

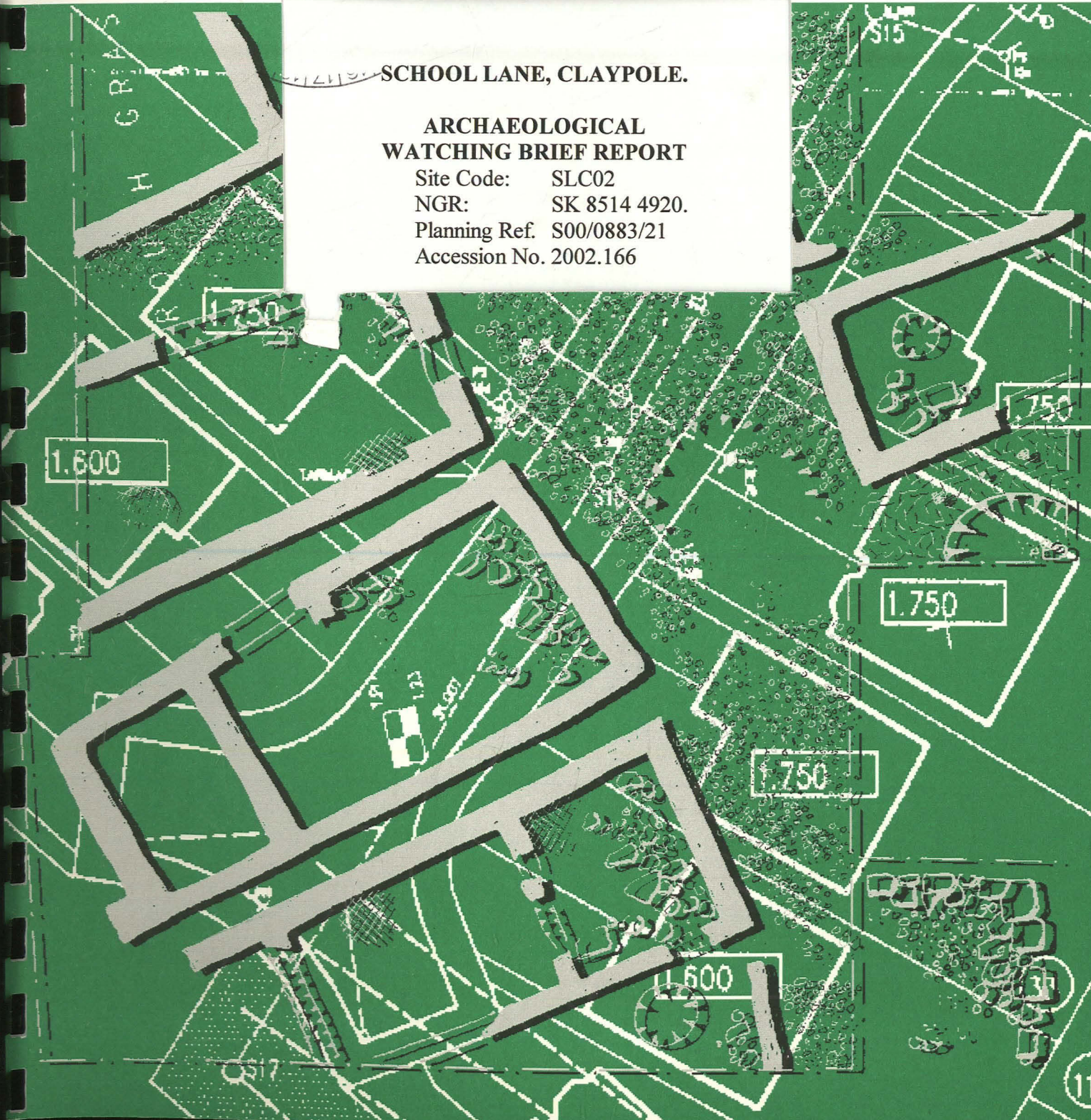
# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

SCHOOL LANE, CLAYPOLE.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Code: SLC02  
NGR: SK 8514 4920.  
Planning Ref. S00/0883/21  
Accession No. 2002.166



EVENT: L15714

INTERVENTION: L19861

CON L15432

EXCAVATION: L19862

Conservation  
Services

05 JUL 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

36573 - medieval

~~L15714~~ SCHOOL LANE, CLAYPOLE.

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Report prepared for Bovis Lend Lease Ltd.

by  
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## Summary

*A limited program of archaeological investigation took place during soil stripping prior to the construction of a new school at School Lane, Claypole.*

*To the north, east and west of this site are areas of recorded ridge and furrow; a medieval system of agriculture, which divided the land into long strips known as 'lands,' which were defined by the furrows that developed between them by the action of ploughing.*

*The watching brief exposed further remnants of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow. On the west side of this, a drainage ditch was exposed, which was perpendicular to the ends of several furrows. Animal bone and pottery recovered from the ditch suggests that this feature was being used for the disposal of domestic refuse, and that it may have bordered an area of domestic occupation.*

*Pottery recovered during the investigation has been dated between the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the latest sherds being recovered from the field system. However, the spatial relationship that exists between the two classes of feature on the site suggests that they were contemporary, at least in the initial period of use.*

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Bovis Lend Lease Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new school building at School Lane, Claypole. This work was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of recommendations that were issued by the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. This approach is consistent with the requirements of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1994) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

## 2.0 Site location and description

Claypole lies at the extreme west edge of the county where it borders with Nottinghamshire, approximately 7km south-east of Newark, in the administrative district of South Kesteven. It lies close to the River Witham, with the Shire Dyke separating the two counties. The development site lies at the north-east end of School Lane, to the immediate east of Brunts Farm.

