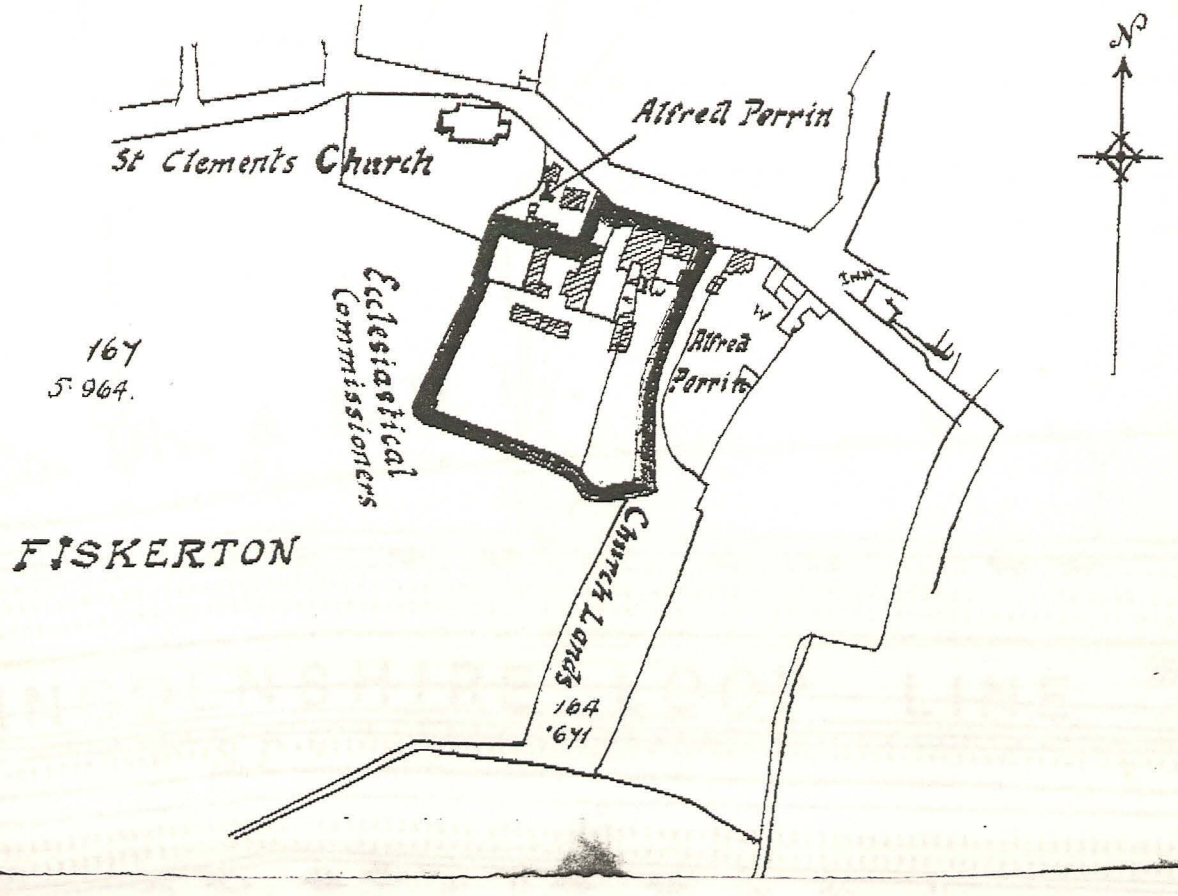
**Photo. 10** Trench 2. Post holes in base of creek/surface interface, looking west

12.3 Historical maps

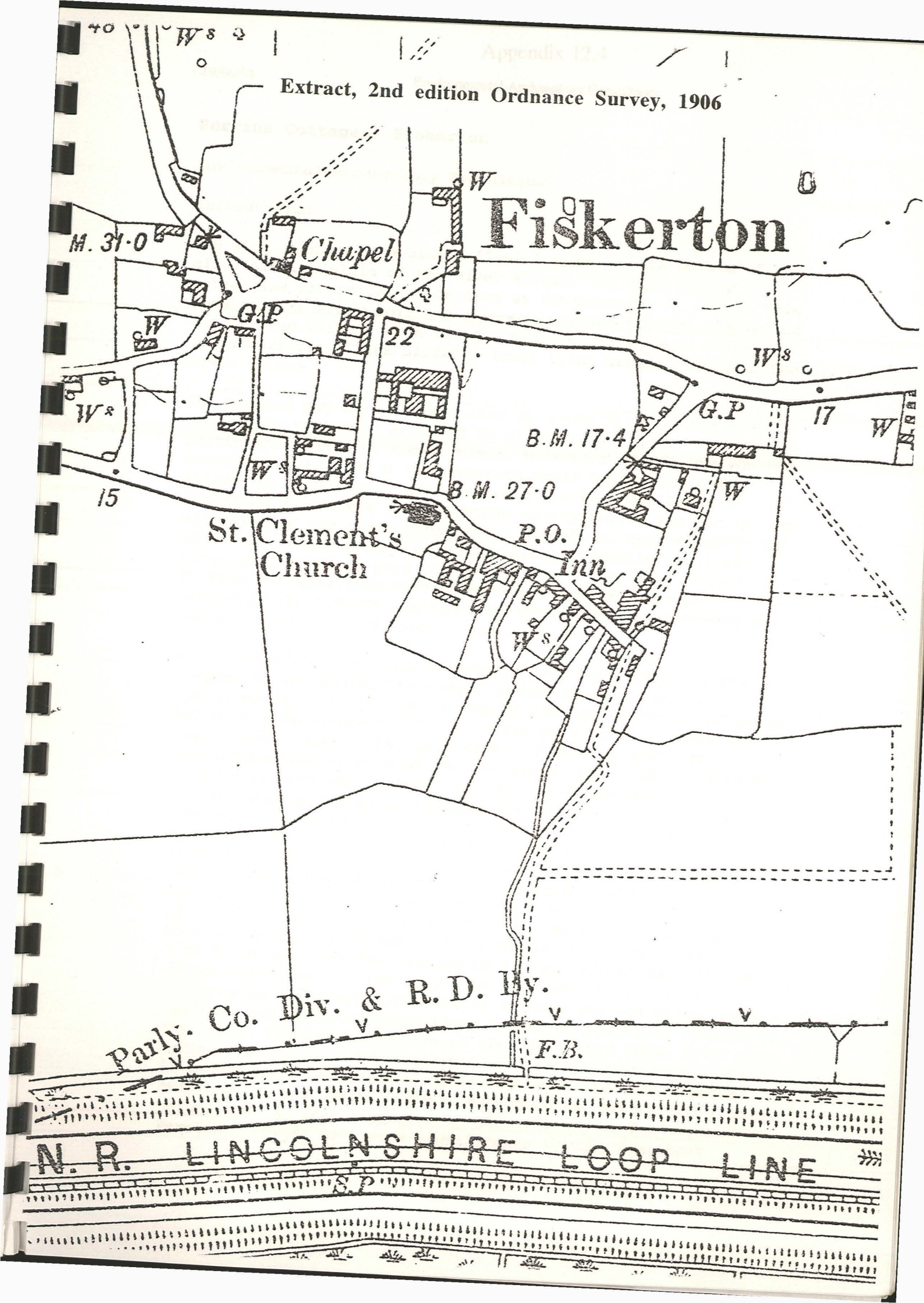
## Copy extract, 1850 Tithe Appointment (copy, 1909)




## Copy from Deeds, Perrins Cottages, 1927
(courtesy of D. Perkins & Associates)



Extract, 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 1906



## Perrins Cottages, Fiskerton

Environmental Archaeology Evaluation

*Introduction*

The site lies on fine glacio-fluvial sands at the margin of the alluvial floodplain of the River Witham. The Soil Survey categorise the soils in the area as Adventurers' 2, and at this location the sandy soil has a humose surface horizon similar to the Isleham series, with little evidence of the peat soils characteristic of the slightly lower lying ground closer to the River Witham.

The present day soil surface lies at 3.69m OD, a little above the levels typically affected by flooding and peat formation in prehistoric and more recent times. Wilkinson (1987) has equated deposits at 0.5m OD at the Brayford Wharf East site, a few kilometres upstream in Lincoln, with the Fen Clay being deposited downstream in the Witham valley during the 1st or 2nd millenium BC and other deposits in Lincoln at approximately 2m OD do not become inundated or subject to flooding until the Roman period (Vince pers comm). The top of the Roman 'hard' at Perrins Cottages lies over a metre above this level at approximately 3.2m OD and the base of the channel observed at the southern end of Trench 1 lies at 2.19m OD.

At the Fiskerton Iron Age Causeway site (Field 1986), a few hundred metres south, the modern ground surface lies at approximately 1.6m OD and the top of the 1st millenium BC peats below at approximately 1.0m OD (Field pers comm.). These may have shrunk considerably as a result of modern drainage, a feature typical of much of the fen peats (Hall and Coles 1994). Work on the Fenland Project has shown that sea levels continued to rise during the Roman and post-Roman periods and with modern high water in Boston at 4.3m OD (Boston Harbour Authority) there must be a possibility that creeks or channels in the Fiskerton area in the Roman period may have been tidal, although Wilkinson (1987) has suggested that the relict creeks visible in aerial photographs just to the east of Fiskerton may have been the head of the estuary. It is probable that the Witham was navigable up to Lincoln from the evidence of a cobbled foreshore surface at 3.5m OD of mid-late 3rd century on the waterfront excavations (Vince pers comm) in the city. The size and character of the boats using these upper reaches is unknown and sea going vessels may have had to unload onto river barges in the tidal reaches of the river. The correspondence of the levels for these river edge surfaces at Lincoln and Fiskerton, the latter just 30cm lower, is interesting and would be consistent with the fall expected over the few kilometres separating the sites. Even minor landing points such as that suggested by the evidence so far exposed at Perrins Cottages have some significance in this transport

network or it may alternatively represent a local ferry point for crossing the river and fen at this point.

*Field description*

During a visit to the excavations a section at the south end of Trench 1 was studied and described. The following decriptions were made:

Sediment description on the east face Trench 1 to the south of the stone surface

| Depth below surface | Sediment description |
|---|---|
| 112-143 | Topsoil - dark brown fine sandy silt loam |
| 85-112 | Fine brown sandy silt with many orange ferruginous mottles around root holes and darker worm holes |
| 74-85 | pale grey brown mottled leached fine sands with root holes and worm holes |
| 52-74 and higher | grey fine sand, leached, few mottles, damp. Uneven boundary on upper surface with darker colour silt content. |
| 48-52 | dark grey brown fine sandy silt, with extensive red-brown mottling and staining. |
| 32-48 | dark brown slightly humic silt with some fine sand partings, slightly greasy. |
| 16-32 silt | damp poorly compressed slightly organic dark brown with rare mollusc fragments and plant matter |
| 0-16 | dark brown poorly compressed organic silt with frequent molluscs and plant matter |
| -10-0 | blue grey very fine silty sand. |
| below -10 | Yellow olive brown fine sands. |

Subsequently two soil samples were collected, one from 0-16 (context 114) in this section and one from context 121 beneath the 'cobbled' surface, for assessment.

*Section Interpretation*

The yellow olive brown fine sands at the base of this section are the same sands that underlie the whole site and indicate that this is the base of the channel at this location. The blue grey fine silty sand overlying this deposits is the gleyed partially reworked top of the underlying sands. Covering these sands is a dark brown poorly compressed organic silt (0-16). The soil sample (see below) showed that this layer still contains a significant amount of fine sand deriving from the surrounding soils and sands but is largely an organic mud or gyttja. The deposit contains large numbers of freshwater molluscs, water fleas and other freshwater invertebrates, reed fragments, and

fish scales and clearly indicates a deposit formed underwater in a channel.

At the northern edge of the channel this organic mud is interleaved with layers of very fine sand indicating inwash episodes due to small scale upslope erosion during the formation of the organic muds. The stratigraphic relationship of these inwash layers suggests that the upper levels of the organic mud post-date the Roman 'cobbled' surface.

This deposit grades upwards into a similar sediment (16-32) with the organic component less well preserved largely through drying out and subsequent breakdown. It seems likely that similar conditions prevailed during the formation of this deposit and the faunal and floral remains it contains are likely to be similar. The degradation of organics in this sediment makes it difficult to assess how organic this deposit was when it formed. It is overlain by a slightly humic sandy silt (32-48) with sand partings indicating one or more periods of drying out. The organic fraction in this deposit has humified and the increased sand component of the sediment indicates a greater inwash of sandy sediments from the surrounding soils than in the previous layers. At this level in the fills the channel must have been subject to drying out.