The site was formerly a grassed area, but had previously housed pre-fabricated buildings, constructed during the Second World War (Tom Robinson pers com.).

The local geology consists of Lower Lias clay with calcareous siltstones and thin sandstones (BGS, 1995).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is SK 8514 4920, and the elevation above mean sea level is approximately 20m OD.

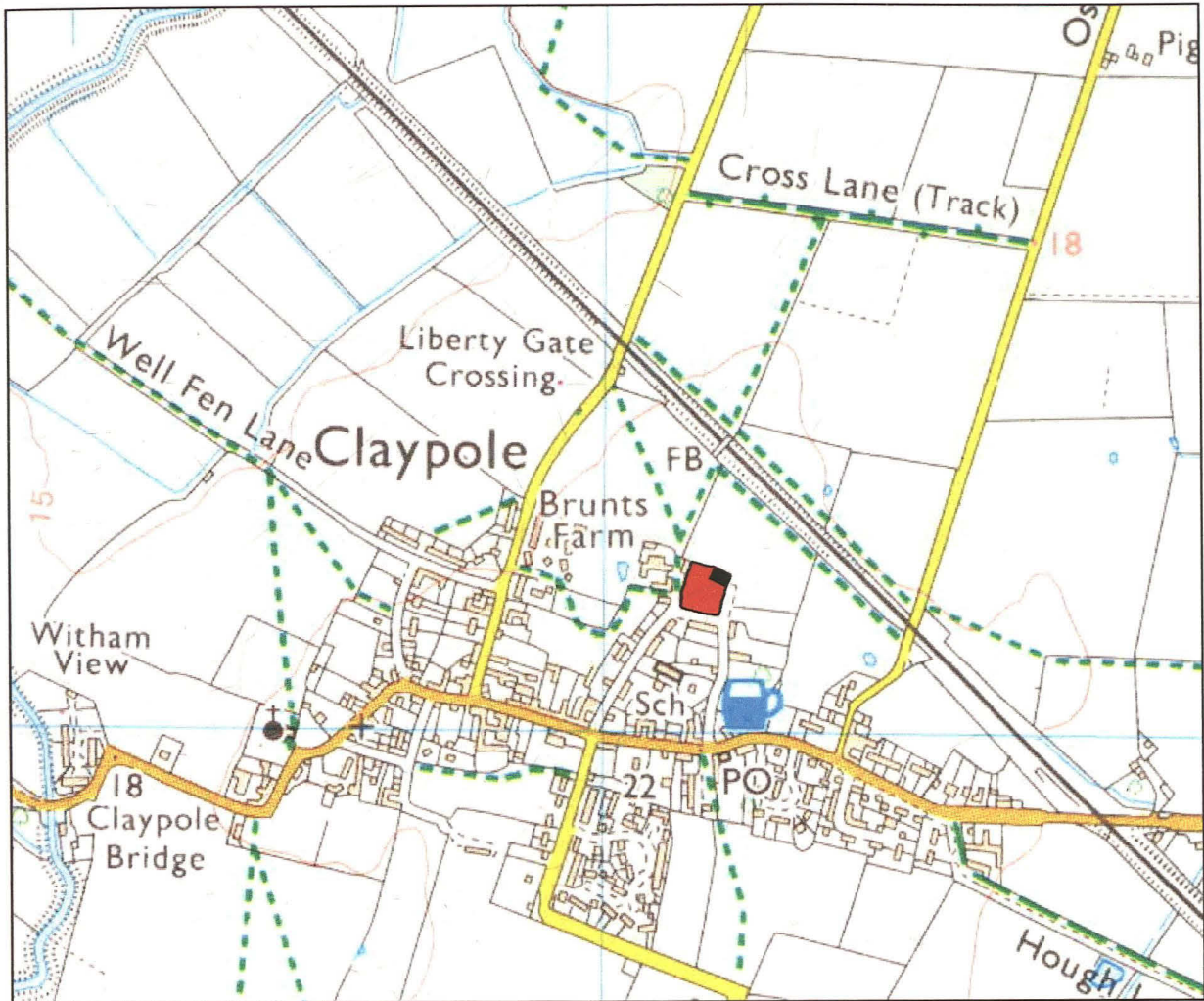


Fig. 1: Site location, shows existing Assembly building in black and site in red.

Scale 1:10,000

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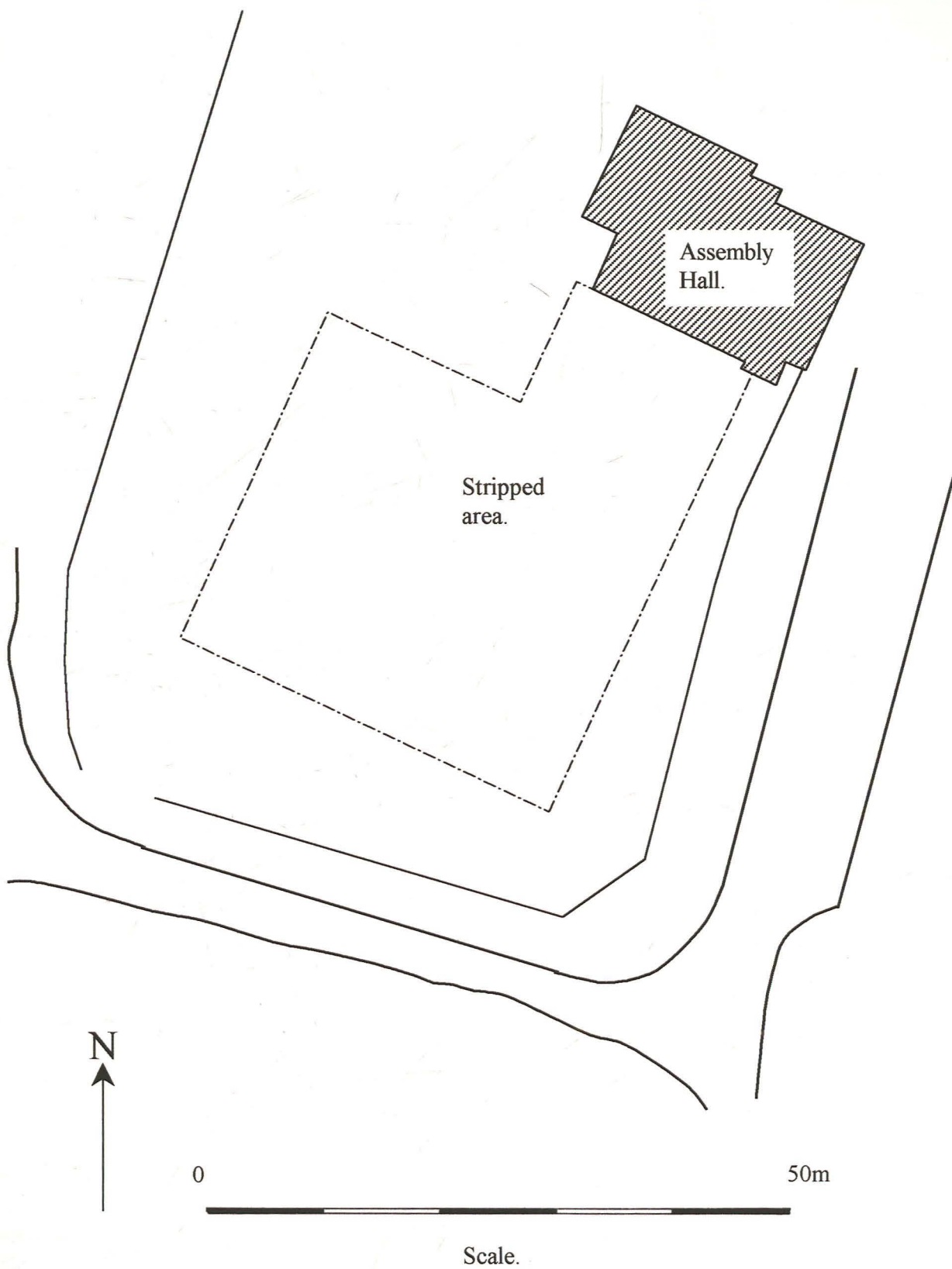


Fig. 2: Trench location. Also showing site boundaries and existing Assembly Hall.

Scale 1:500

### **3.0 Planning background**

Outline planning consent was granted for the erection of a new, single storey, primary school: to comprise a new range of buildings that will be attached to the south side of an existing Assembly Hall (observations based on drawing 2044L/03/P001, prepared by Watkins Gray International). There will be parking areas on the east side of the development, and a shaded cover to the west of the new buildings. The remainder of the site will comprise reception and infant play areas.

The planning permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all groundworks likely to disturb or destroy archaeological remains that are known to occur within this area of Claypole.

### **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

Claypole is recorded in The Domesday book of 1086 as *Claipol* meaning 'the pool on clayey ground' from the old English *clæg* and *pōl* (Cameron 1998).

The site has been appraised against the county Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire, in which the only record (30220) is of 2 Roman coins, 1 of Valentinian (364-375) and 1 of Constantine 1 (306-337). These were both found in the vicinity of School Lane and are suggestive of some form of Romano-British activity in the area.

The site itself lies towards the periphery of the medieval settlement, and an examination of the Lincolnshire 'National Mapping Program' sheet (SK 84 NE, 30/08/95) indicates that there are recorded ridge and furrow field systems to the north, east and west of the site.

### **5.0 Methodology**

Visits were made to the site on six occasions to observe all groundworks; these were on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2002. These visits were by Chris Clay and Alex Brett.

The first work undertaken by the contractors was the removal of top and subsoil deposits to a depth of 0.5m to the north and 0.8m to the south, using a 360° tracked excavator. This work was continually monitored, and any features exposed by these works were investigated.

Archaeological features were drawn in plan and section, and context information was recorded on pro-forma context record sheets. A record of photographs of all archaeological features was also maintained in colour slide format.

Following initial soil stripping, foundation trenches were excavated for the footings of the new building. However, given that the entire footprint area of the development had been stripped to natural deposits, no further archaeological monitoring was required, and the watching brief was then terminated.