These deposits were overlain by a dark grey brown fine sandy silt (48-52) above which was a fine grey sand (52-74). These were capped by a leached pale grey brown mottled fine sand (74-85). This part of the sequence shows an increasing sand component in the sediments and a reduction in the silt fraction. This probably represents a rapid drop in the silts being brought in by water flowing in the channel until all the sediments are deriving from inwash from the surrounding land. This increase in colluvial or slopewash sediments may be due to ploughing in fields to the north with an increase in the run off of sediments during heavy or torrential rain or the movement downslope through ploughing itself.

These deposits are capped by a fine brown sandy silt (85-112) and a dark brown fine sandy silt loam topsoil (112-143). The increased silt fraction in these upper soils may indicate an input of sediment from severe floods and/or enrichment of the soil through gardening.

*Sample Assessment*

The samples were washed in water over a 0.25m mesh and the fraction retained scanned under a binocular microscope for plant and animal remains.

Context 114

The organic material is very well preserved. The sample includes many freshwater molluscs, reed fragments, water fleas, preserved seeds, mosses, fish scales and a number of beetle fragments. These biological remains are likely to indicate the nature of the immediate environment of the channel and its catchment. Although the sediments were not tested for pollen it is likely that pollen preserves well in this deposit. A detailed analysis of the fauna and flora in this deposit is likely to establish whether the channel contained flowing, still or brackish water. The pollen evidence should give indications of the local vegetation, particularly evidence for agriculture, forest and fen within the vicinity.

Although the deposits above this sample have clearly been affected by drying out and degradation of organics there was evidence for the survival of some organics and molluscs in this layer and enough evidence might survive to show continuation of the local conditions or evidence for change in the watercourse or surrounding countryside.

Sample 121

Sample 121 was taken from the dark grey/black silty sand underlying the stone surface. Preservation of material in the sediment was poor with substantial degradation of organic materials and partial mineralisation of some. Although little identifiable plant or animal material survived in the sediment it was extremely rich in small roundwood and twig fragments. While it is possible that this could represent driftwood in the muddy sediments at the side of the channel prior to the laying of the stone surface it seems more likely that this deposit includes a substantial layer of brushwood, now largely degraded, laid down as consolidation before the stones were placed. This would have prevented the stones sinking into the underlying mud and limited the quantity of stone needed to create the surface.

Animal bones

An archive catalogue of the ninety animal bones from the excavation has been produced. The species identified include horse, cattle, pig, sheep, dog and red deer. The condition of the bone is very good but no discussion of the material is made at this stage except to indicate that domestic waste is suggested by this evidence, for which there must be a nearby source. Considerably larger assemblages would be required before meaningful analyses could be conducted. There is little to warrant further excavation to recover this particular category of material on this site.

*Recommendations*

Two aspects of the environmental and topographic study of the site deserve further work.

1. If the stone surface is interpreted as a hard, possibly for the beaching or unloading of boats it is essential to discover the extent, size and depth of the channel in order to assess the scale of any boats involved, and the limits of the surface. It is not impossible that this could represent the northern bank of the main river channel during the Roman period.

Within the area of the site this can best be accomplished by a series of auger transects running at right angles to the slope of the exposed stone surface towards the southern edge of the site. Seven auger transects placed 10 metres apart with bores located at 5 metre intervals along each transect should permit the contouring of the subsurface deposits along the southern half of the site. This would indicate the direction of the channel, the depth of it, and whether a southern bank occurs on the site. It would also be expected to pick up evidence for the hard beyond the limits already exposed in the evaluation trenches and therefore indicate its full extent, an aspect essential for an interpretation of the site as either a major landing place or just a local ferry point.

2. The well preserved organic material in the muds filling the base of the channel in the exposed trenches affords an opportunity for the palaeoenvironmental study of the area contemporary with and after the period represented by the hard. But perhaps more particularly with respect to this site affords deposits that could be analysed for evidence of tidal fluctuation, marine or brackish water influence and current flow, all of which are relevant in considering whether the channel represents a tributary creek or main channel within a tidal zone, and the possible water level in the channel.

*Acknowledgments*

I am grateful to Naomi Fields and Alan Vince for unpublished information on the excavations at, respectively, Fiskerton and Lincoln waterfront.

D.J.Rackham June 1994

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*Comments:*

1. There are no peats on the site (and probably never were), only organic muds formed *in situ* under water or on the channel edge.

2. I think these are glacio-fluvial sands not Upper Jurassic Sands (Kellaways Beds) but I have not looked at the Geological and drift geology maps.

3. If you need information for any subsequent phase of work in terms of research design, post-ex work, sampling etc I am happy to contribute. I assume you have to work this out with Steve Catney so I have not included anything other than the basic recommendations.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

## Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones

### SPECIES

| | |
|---|---|
| BOS | cattle |
| CSZ | cattle size |
| SUS | pig |
| OVCA | sheep or goat |
| OVI | sheep |
| SSZ | sheep size |
| EQU | horse |
| CER | red deer |
| CAN | dog |
| MAN | human |
| UKN | unknown |

### BONE

| | |
|---|---|
| SKL | skull |
| TEMP | temporal |
| FRNT | frontal |
| PET | petrous |
| PAR | parietal |
| OCIP | occipital |
| ZYG | zygomatic |
| MAND | mandible |
| MAX | maxilla |
| ATL | atlas |
| AXI | axis |
| CEV | cervical vertebra |
| TRV | thoracic vertebra |
| LMV | lumbar vertebra |
| SAC | sacrum |
| CDV | caudal vertebra |
| SCP | scapula |
| HUM | humerus |
| RAD | radius |
| MTC | metacarpus |
| MC1-4 | metacarpus 1-4 |
| INN | innominate |
| ILM | ilium |
| PUB | pubis |
| ISH | ischium |
| FEM | femur |
| TIB | tibia |
| AST | astragalus |
| CAL | calcaneum |
| MTT | metatarsus |
| MT1-4 | metatarsus 1-4 |
| PH1 | 1st phalanx |
| PH2 | 2nd phalanx |
| PH3 | 3rd phalanx |
| LM1-LM3 | Lower molar 1 - molar 3 |
| UM1-UM3 | upper molar 1 - molar 3 |
| LPM1-LPM4 | lower premolar 1-4 |
| UPM1-UPM4 | upper premolar 1-4 |
| DLPM1-4 | deciduous lower premolar 1-4 |
| DUPM1-4 | deciduous upper premolar 1-4 |
| LBON | long bone |
| UNI | unidentified |

### SIDE

L - left side
R - right side

### FUSION

P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum;
N - unfused; F - fused;

TOOTH WEAR - Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals, in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites, 91-108*.

Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:

h 1dpm4/dupm4
H lpm4/upm4
I lm1/um1
J lm2/um2
K lm3/um3

# ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

ARCHIVE CATALOGUE OF ANIMAL BONES FOR PERRINS COTTAGES, FISKERTON, FI94

| CON | SPECIES | BONE | ZONES | NO | SIDE | FUSION | TOOTH WEAR | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | BOS | SCP | 12356 | | R | DF | | DKMC |
| 100 | BOS | MAND | | | L | | | ANT.FRAG |
| 101 | CSZ | FEM | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 101 | OVCA | FEM | 4 | | R | DN | | DIST SHAFT |
| 101 | CSZ | UKN | | | | | | INDET FRAG |
| 101 | SUS | HUM | 69 | | R | | | DIST HALF SHAFT |
| 102 | BOS | MTT | 125 | | R | | | PROX END & SHAFT-SHAFT CHOPPED |
| 102 | CAN | INN | 1234567890 | | L | EN | | COMPLETE-ADULT-SMALL-SYMP NOT FUSED |
| 103 | BOS | FEM | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 103 | SUS | ULN | 2 | | L | | | SEMI & PART SHAFT-POSS PROX UNF |
| 123 | BOS | SCP | 4 | | L | | | SPINE FRAG |
| 123 | EQU | MP | | | | | | LATERAL METAPODIAL-PROX END |
| 123 | OVI | INN | 239 | | L | EF | | PROX END CHOPPED |
| 126 | BOS | SCP | | | | | | BLADE FRAG BENEATH SPINE |
| 126 | CAN | HUM | 56789 | | R | DF | | DIST & SHAFT-LARGE & GRACILE |
| 201 | BOS | MTT | 5 | | R | DN | | DIST PART SHAFT |
| 201 | BOS | SCP | | | L | | | BLADE FRAGMENT BENEATH SPINE |
| 201 | EQU | CAL | 123 | | R | PF | | TUB DAMAGED-LARGE |
| 201 | CSZ | RIB | | 2 | | | | SHAFT FRAGS |
| 201 | CSZ | UKN | | 3 | | | | INDET FRAGS |
| 201 | EQU | INN | 57 | | R | EF | | ISCIAL & ACET FRAG |
| 201 | CSZ | MTP | | | | DF | | DIST FRAG-ERODED |
| 201 | CSZ | UKN | | | | | | FRAG |
| 201 | UKN | UKN | | 2 | | | | FRAGS-CENTRAL EPIS UNF |
| 201 | CAN | TIB | 1234 | | R | PF | | PROX HALF-SMALL DOG |
| 202 | EQU | AST | | | R | | | COMPLETE |
| 202 | EQU | MND | | | R | | | VENTRAL POST-HORIZONTAL RAMUS |
| 202 | BOS | MTC | 12 | | L | | | PROX END-LARGE-ADULT |
| 202 | BOS | HUM | 9 | | L | | | DIST FRAG SHAFT |
| 202 | BOS | CPU | | | W | | | |
| 202 | BOS | TIB | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 202 | OVI | MTT | 125 | | L | DN | | PROX END & SHAFT |

| CON | SPECIES | BONE | ZONES | NO | SIDE | FUSION | TOOTH WEAR | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 206 | EQU | CAL | 123 | | L | PF | | COMPLETE-MUCH SMALLER THAN ABOVE CAL |
| 207 | BOS | MND | 45 | | R | | | ASCENDING RAMUS |
| 207 | CSZ | TRV | 1 | | | | | SPINE FRAG |
| 207 | BOS | TIB | 4 | | L | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 207 | EQU | UM | | | R | | | WELL WORN UPPER MOLAR |
| 207 | BOS | UPM4 | | | R | | | VERY SLIGHT WEAR |
| 207 | CSZ | SKL | | | | | | CRANIAL FRAG |
| 207 | CSZ | HUM | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 207 | CSZ | TRV | 4 | | | PNDN | | CENTRUM |
| 207 | SUS | FEM | 23 | | R | PO | | CAPIT UNFUSED-TROCH JUST FUSED |
| 207 | BOS | SAC | | | | | | LAT FRAG |
| 207 | BOS | MND | 7 | | R | | | FRAG |
| 207 | CSZ | UKN | | | | | | FRAG |
| 207 | CSZ | LBON | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 208 | BOS | CAL | 23 | | L | PN | | COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR EPI |
| 208 | CSZ | RIB | | | L | PN | | PROX SHAFT |
| 208 | BOS | TIB | 4567 | | L | DF | | DIST END & SHAFT |
| 208 | BOS | SAC | 45 | | | PNDO | | MOST OF SACRUM-SMALLISH |
| 208 | BOS | TIB | 47 | | L | | | SHAFT-POSS JUV |
| 208 | BOS | CEV | 145 | | | PNDN | | DAMAGED VENTRALLY |
| 208 | BOS | HUM | 9 | | L | | | ERODED MINERALISED SHAFT FRAG |
| 208 | BOS | MTC | 2 | | R | | | PROX FRAG |
| 208 | EQU | MTC | 1 | | | | | FRAG PROX ARTIC-ADULT? |
| 208 | BOS | UM2 | | | L | | J4 | |
| 208 | BOS | UM1 | | | L | | I6 | PROB SAME JAW AS ABOVE |
| 208 | EQU | UM | | | L | | | COMPLETE WELL WORN |
| 208 | BOS | INN | | | L | | | POST FRAG ISH SHAFT |
| 208 | OVI | TIB | 47 | | L | PNDN | | LONG GRACILE SHAFT |
| 211 | BOS | FEM | 4567 | | R | DF | | DISTAL HALF |
| 211 | SUS | ULN | 2 | | L | PNDN | | ARTIC AND SHAFT |
| 211 | SUS | RAD | 1236 | | L | PNDN | | SAME LIMB AS ABOVE |
| 211 | EQU | HUM | 1234 | | L | PN | | ARTIC IN TWO PIECES |
| 211 | SUS | FEM | 13 | | R | PF | | PROX END |
| 212 | BOS | FEM | 1 | | | PF | | CAPUT-FUSED |
| 212 | CSZ | RIB | | | L | PN | | MOST SHAFT |
| 212 | CSZ | RIB | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |