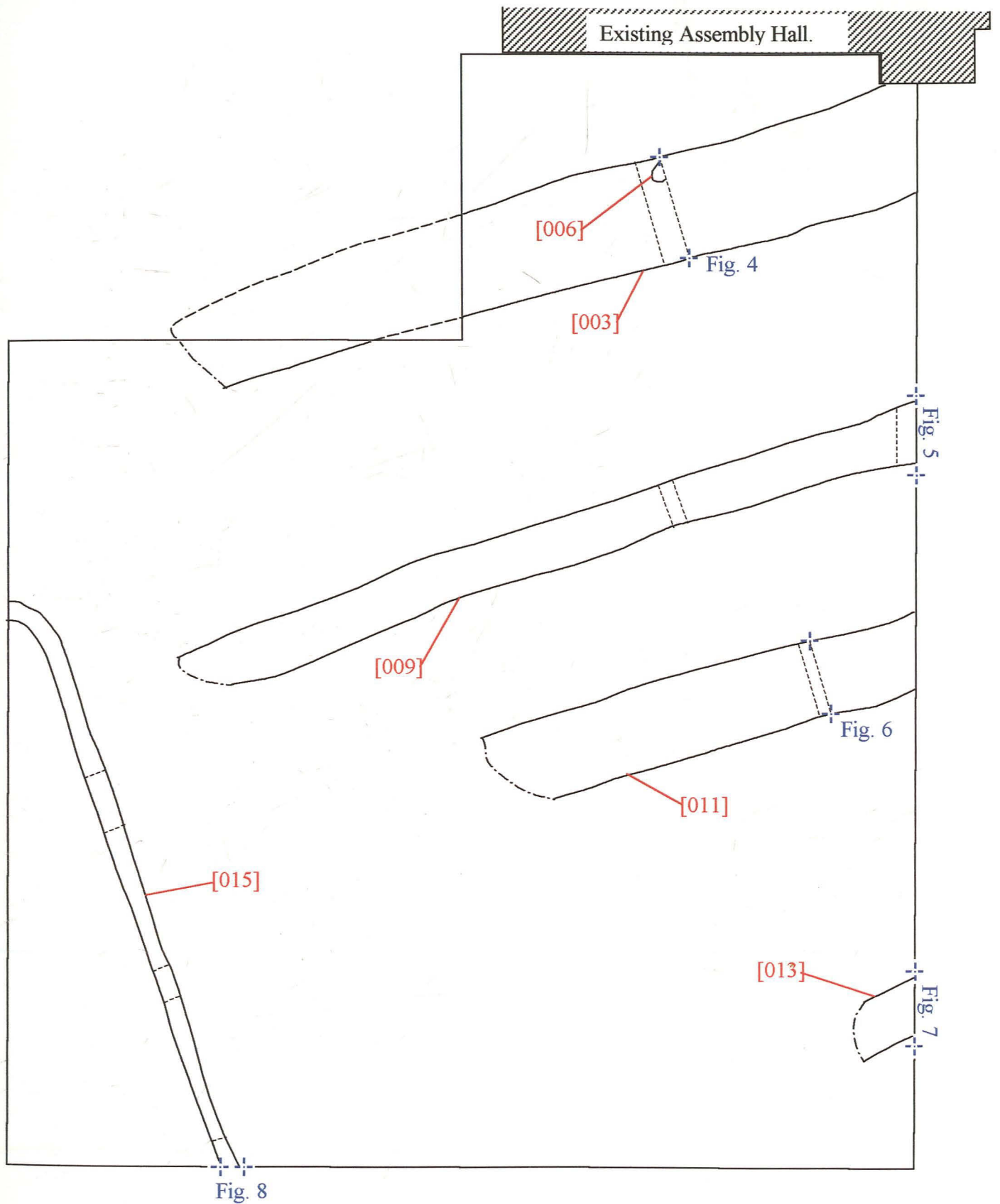


Fig. 3: Plan of stripped area, showing archaeological features.  
Scale 1:200

## 6.0 Watching brief results

The upper deposit comprised a grassed topsoil (001), consisting of dark greyish-brown clayey loam. It contained occasional small flint gravel and fragments of modern brick and tile. No other artefactual material was recovered from this deposit.

Beneath the topsoil was a layer of green-grey silty clay, approximately 0.3m thick (016). There were no inclusions in this deposit; a sub-soil that has developed after the abandonment of features that are discussed below.

Following removal of (016), a number of archaeological features were exposed. Four of these; (003), (009), (011) and (013) make up a series of parallel linear cut features oriented approximately east-west, (see Figs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and colour plates 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Each was between 2m and 4m wide, and 0.34 - 0.20m deep, with the widest and deepest example lying to the north, and the narrowest to the south. This is partially due to the fact that, to the south, the features had been more truncated by the earth-stripping programme. Features were also longer to the north, up to 28m; again, probably due to truncation.

In profile, the features were shallow with poorly defined edges. Their shape, and the fact that these features were parallel, suggests that they represent the truncated remains of further ridge and furrow. However the gap between the furrows would normally be approximately 7m, (Hall 1993), and the distance between [011] and [013] is closer to 15m. The most likely explanation for this is the variable depth of the soil stripping and the shallow nature of the features (one furrow in this gap has probably not survived).

The furrows were filled with silty-clay, derived from the underlying clay-based natural. [003] had two separate fills (005) and (006), both silty clay deposits containing charcoal, with the top fill (005) being significantly darker. The others had only one discernible fill (008), (010) and (012) respectively. Each was a dark or reddish-brown silty clay.

Three sherds of pottery and two fragments of possible roof tile were recovered from these furrows (see Appendix 3). They would appear to date the field system to the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

In the base of furrow [003] was a small sub-circular feature [006], (see Fig. 4 and colour plate 7). This was 0.6m north-south, 0.5m east west and 10cm deep. Its fill (007) was mid brown-grey silty clay with charcoal and gravel inclusions, but no artefacts. It would seem that this feature was a small pit that was stratigraphically earlier than the ridge and furrow.

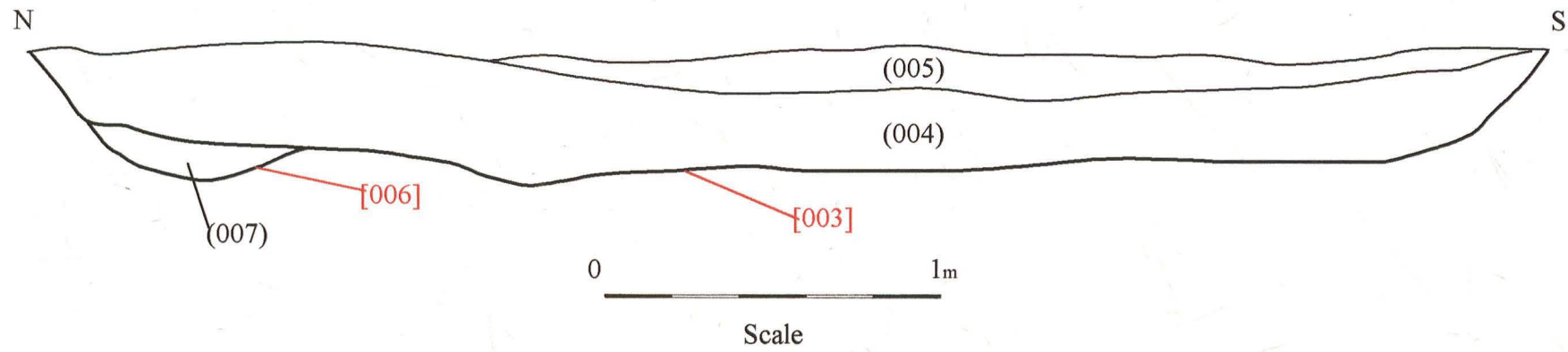


Fig. 4: West facing section through furrow [003]. Also shows small feature below, [006].  
Scale 1:20