| CON | SPECIES | BONE | ZONES | NO | SIDE | FUSION | TOOTH WEAR | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 212 | CSZ | SKL | | 3 | | | | CRANIAL FRAGS |
| 212 | CSZ | VER | | 2 | | DN | | UNFUSED POST EPIS |
| 212 | EQU | UM3 | | | L | | | COMPLETE-WELL WORN |
| 212 | OVI | MTC | 125 | | R | DN | | PROX AND SHAFT |
| 212 | BOS | SCP | 4 | | | | | SPINE FRAG |
| 212 | BOS | INN | 7 | | R | EN | | ISCHIAL SHAFT |
| 213 | CSZ | RIB | | | | | | MOST SHAFT |
| 213 | CAN | TIB | 1234567 | | R | PNDN | | VERY LONG-CHECK WOLF! |
| 214 | SSZ | RIB | | | | | | SHAFT FRAG |
| 214 | OVCA | TIB | 47 | | R | | | CHEWED-SHAFT ONLY |
| 216 | BOS | SKL | | | L | | | NASAL BONE |
| 305 | OVCA | UM2 | | | R | | | WELL WORN |
| 305 | CSZ | UKN | | | | | | CHEWED-?SAC |
| 312 | BOS | LM1 | | | L | I7 | | |
| 313 | CER | HUM | 6789 | | L | DF | | DIST HALF |

# PERRIN'S COTTAGES,FISKERTON 1994

## FI94: Assessment Report on the Ceramic Building Material

*Richard Kemp*

CLAU 24.6.94

### 1. Introduction

Four hundred and seventy-six pieces of Ceramic Building material was recovered from the site. This was examined and recorded at basic CLAU archive level (form type by sherd count and weight, with note of diagnostic subform) using CLAU classification. (see Appendix 1). The basic archive is described in appendices 2 and 3.

### 2. Condition

None of the tiles show any sign of mortar adhering or sooting. A proportion of the tiles (up to 35%) are definite kiln wasters, the remaining tiles possibly products of the same kiln.

### 3. Overall Chronology and Source

The Romano-British tiles consist of sixteen pieces of combed box/flue tile, fifty pieces of tegula tile, thirty-five fragments of imbrex tile, fifty-two pieces of brick and three hundred and twelve pieces of an undiagnostic nature. The small amount of medieval or post-medieval tile recovered consists of two pieces of pantile, two pieces of brick, one pegged tile, five undiagnostic pieces and one piece of modern land drainage pipe.

### 4. Further work

The amounts of wasters recovered from the evaluation may indicate the possible source of a Romano-British tile kiln. Although no kiln structure or features were revealed within the immediate vicinity, any future developments within the surrounding region would warrant further archaeological investigation.

A tile scatter was noted in 1941 in Heighington parish c.200 metres from the Car Dyke and identified as a Romano-British tile kiln by Mr.K.F.Wood and jointly excavated by the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. In view of the close proximity of this tile kiln to the finds at Fiskerton (c.2 miles across the river) the possibility of the wasters from this kiln being used as reclamation/consolidation material therefore cannot be ruled out.

The Romano-British type tiles recovered from Fiskerton show under binocular examination variations in the type of fabrics, and because of the indication of kiln wasters and the closeness of the Heighington tile kiln, a fabric analysis should enable local products to be identified and distinguished from non-local ones. This will entail the thin-sectioning and description of the fabrics of the tiles.

Should it prove possible to show that this tile debris is from a previously unknown tile kiln then it becomes important to establish where this kiln was. The two factors governing tile kiln location were the accessability of raw materials and access to a market. That market could have been a local villa (as at Heighington) or could be the city of Lincoln itself using the Witham for transport. The discovery of this tile debris in close association with a trackway leading to the river may suggest the latter.

## APPENDIX 1: CLAU LIST OF FORM TYPE NAMES

| Form code | Description |
|---|---|
| **BOX** | *ROMAN BOX OR FLUE TILE* |
| **BRK** | *MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL BRICK* |
| **IMBRX** | *ROMAN IMBREX TILE* |
| **LDRAIN** | *MODERN LAND DRAINAGE PIPE* |
| **PANT** | *UNGLAZED PANTILE* |
| **PEG** | *PEGGED ROOF TILE* |
| **PNR** | *UNGLAZED UNDIAGNOSTIC ROOFING TILE* |
| **RBRK** | *ROMAN BRICK* |
| **RTIL** | *UNDIAGNOSTIC ROMAN TILE* |
| **TEG** | *ROMAN TEGULA TILE* |

## APPENDIX 2: TILE TYPES BY CONTEXT

| Context | Form | Sherds | Weight | Subform | Fabric | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | TEG | 1 | 95 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 100 | RTIL | 1 | 15 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 100 | RTIL | 1 | 75 | - | - | 35MM THK |
| 100 | TEG | 1 | 115 | - | - | - |
| 100 | RTIL | 1 | 40 | - | - | WASTER |
| 100 | RTIL | 1 | 150 | - | - | - |
| 100 | PNR | 1 | 35 | - | - | - |
| 101 | RTIL | 19 | 1055 | - | - | - |
| 101 | TEG | 4 | 900 | 31 | - | OVER FIRED; ? SAME TILE |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 835 | 15 | - | CUTOUT B; 3 FINGER MARK |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 395 | 31 | - | - |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 195 | 1 | - | - |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 80 | 12 | - | ?WASTER |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 70 | 31 | - | - |
| 101 | TEG | 1 | 20 | 31 | - | - |
| 101 | IMBRX | 5 | 550 | - | - | - |
| 101 | RTIL | 2 | 105 | - | - | FINGER MARK |
| 101 | RTIL | 1 | 350 | - | - | PEG HOLE; ?TEG |
| 101 | RTIL | 4 | 80 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 101 | RTIL | 1 | 25 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 101 | RTIL | 1 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 101 | RBRK | 1 | 190 | - | - | 40MM THK;?WASTER |
| 101 | RTIL | 1 | 80 | - | - | THUMB MARK |
| 101 | BOX | 1 | 315 | - | - | 9 COMBED; LATTICE |
| 101 | BOX | 1 | 35 | - | - | 9 COMBED |
| 101 | PEG | 1 | 15 | - | - | 12MM DIAM; ?POST MED. |
| 102 | RBRK | 1 | 80 | - | R2 | - |
| 102 | RTIL | 1 | 5 | - | - | - |
| 103 | LDRAIN | 1 | 85 | - | - | - |
| 103 | TEG | 1 | 170 | 31 | - | CUTOUT B |
| 103 | PNR | 1 | 30 | - | - | - |
| 103 | RTIL | 1 | 35 | - | - | WASTER |
| 123 | TEG | 1 | 715 | - | - | - |
| 123 | RTIL | 1 | 170 | - | - | WASTER |
| 123 | IMBRX | 1 | 25 | - | - | ?WASTER |
| 123 | RTIL | 2 | 235 | - | - | - |
| 123 | RTIL | 4 | 75 | - | - | OVER FIRED; ?TEG |
| 126 | TEG | 1 | 675 | 12 | - | - |
| 126 | IMBRX | 1 | 315 | - | - | - |
| 126 | TEG | 4 | 655 | 31 | - | ?SAME TILE; WASTER |
| 126 | RTIL | 2 | 45 | - | - | OVER FIRED; WASTERS |
| 129A | PANT | 1 | 155 | - | - | PALE FABRIC |
| 129A | BRK | 1 | 130 | - | - | - |
| 129B | RTIL | 3 | 25 | - | - | - |
| 201 | RTIL | 1 | 325 | - | - | WASTER |
| 201 | RTIL | 4 | 215 | - | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | RTIL | 1 | 30 | - | R2 | - |
| 201 | RBRK | 1 | 990 | - | - | 35MM THK; ?2 FINGER MARK; ?WASTER |
| 201 | RTIL | 27 | 585 | - | - | - |
| 201 | PNR | 1 | 105 | - | - | - |
| 201 | TEG | 2 | 75 | - | - | - |
| 201 | TEG | 1 | 55 | 7 | - | - |
| 201 | RTIL | 1 | 30 | - | - | 2 FINGER MARK |
| 201 | PNR | 1 | 65 | - | - | - |
| 201 | BOX | 1 | 50 | - | - | COMBED |
| 201 | IMBRX | 1 | 10 | - | - | - |
| 201 | RBRK | 2 | 65 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 202 | RTIL | 23 | 765 | - | - | - |
| 202 | RTIL | 3 | 115 | - | - | FINGER MARKED |
| 202 | RTIL | 2 | 60 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 202 | RTIL | 1 | 105 | - | - | 3 FINGER MARK; WASTER |
| 202 | RBRK | 1 | 425 | - | - | 35MM THK; WASTER |
| 202 | TEG | 4 | 270 | - | - | WASTER |
| 202 | IMBRX | 2 | 50 | - | - | - |
| 202 | RTIL | 1 | 120 | - | - | OVER FIRED; ?WASTER |
| 202 | BOX | 5 | 110 | - | - | COMBED |
| 202 | BOX | 1 | 165 | - | - | 7 TOOTH COMBING; LATTICE |
| 202 | RBRK | 1 | 80 | - | - | - |
| 206 | RTIL | 2 | 15 | - | - | - |
| 207 | RTIL | 5 | 120 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 207 | RTIL | 7 | 490 | - | - | WASTER |
| 207 | RTIL | 18 | 830 | - | - | - |
| 207 | BOX | 2 | 30 | - | - | COMBED |
| 208 | BOX | 2 | 110 | - | - | 7 TOOTH COMBING |
| 208 | IMBRX | 11 | 690 | - | - | - |
| 208 | RTIL | 38 | 1350 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 208 | RTIL | 34 | 1360 | - | - | - |
| 208 | RTIL | 7 | 485 | - | - | FINGER MARKS |
| 208 | RBRK | 29 | 2180 | - | - | INCLUDING WASTERS |
| 208 | RTIL | 4 | 195 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 208 | TEG | 7 | 495 | - | - | - |
| 208 | TEG | 5 | 330 | 31 | - | - |
| 208 | TEG | 1 | 65 | 31 | - | CUTOUT B |
| 208 | TEG | 2 | 230 | 31 | - | OVER FIRED |
| 211 | RBRK | 2 | 105 | - | R2 | - |
| 211 | TEG | 2 | 285 | 31 | - | - |
| 211 | IMBRX | 8 | 610 | - | - | - |
| 211 | RBRK | 1 | 270 | - | - | 35MM THK; WASTER |
| 211 | RBRK | 2 | 465 | - | - | 35MM THK; FINGER MARKS |
| 211 | RTIL | 2 | 105 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 211 | BOX | 1 | 45 | - | - | COMBED |
| 211 | RTIL | 19 | 550 | - | - | - |
| 211 | RTIL | 19 | 865 | - | - | WASTER |
| 212 | IMBRX | 1 | 35 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 212 | RTIL | 4 | 100 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 212 | RTIL | 4 | 110 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 212 | RTIL | 3 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 212 | RBRK | 1 | 555 | - | - | 35MM THK; WASTER |
| 213 | TEG | 1 | 35 | 31 | - | OVER FIRED |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 213 | RTIL | 7 | 290 | - | - | OVER FIRED |
| 213 | IMBRX | 1 | 20 | - | - | - |
| 213 | RBRK | 1 | 90 | - | - | 40MM THK; WASTER |
| 213 | RBRK | 1 | 150 | - | - | 35+MM THK |
| 213 | RTIL | 3 | 215 | - | - | FINGER MARK; SAME TILE |
| 213 | RTIL | 1 | 50 | - | R2 | WASTER |
| 214 | TEG | 1 | 95 | 31 | - | WASTER |
| 214 | TEG | 1 | 250 | 15 | R2 | - |
| 214 | RBRK | 3 | 290 | - | - | CORNS x3; 2 SAME BRICK |
| 214 | RTIL | 1 | 235 | - | - | - |
| 214 | RBRK | 1 | 615 | - | - | 35MM THK; ?PAW PRINT |
| 216 | IMBRX | 3 | 110 | - | - | SAME TILE; OVER FIRED |
| 216 | RTIL | 1 | 40 | - | - | WASTER |
| 216 | TEG | 1 | 485 | 13 | R2 | OVER FIRED |
| 217 | BOX | 1 | 85 | - | - | 5 TOOTH COMBING; LATTICE |
| 217 | RBRK | 1 | 80 | - | - | 35MM THK |
| 217 | RTIL | 6 | 85 | - | - | - |
| 217 | RTIL | 1 | 110 | - | - | WASTER |
| 217 | IMBRX | 1 | 265 | - | - | - |
| 302 | RTIL | 1 | 55 | - | - | WASTER |
| 302 | RBRK | 1 | 305 | - | - | 40MM THK |
| 302 | RTIL | 1 | 5 | - | - | - |
| 304 | BRK | 1 | 80 | - | - | PALE FABRIC; POST MED. |
| 309 | BOX | 1 | 60 | - | - | COMBED |
| 309 | PANT | 1 | 10 | - | - | - |
| 310 | PNR | 1 | 5 | - | - | - |
| 312 | RTIL | 8 | 390 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 312 | TEG | 2 | 110 | 31 | - | - |
| 312 | RTIL | 1 | 15 | - | - | OVER FIRED; 2 FINGER MARK |
| 312 | RTIL | 1 | 15 | - | - | - |
| 313 | TEG | 1 | 75 | 31 | - | WASTER |
| 313 | RBRK | 1 | 570 | - | - | 40MM THK |
| 313 | RTIL | 2 | 75 | - | - | WASTERS |
| 313 | RBRK | 1 | 50 | - | - | 30MM THK |
| 313 | RTIL | 1 | 325 | - | - | WASTER |

## APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT TILE DATING SUMMARY

| Context | Earliest date | Latest date | Prob date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 101 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 102 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 103 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 123 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 126 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 129A | 18 | 20 | 19 |
| 129B | R | R | ROMAN |
| 201 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 202 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 206 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 207 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 208 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 211 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 212 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 213 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 214 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 216 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 217 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 302 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 304 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 309 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 310 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 312 | R | R | ROMAN |
| 313 | R | R | ROMAN |

## APPENDIX 4: CLAU LIST OF FORM TYPE BY COUNT AND PERIOD

| | Form | Sherds |
|---|---|---|
| **1. ROMAN** | BOX | 16 |
| | TEG | 50 |
| | IMBRX | 35 |
| | RTIL | 312 |
| | RBRK | 52 |
| **2. MEDIEVAL** | PNR | 5 |
| **3. POST-MEDIEVAL** | PANT | 2 |
| | PEG | 1 |
| | BRK | 2 |
| | LDRAIN | 1 |

Appendix 12.6

**A**

**Report to**

***Pre-Construct Archaeology***

**June 1994**

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# PERRIN'S COTTAGES, FISKERTON

## POTTERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

*By M Darling & J Young*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 110

# REPORT ON THE POTTERY FROM FISKERTON 1994 : FI94

## THE ROMAN AND PREHISTORIC POTTERY

*Margaret J Darling*

CLAU, 23 June 1994

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The pottery from FI94 has been recorded in the archive format of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, the resulting computer database being available on the CLAU system. Interim details of dating and comments are below pending receipt of site data. A listing of the archive file is in the appendix.

A total of 49 sherds have been examined and archived. These can be summarised by context as under:

**Table 1: Dating summary**

| Cxt | Shs | Date | comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | 2 | EM2+ | date from samian |
| 101 | 5 | L3-4 | fresh sherds |
| 201 | 2 | 3-4 | |
| 211 | 1 | RO | |
| 212 | 6 | ML4 | some damage to surface |
| 213 | 7 | L3-4 PROB | |
| 214 | 5 | 3-4 PROB | |
| 216 | 21 | 3-4 | 11 shs = BA/EIA flint temp.vessel |

### OVERVIEW OF FABRICS

The fabrics are as under:

| Shs | %age | Fabric |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | 65.31% | GREY |
| 11 | 22.45% | NAT=BA/EIA flint tempered |
| 1 | 2.04% | NVCC |
| 2 | 4.08% | OX |
| 1 | 2.04% | SAMCG |
| 2 | 4.08% | SHEL |
| 49 | 100.00% | TOTAL |

### OVERVIEW OF FORMS

On such a small group, few comments are possible, although bowls, particularly the wide-mouthed later Roman type, seem to predominate. Other identifiable forms are narrow-necked jars, and an inturned bead-and-flange bowl of Swanpool type.

### SHERD LINKS

The only possible sherd link noted was probably sherds of the same jar from 212 and 214.

### CONDITION

Condition: there was no evidence for abrasion common on pottery from rural sites; most of the fractures were fresh, and some of the sherds relatively large. A wheel-thrown shell-tempered sherd from 216 had substantial traces of sooting.

## SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

The pottery suggests that the main Roman activity on the site was in the later Romam period. Several of the sherds are standard mid-late 4th century types, as seen in the Swanpool kiln industry in Lincoln. The samian flake is standard Central Gaulish Lezoux fabric, and could date from the early 2nd century onwards. One or two of the grey sherds could also be of slightly earlier date, but closer dating is impossible without more diagnostic sherds. The earliest material from the site seems unlikely to be Roman, and fits more probably into the Bronze or Early Iron Age period (see below).

There is an unusual sherd from 216, a grey sand-tempered hand-made body sherd, probably from a closed vessel, decorated with lattice below a groove, and deeply burnished wavy line surviving as a fragment only above. It is unusual to find this combination of fabric and decoration in a hand-made vessel, but this seems most likely to again belong to the later Roman period rather than earlier.

Fragments from a probable narrow-necked jar in 212 had been slipped, evidenced mainly by drips of slip on the interior, a relatively uncommon feature in this area.

The solitary colour-coated sherd from 101 appears to be from a Nene Valley vessel of relatively large size for the thin wall. The cream fabric suggests it belongs to the 3rd century rather than later.

The other unusual inclusion in this small group is a fragment in an light brown oxidized fabric of a probable lamp chimney from 211. This has a substantial wavy frill forming a horizontal division between zones which were almost certainly perforated; traces of such perforations occur as the possible top of a triangular hole below the frill, and a possible bottom to a hole above.

These objects are frequently made in tile fabric, but pottery fabrics, as here, also occur, as in the example from the Triangular Temple at Verulamium. The function seems likely to be ritual.

## PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Eleven coarse native type hand-made body sherds from 216; hand-made, tempered with crushed flint, some traces of vertical smoothing, crumbly texture, poorly mixed clay.

Pots already known from Fiskerton attributed to the EIA are said to be unique to the region, see S.M. Elsdon, *Iron Age pottery in the East Midlands: A Handbook*, Nottingham 1993, 2,21, C5. Large vessels with rounded profile and a flaring rim with internal corrugations. Other examples known from sites in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Northants and Maxey and Fengate, Cambs. Isolated examples at Dragonby and Barnetby Wold, south Humbs.

This earlier find of pottery at Fiskerton was found crushed beneath the jetty, felling dates for timbers 457 and 339 BC. The pottery was considered to be earlier. Also associated were five La Tene swords. All the jars are in an exceptionally fine fabric with profuse, fine crushed shell filler, quite dissimilar to the sherds from FI94.