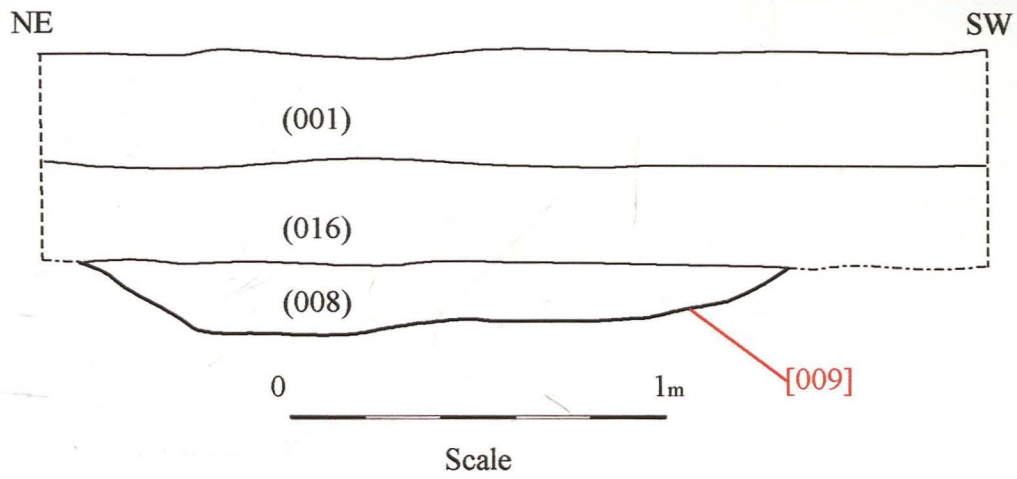


Fig. 5: North-west facing section through furrow [009]. 1:20

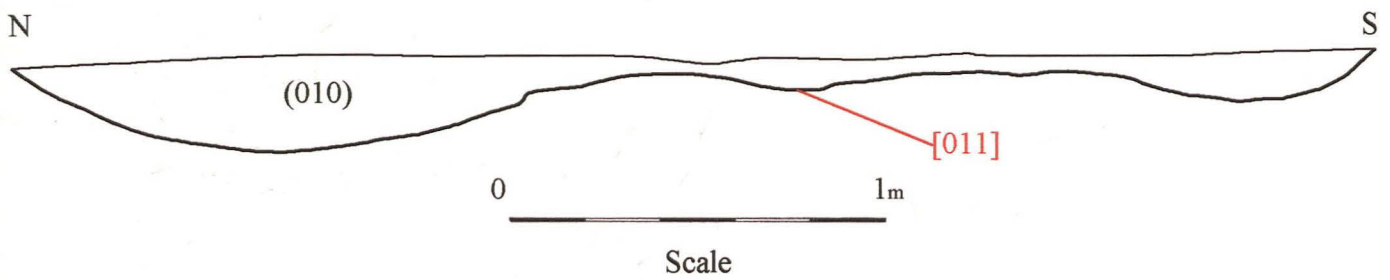


Fig. 6: West facing section through furrow [011]. 1:20

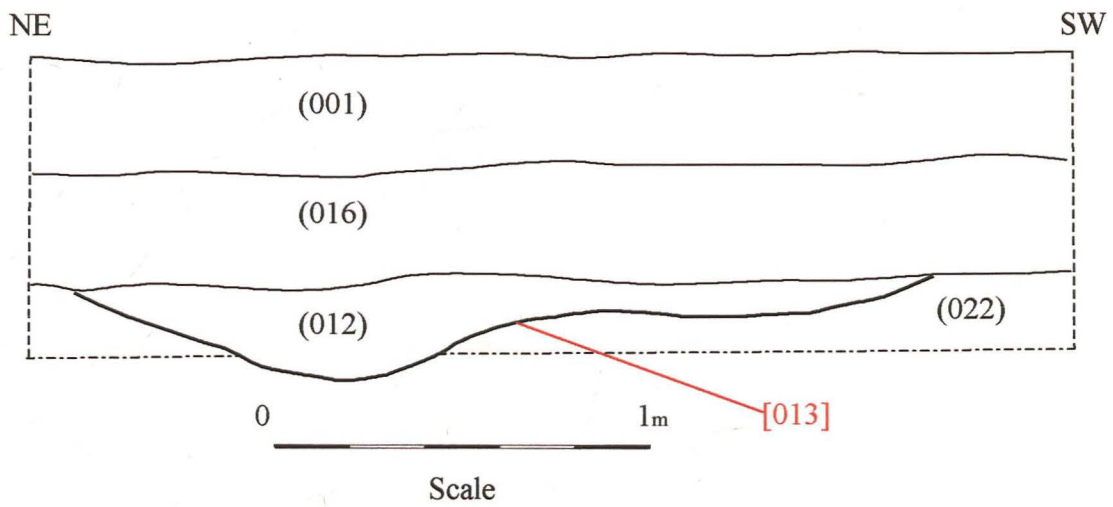


Fig. 7: North-west facing section through furrow [013]. 1:20

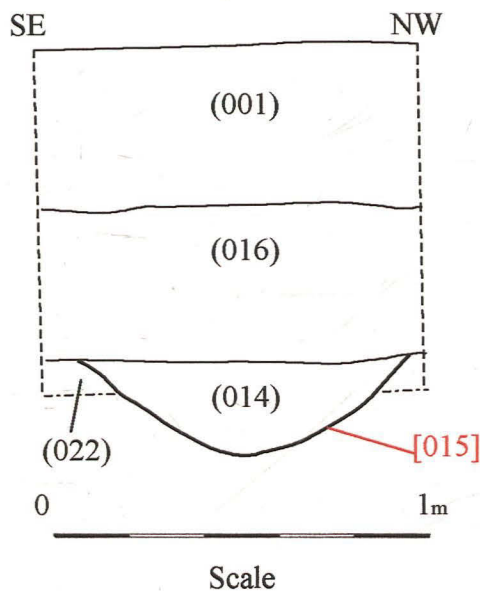


Fig. 8: North facing section through ditch [015].  
1:20

To the west of the furrows, in the corner of the stripped area, a narrow ditch was exposed, [015]. This was between 0.6 and 0.8m wide with a shallow 'u' shaped profile, and it extended 21m north-south before turning westwards. Its fill (014) comprised grey-brown clay containing occasional platey limestone, derived from the underlying natural, as well as moderate quantities of pottery and animal bone. This fill appears to have formed predominantly as a result of natural weathering of the sides of the ditch.

The small quantity of animal bone comprised a mixture of domestic species; pig, cow and sheep/goat. There was also a single dog bone, as well as an equine tibia and metatarsal; probably from the same animal, and therefore articulated when deposited. This is a fairly typical domestic assemblage, representing normal kitchen and butchery waste.

Pottery from the fill of this feature also suggests domestic waste disposal, and it would appear that a considerable amount of rubbish was dumped into the ditch. The dates from these finds (mid 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) are earlier than for those associated with the furrows.

All of the features were cut into (002), the underlying natural stratum, comprising a mixed deposit of mid-orange-brown and greyish-brown clay, within which were pockets of clean grey clay; possibly filling voids left by ice wedging in a former periglacial environment. There were also areas of large platey limestone fragments of a possibly glacial origin.

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The features exposed during this watching brief comprised ridge and furrow to the east of the site, and an isolated and earlier ditch to the west. One feature that was cut by the ridge and furrow could have been contemporary with the ditch.