Very few of the entries relating to IA pottery in Lincolnshire have details of the fabrics. Most appear to be shell-tempered. The only ones located with flint tempering are West Keal at the South end of the Lincolnshire. Wolds of MIA date (C3) and Tattershall Thorpe (C1) of LBA. Flint-tempering would seem to be more likely north of the Witham in the area of the Wolds, and not necessarily limited to any particular period.

These sherds will need to be examined by a specialist in that early period.

## FURTHER WORK

If no further investigation of the site is envisaged, a short text report should be prepared for publication. The fragment of the lamp chimney should be drawn for publication; no other vessels appear to be essential for publication.

## MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

**Jane Young**

Only three sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the site. One of these belonged to a residual medieval Lincoln ware jug (LSW2/3), the remaining two were of post-medieval date. The rim of a butterpot in blackware (BL) from context 103 and the rim of a dish in a slipware (SLIP) from context 201 cannot be dated closer than their general currency from the mid 17th to 18th centuries. No further work is needed on the post-Roman pottery.

```
100,SAMCG,B,-,-,-,-,FLAKE ONLY,-,1,-
100,OX,-,-,-,-,-,FLAKE ONLY;LT CR BN SANDY,-,1,-
100,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,EM2+,-,-,-
100,ZZZ,-,-,-,-,-,DATE ON SAMIAN,-,-,-
101,NVCC,CLSD,-,-,-,-,BS CR FAB LT RB CC;LGE DIAM VESS;THIN WALL,-,1,-
101,GREY,JNN,-,-,S,-,RIM/BURNISH SHLDR ?SP/RL,-,1,-
101,GREY,JBK,-,-,-,-,BASE SM.VESS;THIN WALL;STRING,-,1,-
101,GREY,-,BL,-,-,-,BS,-,1,-
101,GREY,-,-,-,-,-,BS,-,1,-
101,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,L3-4,-,-,-
101,ZZZ,-,-,-,-,-,FRESH SHS,-,-,-
212,GREY,BIBF,-,-,S?,-,RIM FRAG ONLY,-,1,-
212,GREY,BWM,BWL,-,S?,-,RIM NECK;BWL ON NECK;LGE;SP'ISH,-,1,-
212,GREY,BWM,-,-,-,-,RIM FRAG ONLY,-,1,-
212,GREY,JNN?,JUDD,-,1,-,BSS JUDDERED SHLDR;SLIP DRIPS INT,-,3,-
212,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,ML4,-,-,-
212,ZZZ,-,-,-,-,-,JNN DAMAGED SURFACE,-,-,-
201,GREY,-,-,2,-,-,BASES; ?JARS;BOTH STRING,-,2,-
201,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,3-4,-,-,-
201,ZPR,-,-,-,-,-,POST RO RIM,-,-,-
213,GREY,B?,-,1,-,-,J BSS;BWM?,-,2,-
213,GREY,BD,-,-,-,-,BASE,-,1,-
213,GREY,CLSD,-,1,-,-,J SHS;BASE;STRING,-,2,-
213,GREY,CLSD,LA,-,-,-,BS SANDY,-,1,-
213,GREY,-,-,-,-,-,BS,-,1,-
213,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,L3-4 PROB,-,-,-
214,GREY,CLSD,-,-,-,-,BS POSS X SAME JNN? IN,214?,1,-
214,GREY,-,BL,-,-,-,BS WITH HORIZ BL DEC,-,1,-
214,GREY,-,-,-,-,-,BSS,-,3,-
214,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,3-4 PROB,-,-,-
216,GREY,BWM?,-,-,-,-,RIM FRAG ONLY,-,1,-
216,GREY,-,BWL,1,-,-,J BSS;?BWM WALL,-,2,-
216,GREY,CLSD,LA;SWL,-,-,-,H'MADE BS;DKGRY;SANDY;UNUS,-,1,-
216,GREY,CLSD,-,-,-,-,THINNER WALL BSS;DK SURFS,-,2,-
216,GREY,-,-,-,-,-,BSS,-,2,-
216,SHEL,-,-,-,-,-,WHEEL BSS;SOOTED;SPARSE SHELL,-,2,-
216,NAT,-,-,1?,-,-,H'MADE BSS;COARSE;VERT SMOOTH;BA/EIA?,-,11,-
216,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,3-4,-,-,-
216,ZZZ,-,-,-,-,-,11 SHS = BA/EIA FLINT TEMP VESS,-,-,-
211,OX,LPCH,FF,-,-,-,BS LT RB;THICK WAVY HORIZ FRILL;?CUT BELOW,-,1,-
211,ZDATE,-,-,-,-,-,RO,-,-,-
```

# Appendix 12.7

## Preliminary assessment of worked flint
(B. B. Simmons & C. P. H. Palmer-Brown)

A total of 18 worked or struck flints were recovered during excavation, of which 11 were found within or immediately below the organic mud horizon which pre-dated the rubble 'hard'. A full written account on these finds is to be prepared by D. Garton (Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust), though it was not possible for the work to be undertaken in time for this report. Presented below is an archive and preliminary assessment only.

| *Context Number* | *No. of flints* | *Category* | *Suggested Date* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [100] | 1 | Core with some cortex | ?Undiagnostic | |
| [101] | 2 | 1 flake, some cortex<br>1 large blade frag., good quality flint | ?Bronze Age | |
| [121] | 2 | 1 thin blade<br>1 damaged flake | | |
| [123] | 1 | Blade flake, poor quality flint | | |
| [127] | 3 | 1 thick flake, some cortex<br>1 blade frag. (thick)<br>1 flake | ?Bronze Age | All flints resting on top of natural sand |
| [202] | 1 | Blade frag. with careful re-touch, one end | | |
| [207] | 1 | Flake | | |
| [211] | 1 | Flake, poor quality flint | | |
| [214] | 1 | Small blade | | |
| [216] | 4 | 1 Flake/core frag.<br>1 Flake<br>1 Scraper/blade with fine re-touch on one edge<br>1 Core frag. | ?Bronze Age | |
| [313] | 1 | 1 ?Scraper (re-touch on one edge) | | |

## 12.8 Site Archives

The basic site archive comprises the following:

83 context record sheets

x3 colour print films, x2 colour slide films

8 scale drawings (plans and sections)

** boxes of finds

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology, though the paper and physical archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum within 1 year of completion of this report, together with a more detailed archive list. The site Accession Number is 91.94.