Ridge and furrow can often be seen (on aerial photographs or as extant earthwork remains) as a remnant of pre-enclosure strip farming. A settlement such as Claypole would have 3 - 4 open fields, each of which would have been divided into 'furlongs' that were positioned according to the local topography and designed to aid drainage. These furlongs were then divided into small narrow arable strips called 'lands'. As the oxen pulled the plough in a clock-wise pattern up and down a narrow land, the

mould board continuously turned the earth towards the centre. This has the effect of eroding the ground surface in the gap between fields and piling the surplus into the centre. Each furrow between cultivated areas would serve both to demarcate between strips, and to act as a drain to remove excess water (Hall 1993). In an un-touched landscape, this leaves a prominent and unmistakable series of bumps and dips. However, where there has been later ploughing, the ridges are eroded and all that is left is the furrows such as are seen here at Claypole. These features exhibit the typical ridge and furrow profile, deeper at each side and shallower in the centre.

The presence of ridge and furrow on the site ties in closely with similar features (see Fig. 9), observed to the north-east by the National Mapping Programme (NMP 1995), which identified ridge and furrow on a similar alignment in the playing field adjacent to the Assembly Hall. The discrepancy between the alignment of these features is due to the tendency of ridge and furrow strips to adopt an elongated and reversed 'S' shape, developed over years as a result of drawing out to the left when performing a turn to the right, (Hall 1993). This would tend to make the western part of the furrows identified by the NMP run in a more east-west direction, closer to that of those observed by this project.

The field system recorded by the NMP is made up of 4 furlongs, the largest to the west and the smallest to the east. They all run roughly east-west, save the smaller westernmost which runs north-south, and is split into 3 portions by later activity. The later expansion of Claypole has intruded into these furlongs, the remains of which were detected during this project.

This field system was bordered on its western side by a ditch, [015]. A quantity of animal bone, typical of kitchen and butchery waste, was recovered from this feature. Dating evidence suggests that the furrows were somewhat later than the ditch, although, spatially, both feature sets could be contemporary.

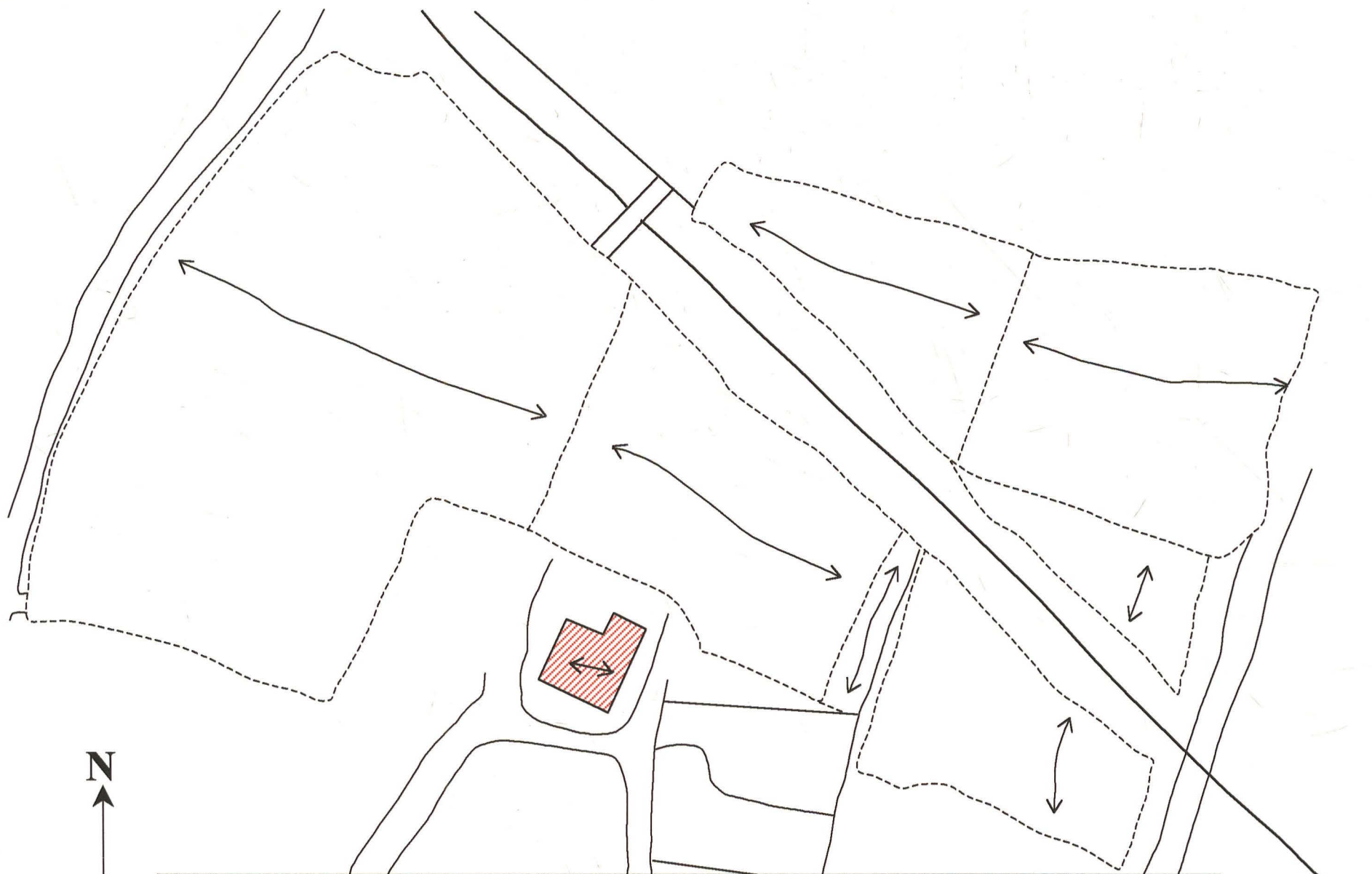


Fig. 9: Shows ridge and furrow recorded from aerial photographs by 1995 National Mapping Program.  
Dotted lines are field boundaries and arrows are direction of 'lands'. Also site and direction of features therein.  
Scale 1:2,500  
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## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full understanding of the features that were exposed. The contractors strip was to the level of, and beneath, the archaeologically significant horizon, and so a much better understanding of the archaeology was gained than would have been achieved with a simple examination of foundation trenches.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Bovis Lend Lease Ltd. for commissioning this report, and Tom Robinson and the ground workers from Wrights Construction for their cooperation during the course of the watching brief. Also all the staff at the Lincolnshire S.M.R. are thanked for help with the research for this report.

## 10.0 References

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Hall D., 1993, *The Open Fields of Northamptonshire. The case for the Preservation of Ridge and Furrow*. Northamptonshire County Council.

Hall D., 2001, *Turning the Plough. Midland Open Fields: landscape, Character and Proposals for management*. Northamptonshire County Council.

May J., 1976, *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

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Cameron K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

## 11.0 Site archive

An archive consisting of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2002.166.



**Appendix 1. Colour Plates**



**Pl. 1: General shot of site clearance in progress. Looking west.**



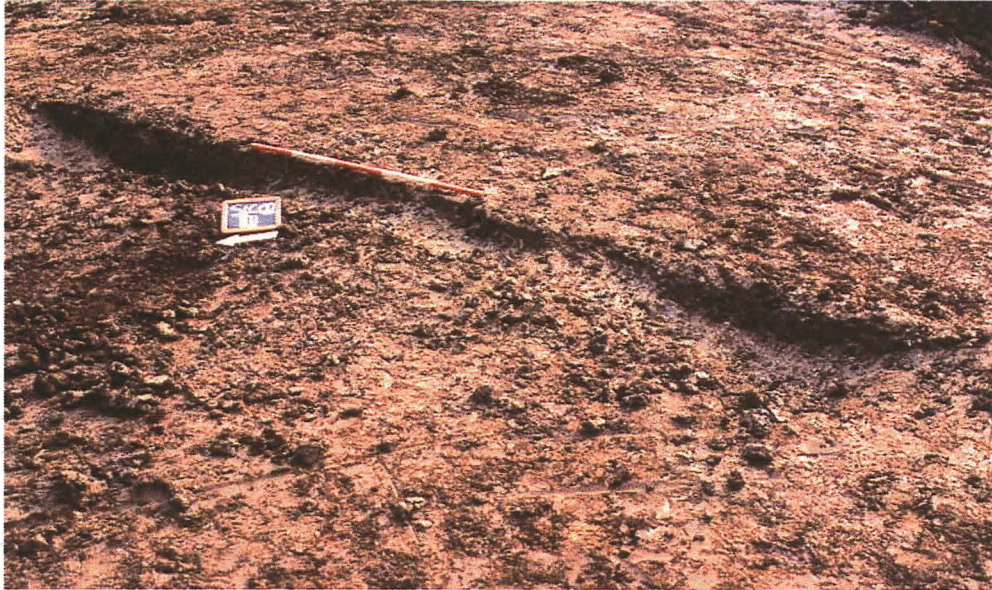
**Pl. 2: Furrow [003]. West facing section**



**Pl. 3: Furrow [009]. West facing section.**



**Pl. 4: Furrow [009], looking west. Feature runs directly away from camera with slot in centre.**



**Pl. 5: Furrow [011], west facing section. Shot clearly shows 'W' shape of these features.**



**Pl. 6: Furrow [013], west facing section. This feature only survived in this section.**



**Pl. 7: Small feature [006]. This could be a small pit or the terminus of a ditch.**



**Pl. 8: Ditch [015], north-east facing section. The feature is visible cutting the white patches in the base and the lighter clay in the section.**

## Appendix 2. Mammal Bone Report.

### SCHOOL LANE, CLAYPOLE, LINCOLNSHIRE (SLC02)

A small amount of mammal bone was hand-retrieved during a watching brief carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) at School Lane, Claypole, Lincolnshire. All the material was recovered from Context 014, a shallow ditch that appeared to respect or be respected by ridge and furrow, which were the only other archaeological features observed at the site. The bone was found in association with medieval pottery, and was thought to be indicative of domestic refuse (Alex Brett pers. comm.). An attempt to identify every fragment was made (summarised below). Measurements follow von den Driesch (1995) and Davies (1992). It was not possible to differentiate between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*), or to fully speciate the equid (*Equus* sp.) remains, due to the range of skeletal elements present and fragmentation.

All the bone fragments were characterised by good preservation. Fragmentation was moderate; broken fragments all had angular edges. Only 3 fragments demonstrated any evidence of canid gnawing: the cattle radius, sheep/goat metatarsal and equid tibia.

The equid tibia and metatarsal would appear to be from the same individual. This would imply that the elements were articulated when deposited. All these taphonomic indicators would suggest a primary deposit, unaffected by reworking, which was sealed quickly.

Despite the paucity of butchery evidence the initial impression that this material represents normal kitchen and butchery waste appears correct.

The dog radius is small, marginally large than fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and is also quite gracile.

- Cattle (*Bos taurus*) right radius, proximal shaft
- Cattle (*B. taurus*) right metacarpal complete, ossified proximal articulation and fused distal articulation  
GL=177.8    Bp=51.1    SD=29.2    Bd=54.8    BatF=48.5  
1=21.2    2=27.4    3=23.8    4=23.8    5=26.6  
6=20.0    a=27.0    b=25.4
- Sheep/Goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) right maxillary first or second molar
- Sheep/Goat (*O. aries/C. hircus*) left humerus, mid-distal shaft
- Sheep/Goat (*O. aries/C. hircus*) left tibia, distal shaft
- Sheep/Goat (*O. aries/C. hircus*) right metatarsal, ossified proximal articulation and shaft
- Equid (*Equus* sp.) left tibia, fused distal articulation and shaft  
Bd=72.6    Dd=41.5
- Equid (*Equus* sp.) left metatarsal complete, ossified proximal articulation and

fused distal articulation (2 fragments)  
GL=c.264.0 Bp=48.1 Dp=40.9 SD=30.7 Bd=48.1  
Dd=36.9

- Equid (*Equus* sp.) right ossified third carpal  
GB=36.9
- Dog (*Canis familiaris*) right radius, fused distal articulation and shaft (2 fragments)  
Bd=17.8
- Pig (*Sus scrofa*) part cranium, including left frontal (7 fragments)
- Pig (*S.scrofa*) right pelvis, including fused acetabulum and ischial segment  
LA=39.3
- 4 large mammal rib fragments
- 5 medium mammal rib fragments
- 15 unidentifiable large – medium post-cranial mammal bone fragments.

NB. All measurements expressed in millimetres.

References:

- Davis, S.J.M. (1992) *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. London: Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92.
- Von den Driesch, A.E. (1995) *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Bulletin 1.

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APPENDIX 3: Post-Roman Pottery Archive Report by Jane Young

*Jane Young*      *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	action	description	date
04	MP	Midlands Purple ware		jar	1	1	24	rim		ext lid seating	late 15-17th
05	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		?	1	1	8	BS		abraded;red ext slip	16-17th
08	NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	Early	jug	1	1	18	base		abraded;? ID or NEWG	
10	MISC	Unidentified types			2	1	14	BS		abraded;probably roof tile	med to post-med
14	LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	oxid;med sandy;med hard	jar	1	1	116	rim		red ext slip;everted rim;mod subround quartz occ-mod fe clay pellets ? With abun quartz;int fe tinged glaze	mid 14-16th
14	LMX	Late Medieval Non-local fabrics	oxid;med-coarse sandy;hard	jar	1	1	8	BS		soot;int glaze;fabric as NSP sandy	mid 14-16th
14	NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	light firing	jug/jar	1	1	7	BS			13th
14	WLQS	West Lincolnshire Medieval Quartz and Shell Tempered		large jar	1	1	34	BS	LAS fabric type series		13th to 15th
14	WLQS	West Lincolnshire Medieval Quartz and Shell Tempered		large jar	1	1	41	BS	LAS fabric type series		13th to 15th

**Appendix 4. List of archaeological contexts.**

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Topsoil.
002	Natural. Mixed brown and grey clay.
[003]	Furrow.
004	Primary fill of [003].
005	Top fill of [003].
[006]	Cut. Pit or ditch-terminal.
007	Fill of [006].
008	Fill of [009]
[009]	Furrow.
010	Fill of [011].
[011]	Furrow.
012	Fill of [013].
[013]	Plough furrow.
014	Fill of [015].
[015]	Ditch.